

# youth outback

Outback Youth Connect

February 2015

## Your chance to make a difference

A great opportunity is coming to the Outback. Would you like to have a say in the direction of the Outback community? Are you interested in helping your community but unsure what you can do? Here's your opportunity to achieve results.

**Youth Outback** could be the first step in gaining the skills and knowledge you need to get those ideas out of your head... and on to the map.

**Youth Outback** is part of Youth Connect, a process which identifies, encourages and empowers youth in regional areas to become involved in strengthening Outback communities.

The outcomes of the **Youth Outback** program are not pre-determined. Youth are valuable participants in the planning and implementation of the **Youth Outback** program—after all, who knows better what youth need than youth!

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*"If your actions  
inspire others to  
dream more, learn  
more, do more and  
become more, you  
are a leader."*

- John Quincy Adams

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## Your only cost will be your time and energy

**Youth Outback** is a 6-month program commencing with an overnight 'Forum' to be held at Pichi Richi Park, 21- 22 March 2015 (all expenses paid). The forum will provide the opportunity to explore youth issues in the Outback, reflect about your own local community, grow ideas, learn new skills, meet like-minded people and gain the support and assistance necessary to give your projects the best chance of success.

The forum will be followed by bi-monthly get-togethers (mostly via teleconference or Skype links) designed to continue building skills and knowledge and we'll continue to identify themes and topics during the program. The bi-monthly sessions will provide support, extend your networks and assist in developing your project.

Interested? To register your interest or find out more, please contact Lisa Pearson on 0429 352 058 or by email [youthoutback@gmail.com](mailto:youthoutback@gmail.com) by Friday 27 February 2015.



Pichi Richi Park, between Port Augusta and Quorn

Youth Outback Retreat venue, 21—22 March 2015



## Aims of the Program

Participants in the **Youth Outback** program will determine the projects they wish to work on and the final outcomes.

Nonetheless, Outback Communities Authority (OCA) and Youth Connect have some aims they seek to achieve through the program:

- Promote proactive and positive attitudes towards improving the quality of life in Outback communities
- Provide the necessary information, skills, tools, motivation, confidence and passion to manage change in regional communities
- Encourage new thinking about ways to better support and strengthen the social and economic capacity of Outback communities
- Stimulate collaboration between communities and create a peer support network and friendship links across the Outback
- The possible formation of an Outback Youth Advisory Council (YAC) which will meet on a regular basis and provide feedback to the Outback Communities Authority Board on youth issues.



## Examples of Projects

Some of the projects that have come out of similar programs include:

### Cowell Area School—Aquaculture

The development of a two-year certificate course in aquaculture with the aim of curbing the flow of youth to the city. The program has had significant success in students finding 'real jobs' locally and providing the opportunity for them to pursue further study at TAFE or university.

### Safe Driving Practices

A variety of projects have been initiated across Australia to tackle the high incidence of youth involved in collisions, particularly in rural areas. This ranges from highly interactive field sobriety tests and youth driving a golf cart with Fatal Vision Googles to educating on the dangers of distraction in particular texting and driving.

### Beating the blues in the bush

Nearly half (45%) of the Australian population will experience a mental disorder at some time in their lives and about 20% are affected each year. This project involves a rural community in the production of a TV commercial promoting mental health awareness—from planning, to scripting, to the shoot and being the stars.

### Tools of Survival

Every day, young Australians face tough situations that they don't know how to respond to: fights, drink driving, bullying, accidents, depression, suicide and underage drinking. This is a program of training, storytelling and mentorship that helps participants: identify signs of mental illness and bullying; appropriate ways to help and intervene; how to deal with loss, grief and guilt; and what to do when friends have drunk too much or get in to a fight.

# The bottom line...

## What is required of participants?

**Youth Outback** is a six-month program. Participants will attend the overnight Forum held at Pichi Richi Park from midday on Saturday 21 March to early afternoon on Sunday 22 March, followed every two months by a get together (usually by teleconference or Skype).

At the bi-monthly meetings you'll progress your projects and hear from guest speakers. These meetings may be held in the Outback to coincide with a major event such as a race meeting or gymkhana and we welcome your suggestions for suitable times and venues.

## Who can participate?

**Youth Outback** is open to anyone aged 16-24 years, interested in better understanding and taking action to improve the quality of life in their community. Priority is given to participants residing in the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) communities. The program provides the necessary information, skills, tools and confidence to manage change in regional communities.

## Forum and meeting expenses

The cost of your accommodation and meals will be fully covered at the Forum and at any face to face meetings. We will make all bookings on your behalf and all rooms will be twin or triple share. If you would like to share a room with someone in particular, please let us know.

Travel assistance is available to get you to the Forum and we encourage car pooling where appropriate.

All teleconference and Skype charges will be covered by the project.

## What if I don't have an idea for a Project?

That's not a problem. The Forum is designed to help you identify a project specific to your community, or to the broader outback region.

Participants may choose to work on their projects independently or in pairs or small groups.

We will assist you to progress the projects identified through the Forum and provide ongoing support during the six-month program.

As a group, we'll be working together on specific common projects across the Outback as we grow your skills and knowledge.

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*"Each of us has a spark of life inside us, and our highest endeavor ought to be to set off that spark in one another."*

- Kenny Ausubel

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## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information

**Lisa Pearson**  
0429 352 058

[youthoutback@gmail.com](mailto:youthoutback@gmail.com)

## Your Privacy

Information is collected for the purpose of determining participant expectations and to assess and report on the **Youth Outback** program. OCA and Youth Connect will not disclose personal information to any third party.

*"It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are."*

e.e. cummings