



# Eurobodalla youth in recovery

March 2020

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## Eurobodalla youth in recovery forums

This document informs the process undertaken by Eurobodalla Shire Council Youth Services in response to the needs of our young people following the recent bushfire crisis.

Eurobodalla's community has been significantly impacted by the 2019/20 bushfires. From Tuesday 26 November, 2019, the Currowan and Black Range fires began their progression towards Eurobodalla, crossing the Kings Highway above Government Bend and eventually merging with the Badja, Coondella Trail and Big Belimbla Creek fires.

The barricade of fires rapidly swept across Eurobodalla, creating widespread damage to Belowra, Nerrigundah, Tuross River Valley, Nelligen hinterland and township, Runnyford and Buckenbowra areas, Mogo, Bimbimbie, Batemans Bay, Broulee and surrounding coastal suburbs. Further impacts were realised at Merricumbene, Mogendoura Valley, upper Deua River and Moruya's rural and industrial areas.

By February 2020, the Currowan, Clyde Mountain and Badja fires had burnt through 397,789 hectares of land, resulting in more than 271,000 hectares, or 79% of Eurobodalla, directly impacted. Within the first week of February 2020, Eurobodalla also received heavy rain resulting in localised flooding, placing further strain on already heavily impacted residents.

These natural disasters have resulted in tragic loss of life, property, livestock, native flora and fauna and infrastructure. Among the significant short and long-term effects unique to individuals caused by the devastating events, for many people within the community the devastation has been detrimental to their mental health. Addressing the issue of poor mental health and the decline in community well-being is vitally important.

The region's young people have been greatly impacted throughout this period and require support as the community navigates through the recovery process. To ensure successful outcomes for young people and to provide a considered pathway for their recovery, Council facilitated an extraordinary Workers with Youth Network meeting.

Held as an open forum, the meeting offered local service providers and agencies an opportunity to gather and talk as a collective. By sharing ideas and apparent issues, the group were able to take stock, collaborate and avoid coordinating duplicate programs.

It was agreed young people would need to have input in this process, to ensure the development of an informed, local approach. A second forum inviting Eurobodalla youth to voice their concerns and brainstorm ideas to best assist them in their recovery was then organised.

A third and final forum reunited the Workers with Youth Network to workshop ideas for projects co-designed with young people. The projects aim to meet the needs revealed by Eurobodalla's young people at the previous forum.

The following is a summary of discussions at the three forums. The information gathered will be used to develop strategies and actions to assist young people to move forward.

## Forum one: Workers with Youth Network extraordinary meeting

The forum held at Moruya Golf Club on Thursday 13 February, 2020 brought together local service providers and agencies who regularly provide assistance to Eurobodalla's young people.

Individuals representing the following organisations attended the meeting:

- Campbell Page
- Mission Australia
- Karralika Drug and Alcohol Services
- Police and Citizens Youth Club
- One Door Mental Health
- NSW Police Local Area Command
- The Family Place
- Save the Children
- Headspace Bega
- National Indigenous Australians Agency
- Carroll College
- South Coast Colleges
- NSW Health Department Child and Adolescent Mental Health
- Tafe NSW
- Headspace National
- Wellways Australia
- Batemans Bay High School
- Bega Valley Shire Council
- South East NSW Primary Health Network
- Muddy Puddles
- Southern Region Business Enterprise Centre
- Moruya High School
- TAFE NSW Moruya
- Eurobodalla Shire Council

Facilitated by Council's Youth Development team and David Newell from the Office of Emergency Management, the forum was presented in a 'world cafe' format. This allowed small groups to network before providing feedback to the larger group. Attendees were asked to record the recovery projects on which they are currently working. A summary of these projects can be found in Appendix A.

Participants were then asked to answer three targeted questions:

- What are you noticing about the impact on our young people?
- What do we need to work together well?
- What are the clear achievable actions we need to take now to move forward?

After much discussion, attendees were asked to prioritise three issues to address from their worksheets. Once all priorities were compiled into list, each group then narrowed down the list further by selecting three priorities they considered most important for the sector to address.

Those priorities were:

- meet and talk to young people and schools
- support training, education and community projects to aid recovery
- provide access to information on funding, procedures and program availability

Feedback gathered at the forum can be found in Appendix A.

## Forum two: Youth in recovery forum

The second forum held at Moruya Golf Club on Thursday 27 February 2020, brought together students from local high schools and young people from the community.

This enabled an opportunity for young people to have their voice heard and to alert the wider community to issues of most concern to young people in the wake of recent disasters. The forum was one of the first chances local youth have had to gather as a group in a safe and supported space, where they could debrief and express their emotions and thoughts on a very distressing time in their lives.

The forum was run in the same 'world cafe' format as the first forum and facilitated by the Council's Youth Development team.

Participants representing the following schools and organisations were in attendance:

- Carroll College
- St Peters Anglican School
- Batemans Bay High School
- Narooma High School
- Moruya High School
- Mission Australia
- Eurobodalla Shire Council

Attendees were firstly asked what they thought was the biggest bummer of the summer.

Three questions were then put forward to participants, framed in a youth-friendly format. Again, attendees were asked to discuss their thoughts in smaller workshop groups and then report back to the larger group.

The questions were:

1. How have the bushfires affected you, your friends and your family?
2. What do you think communities can do to help you recover?
3. What would you like to see happen now, so you can start moving forward?

After much discussion, the young people were asked to prioritise three issues from their worksheets which they considered to be the most urgent to address. These priorities were then compiled into list, which each group then narrowed down again to identify three issues for the sector to address immediately.

The resulting three priorities were:

1. to organise music or community events to help raise funds
2. to allow schools to connect and improve support for schools/students
3. to provide opportunities for young people to volunteer and assist in the community rebuild

All feedback gathered at this forum can be found in Appendix B.

## Forum three: Workers with Youth Network extraordinary meeting

The third forum held at Moruya Golf Club on Thursday 12 March 2020, reunited the members of the Workers with Youth Network to consider potential projects, working with young people to help them move forward from the bushfire crisis.

Prior to the third forum, a report was distributed to the network members summarising events from the previous two forums. This allowed an opportunity for network members to reflect on the data gathered at forum one and the feedback provided by young people at forum two. The report provided a sobering insight into the experiences of the region's young people throughout the bushfire crisis and brought attention to young people's strong desire to express their concerns of the disaster's impact on themselves, their family and their friends.

Individuals representing the following organisations attended the meeting:

- Campbell Page
- Police and Citizens Youth Club
- Batemans Bay High School
- Moruya High School
- NSW Police Local Area Command
- Eurobodalla Shire Council
- NSW Rural Fire Service
- South Coast Colleges
- Pathways Support
- Save the Children
- NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs
- Headspace Bega
- TAFE NSW - Moruya
- Wellways Australia
- Mission Australia
- Karralika
- Muddy Puddles

The third forum was held in a 'market place' format, facilitated by Council's Youth Development team and David Newell from the Office of Emergency Management. Participants were asked to nominate focus areas for collaborative projects to achieve the target outcomes identified by young people at forum two.

Based on information gathered at the forums, the following six focus areas were nominated:

1. Organise youth-driven community fundraising events
2. Ensure all young people aged 15 to 24 have access to services and investment, regardless of location or study/employment status
3. Help young people to volunteer
4. Find out the most effective way to approach young people
5. Find out what training is relevant/required by providers in the rebuild
6. Find out how local schools are best supported



Four priority areas were then selected for smaller groups to discuss further and workshop ideas for project implementation. The four priority areas were:

1. Organise youth-driven community fundraising events
2. Ensure all young people aged 15 to 24 have access to services and investment, regardless of location or study/employment status
3. Help young people to volunteer
4. Find out the most effective way to approach young people

The members then broke into smaller focus groups to discuss how local services could form partnerships with young people and facilitate co-designed projects in the selected areas.

Focus groups were comprised of the following individuals representing the following services:

1. Organise youth-driven community fundraising events
  - Eurobodalla Shire Council Youth Development team
  - Tafe NSW
  - Wellways Australia
  - Pathways Support
2. Ensure all young people aged 15 to 24 have access to services and investment, regardless of location or study/employment status
  - Pathways Support
  - Eurobodalla Shire Council Youth Development team
  - Mission Australia
3. Help young people to volunteer
  - Campbell Page
  - PCYC
  - Eurobodalla Shire Council Youth Employment team
  - Muddy Puddles
  - Moruya High School
4. Find out the most effective way to approach young people
  - Headspace Bega
  - Save the Children
  - Eurobodalla Shire Council
  - Moruya High School
  - Eurobodalla Youth Committee

After discussions, the focus groups presented their ideas and strategies to the larger group. The outcomes of these discussions can be found in Appendix C.

All forum participants agreed to continue working on co-designed projects in their respective focus areas and reconvene after the Easter school holiday period to reflect on their progress.

Participants commented positively on the process undertaken for facilitating the forums, suggesting it an extremely productive approach and recommended future meetings be carried out in the same manner, as it allows greater input from all concerned.

## Conclusion

The Eurobodalla Youth in Recovery forums enabled young people and service providers to voice their feelings and discuss the effects of the 2019/20 bushfire crisis. Each forum fed into the next, leading to the development of four co-designed community based projects.

It was evident young people need to be consulted prior to future planning sessions, with a commitment to co-design principles in planning actions. Lessons learnt by other communities who have been through the recovery process will also determine how programs and projects are delivered.

The importance of timely responses cannot be underestimated. Two weeks between forums was agreed to and a number of meetings may be required for an achievable action plan to be developed. Attendees agreed the duration of each gathering would be no longer than two hours so as not to disrupt work commitments and existing collaborative projects.

The 'check-out' responses recorded at the end of each session, found on pages 27, 46 and 54 of this document, were extremely positive.

Effective collaboration will be crucial in achieving the best possible outcomes for our young people. They are resilient members of our community and, with support from the sector, will continue to be who they are destined to become.

There are many more learnings and potential projects to come. We encourage the community to use this document as a resource to gain an insight into the ideas, thoughts and desires we share going forward. If you require any further information please contact Council's Youth Services team.

Appendix A  
Forum one:  
Workers with Youth Network  
extraordinary meeting  
Thursday 13 February, 2020

## Services and agencies' contact details and projects

Name	Organisation	Phone	Services provided	Region	Programs/projects
<a href="#">Tahnie Fyfe</a>	National Indigenous Australian Agency	0414 745 444	Bushfire recovery link-ups	Canberra	Link-up services and engagement
<a href="#">Michael Ohrin</a>	National Indigenous Australian Agency		Commonwealth indigenous support services	Canberra	Link-up services, engagement and grants
<a href="#">Alison Bradley</a>	Coordinare SE NSW & HN	0491 217 916	Commissioning organisation as well as providing general proactive support		Headspace bushfire response, commissioning mental health services
<a href="#">Malindey Sorrell</a>	The Family Place	0499 039 658	Intensive/general family support, parenting programs, mindfulness and meditation, Dhurga languages program and Koori Boori's		Discussing collaboration with Save the Children and Campbell Page, partnership with Campbell Page for art therapy project at Malua Bay
<a href="#">Katie Shakespeare</a>	The Family Place	4474 2907	Family support, parenting programs, general and intensive family support		Discussing some collaboration projects
<a href="#">Seagar Dotter</a>	Moruya High School student	0410 916 690	Student		Peer support

Name	Organisation	Phone	Services provided	Region	Programs/projects
<a href="#">Anita Macartney</a>	Campbell Page	0407 959 602	Community capacity building, Elle program at Mogo Public School and Love Bites program		Art therapy project 5-7 march, second-hand children's clothing and nappy bags
<a href="#">Scott Baker</a>	Bega Valley Shire Council	0432 604 886	Community development and engagement	Bega Valley	5 x recovery centres including outreach to localities
<a href="#">Brianna Armstead</a>	Headspace	02 6494 8844	Youth mental health 12 to 25 years		Community engagement activities including mental health awareness, Family Workers, (can deliver sessions to parents around supporting their children, will extend to kids under 12) and mental health support
<a href="#">Emma Stewart</a>	TAFE		Course development, community events, activities	Bega Valley	
<a href="#">Julia Willson</a>	SRBEC - Links to Learning	0439 013 562		Bermagui	SRBEC Business Advisory team, providing advice and support to businesses in Eurobodalla, Bega Valley and South Coast regions. Links to Learning provides social and emotional support to young people in need at Moruya High and Narooma High
<a href="#">Peter Cross</a>	PCYC Far South Coast	0490 439 174		Bega	Idea working with small communities, i.e. Mogo
<a href="#">Deborah White</a>	TAFE	0419 983 285	Education and training		

Name	Organisation	Phone	Services provided	Region	Programs/projects
<a href="#">Nathan Monsfield</a>	Carroll College	0479 056 575	Education and pastoral support		Counselling, fee relief for school fees, accommodation
<a href="#">Greg Curry</a>	NSW Police	0447 421 319	Youth Case Manager		Fit for Life at Batemans Bay and Moruya High School, morning program at Mogo Primary School. Fit Together program term 1, 2 & 3
<a href="#">Amy Kovacs</a>	Eurobodalla Shire Council	4474 7380	Youth/community employment services		Construction skill set, start your own business workshops, wider job search/criteria for assistance
<a href="#">Braith Mazzucchelli</a>	Eurobodalla Shire Council	0477 274 467	Recreation Services Trainee		
<a href="#">Mark English</a>	NSW Department of Education	4474 2155	Education		Information gathering
<a href="#">Mathew Neason</a>	Eurobodalla Shire Council	0477 770 143	Recreation support		Delivering a variety of initiatives, project management and support for sport and rec clubs. Assisting professional sporting groups run clinics
<a href="#">Julie Irwin</a>	LHD CAMHS	4474 1561	Child and adolescent mental health		Risk of suicide, deliberate self-harm and eating disorder diagnosis
<a href="#">Sarah Watterson</a>	South Coast Colleges	4472 9202	Vocational education and training and non-accredited training		Mental health for employers and rebuilding routine for recovery and communication techniques for parents of young children

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Services provided</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Programs/projects</b>
<a href="#">Michaela Burtenshaw</a>	Muddy Puddles	0474 777 208	Therapy, group therapy programs for young people living with disability		Working toward a group program
<a href="#">Jessica Graham</a>	Mission Australia Transition to Work	0472 800 753	Youth program for 15-24 years, employment education, general goal setting, linking in with other appropriate services		Transporting donations to young clients that have lost their homes, presence at Ulladulla Recovery Centre offering support with grocery vouchers and chaplaincy
<a href="#">Taylor Matthews</a>	Wellways	0418 595 502	Housing and accommodation support initiative and mental health support		
<a href="#">Kiern Hallett</a>	Batemans Bay High School	4478 3600	Educate students (work education) and transition to work support		Check-in BBQ, support for students, well-being coordinator in classroom
<a href="#">Hans Ottenvanger</a>	PCYC Far South Coast	0491 154 140	Archery instructor and senior activity officer Batemans Bay to Eden		Still working on ideas



Name	Organisation	Phone	Services provided	Region	Programs/projects
<a href="#">Jade Brisenden</a>	Save the Children	0408 385 440	Child-friendly space, mobile youth van, mobile early childhood play bus, Journey of Hope program, supported playgroup	Sydney/ Melbourne	Child-friendly space in education and recovery, child-friendly mobile response, Journey of Hope program (post emergency recovery program)
Danny Hamer	Campbell Page	0407 544 596	Reconnect, homelessness, youth refuge		
<a href="#">Nic Mulligan</a>	Save the Children	0497 709 289	child friendly spaces, mobile youth van, Journey through hope program	Sydney/ Melbourne	Children friendly spaces, youth mobile vans

## Services and agencies check-in words

Use one word to describe how you are feeling about today's meeting, or what you want from the day

- helpful
- inclusive
- willing
- enthusiastic
- new normal
- support
- linking up
- determined
- listen
- action
- patience
- connection
- young
- fun
- hopeful
- considerate
- support
- collaborate
- optimistic
- resilience
- connected
- inspired
- open
- co-operate
- grateful
- well-being
- empowered
- new growth
- loved
- opportunity
- supported

# Services and agencies responses to proposed questions

## What are you noticing about the impact on our young people?

- Emotionally distracted
- Parents stressed, they can feel that
- Overwhelmed, agencies overloading them with everything that is out there
- Lots of help out there. But no overall coordination to sort it out for them
- Not enough time to absorb what has happened
- No real summer holiday, entertainment, outings, activities, fun
- Peer support is working well for some
- Crisis has brought people together
- There is a disconnect between youth and agencies as to what is needed from a youth perspective
- Need to build a better foundation within the youth community
- Understanding that everyone will process this differently and that's okay
- Uncertainty for future disasters and is it okay to feel how I feel?
- Need to return to normal
- Still processing
- Need for an outlet – talking to friends
- Culturally based programs teaching connection and methods for taking care of country
- Lack of casual employment
- Limited work opportunities
- Heightened anxiety
- Disconnection due to dealing with fires
- Repeated trauma through reoccurring conversations about disaster
- Exacerbating trauma, eg. housing, mental health, employment
- Lack of engagement due to emotional exhaustion and feeling scattered
- Resilience
- Understanding the impact individually
- Bravery
- Kindness/offering help
- Underlying issues before fires being exacerbated
- Most young people experiencing anxiety and depression
- Limited chances to talk about what's happened and have a voice
- Access to services
- Families under stress
- Uncertainty

- Lack of connection and information
- Need to check in more often
- Seeking reassurance
- Needing to see concrete plans
- Emotions and responses need to be normalised, not pathologised – anxiety, tears, sadness
- A need to share experiences
- Being able to express, through means other than verbal – creative play
- Create a safe environment, where they feel they can express and share
- Allows them to process stored emotion
- Physical expression is helpful
- Body needs to be engaged, disconnect from mind
- Integrate family in the process – connection
- A desire to get back into routine
- No joy in having missed school holidays – hypertension – new school year
- Change of direction for future decision making
- Fire-related play in younger children
- Reiterating safety messages
- Loss of income for school leavers heading off to uni
- Need to return to normality, i.e. school
- Family stress i.e. separation
- Big range of impacts
- Kids are exhausted and have short fuses
- Kids are frustrated with lack of services or sporadic services
- External organisations unsympathetic to ongoing effect/impact
- Support targeted to worst victims, not focusing on others, i.e. those whose income has been affected, young people who have lost summer jobs before heading to uni
- Family stresses
- Young people are happy to go to school so they can feel connected with their friends
- Desensitised, compassion fatigue
- Being proud, not coming forward for help
- Distress
- Disclosing freely, after hearing parents and friends talk, they are now ready to talk too
- Lack of routine, appreciate normality of coming back to school, new normal
- Mellow, previous behaviour problems
- Shock
- Situation has put students into perspective
- Not accessing resources available, maybe due to pride – new normal

- To gain the sympathy vote, pretending to be involved in the disaster, could be a cry for help
- Aware of the dangers of fire and the need for planning
- Brought community together including family units
- Employment opportunities or lack of
- Need for a boost in tourism to create jobs for youth

## What do we need to work together well?

- Clear communication
- Concise info – who, what, where, how
- Making R U OK? A standard question
- Knowing where to point people if they are not okay
- Access small groups of youth to discuss ideas for recovery and well-being
- Facts, not rumours
- Relaxed eligibility for funding for courses and training
- Timelines – lived experiences as workers. More trainees, grow business, additional support in wages
- Making things simple
- NESA issues – HSC issues
- Pooled information, not ad hoc emails or notices. One stop shop
- Keep it local – use localised services
- Groups to work together for the same outcome
- Wellness of our people
- Need for clear communication of information
- No wrong door policy
- Acknowledge own and others fatigue levels
- Immediate, specific funding allocated and released
- Change at a national level to localised mental health services
- Build a tiered system of response and services in consultation with youth
- Information services need to provide appropriate referral information
- Mapping of services to identify gaps
- Smart goals and benchmarks
- Short and long-term goals
- Make safe to make good
- Learnings safeguard for the future
- Training for staff
- Community demographics so it is possible to identify the needs of specific groups, i.e. Indigenous groups
- Support of each other
- Coordination of communication, i.e. group email
- Regular get-togethers
- Making the most of temporary services
- Audit of need
- Collaboration commitment
- Ask young people and listen
- Inclusive approach, i.e. co-design, co-create

- Not duplicating
- Support for the sector and community
- Sustainable and ongoing services
- Learning from others
- Prioritise the what, how and why
- Trust
- Open and honest communication
- Talk to other communities and what they are doing / have done and what has worked so we are not reinventing the wheel.
- Be aware of confidentiality but keep everyone in the loop
- Be patient
- Leave a gap before immediate support
- Don't have a concept of individuals being able to fix it
- Role model resilience of people/communities
- Community driven
- Bridges to services for clients
- More funding to mental health services to have more available
- More networking with local services and share information
- More frequent WWYN meetings through this time, beyond quarterly meetings
- Disaster recovery services spider web log who they are, how to access them, what they do: age groups they work with
- Office spaces available for out of town services that are coming to the area to help us
- Youth hub with all different workers – Centrelink, Headspace, youth workers, employment, education, disability etc. (would need funding)
- Communication – stakeholder analysis
- Referral pathways collaboration and relationships
- Resources/funding/investments
- Pre-fire disadvantage needs – after fire compounding
- More capacity for counselling services and broader funding
- Community development healing-based group programs – perhaps Aboriginal lead
- Do not rush recovery as local and impacted services providers
- A key is having a coordinator to ensure we're working collaboratively and not duplicating efforts
- We need to ensure that our approach is focused on long term sustainable solutions (thing 12-45 months)
- Seek advice from other regions who have gone through similar disasters and rebuilding lives
- Recognise the important role we all play in providing holistic support, rebuilding the whole of the person

- Critical that we have a mechanism for identifying high needs of youth and providing targeted support
- Dropping egos within organisations
- Providing ongoing forums for service providers to collaborate



## What are the clear achievable actions we need to take now to move forward?

- Consult with community to host regular community driven events
- Capacity building, committees of local community
- Youth committee – recovery oriented but fun
- Allow processing time – people still in survival mode/shock, the need for talking will come later
- Adopting R U OK? Always
- Collectively create a simple system for identifying the needs of youth and the challenges they're facing
- Advocate for simpler processes for youth
- Lobby all forms of government to fund a disaster recovery youth coordinator (2 years)
- Facilitate a youth forum/world café for youth aged 12 to 24 years
- Targeted information sessions for service providers to educate us on the stages of re-building
- Provide training for licensing courses to allow for those who are out of work to gain employment in the building of the new normal to work locally for free
- Trauma recovery training
- Get Headspace into the Bay into TAFE and schools
- Come to an agreement that nobody says no
- Remove red tape
- Keep this group going
- Talk to young people, i.e. youth forum, street chats, youth committee, via the schools
- Ensure that we are agile to facilitate the things that they want
- Options for transport
- Working with school to work in allocated times for programs or other external agencies to engage with youth/students
- Information management and sharing information at a central point, with details of grants and funding available, time frames and priorities, list of youth needs, stocktake of impact and range of services available
- Co-design and co-create, i.e. governance structure of a committee/council, fundraising support
- Additional worker for the Youth Project Team at ESC
- Funding to support a Youth Economic Employment Hub via Council (one stop shop)
- Shovel ready projects for immediate implementation (meaningful and impactful) – funding available while we have government attention
- Development of a schedule to ensure continuity of service delivery to youth, i.e. no band aid approach, sustainable commitment of funding, 3-5 year plan focussing on the person as a whole (well-being, education, employment, housing, wealth etc.)

- Understand who is doing what. What is each services' role?
- Make a commitment to work together.
- Read and interpret the data and information from other bushfire impacted areas – best practice for recovery
- Child friendly pop up activities (mobile – several locations)
- Connecting with community (short term) and link with community service providers
- Developing a journey of hope program for post emergency recovery (term 2) vacant positions
- Understanding/plan with clear objectives and actions
- Engaging with young people to create youth led solutions
- Events organised with ideas from young people
- Support groups/services on emotional/mental health communication techniques
- Healing on and with Country program – TAFE
- Assign a coordinator to assist organisations connect with offers of assistance and to avoid project duplication
- Acknowledge the increased potential for natural disasters in the future that youth will face to be better prepared
- Set up a Recovery Centre phone number and email address accessible to the public
- Training on how to direct people in need to the appropriate service/agency that can help them for specific needs
- Hire and train staff in managing offers of assistance and enquiries from the public
- Disseminate correct and up-to- date information and contacts for agencies to pass on to their clients – clear and simple
- Compendium of local businesses calling out for trade to ensure casual jobs will be available in the future
- Apply for funding for services needed, i.e. youth centre/hub
- Speak to youth directly to find out what they want/need
- Organise more frequent network meetings, such as today's.
- Engage young people now
- A coordinator of information/plans

## Services and agencies nominated priorities

- Bring a disaster specialist in from Headspace National Headquarters
- Read and interpret the data/information for other bushfire areas to find out what has been proven best practice for recovery
- Organise for this group to meet again sooner than the quarterly meeting to discuss plans
- Funding application (need funding to hire a coordinator)
- Council to hire a coordinator
- Courses to teach the community how to take care of country. Culturally based programs to heal country by teaching culture
- Engage our youth now to find out what they need/want
- Talk to youth
- Work with schools
- Development of a schedule to ensure continuity of service delivery (3-5 year plan, sustainable commitment of funding)
- Shovel ready projects for immediate implementation – meaningful and impactful
- Get expert info to the expert on what to expect and understand stages of disaster
- Free training
- Nobody says no
- Headspace in TAFE and all schools
- Lobby government to fund a disaster recovery youth coordinator (2 years min)
- Child-friendly space or pop-up
- Journey of hope program
- Co-design workshop
- Psych first-aid
- Outreach to where young people naturally gather
- Make a commitment to work together to holistically heal
- Building strong foundations for the youth community with live music events, not affiliated with agencies so youth want to go and create community
- Asking R U OK? To all, never assume others are okay just because you are
- Free mental health training for all (subsidised by government or Council)
- Stocktake of information surrounding funds, services and priorities in a central location
- Co-design and co-create committee
- Long-term community lead events
- Agility
- Facilitate a youth forum/world café for youth aged 12 to 24 years

## Services and agencies check-out words

Use one word to describe how you are feeling now after this meeting

- hopeful
- excited
- enthusiastic
- inspired
- grateful
- optimistic
- impressed
- ready to go
- united
- beginning
- engaged
- happy
- positive
- ready-to-go
- intrigued
- keen
- ready for action
- engaged
- grateful
- renewed

Appendix B  
Forum two:  
Youth in recovery forum  
Thursday 27 February, 2020

## Summary of impacts experienced by young people

School or organisation	Town	Comment
Narooma High	Dalmeny	Having to stress, worry every day and not getting to enjoy the holidays
Narooma High	Bermagui	Having to live through the fires and not getting proper summer holidays
Narooma High	Bodalla	Leaving because of the fires
Narooma High	Bermagui/Wallaga Lake	Not having holidays or a New Year's, and having to evacuate six times, each time thinking it would be the last I saw my house. I am so grateful nothing happened.
Narooma High	Tuross Heads	The fires and it was very hot
Narooma High	Cobargo	Having to pack up and leave and not knowing if I was going back to a house, then having to keep water out because of the floods
Narooma High	Bodalla	The fires and it was too hot to go outside
Moruya High	Moruya	RFS 12 hour shifts
Carroll College	Surfside	Losing animals and my sense of self
Narooma High	Dalmeny	Being isolated and kept in the dark information-wise. I went from being a child to an adult in a matter of days. It was six weeks of hell
Narooma High	Narooma	Fires/ember showers. Being worried about friends and family and not being able to do anything
Moruya High	Moruya	The devastation of the fires and not having a real holiday. Friends and family losing everything and many coastal towns burnt
Moruya High	Moruya	Not being able to go out or see friends. Evacuating. Fires being close to our house and family. Missing out on Christmas and the Moruya Rodeo. Family losing their home

School or organisation	Town	Comment
Moruya High	Lilli Pilli	Lost time in the school holidays and not being able to communicate with anyone, but mostly the devastation and aftermath that the fires caused.
Moruya High	Moruya	Losing a lot of time in the holidays, missing out on New Year's, not being able to communicate with everyone, but overall the devastation of the fires and everything that happened
Moruya High	Batemans Bay	Losing my horse who I've had for five years due to the bushfires and nearly losing my home too
Moruya High	Moruya	Not having enjoyable and stress-free holidays
Moruya High	Lilli Pilli	The worst part was transitioning from a relaxing fun school holidays to a frantic distressing time. Not being able to check up in friends and family was difficult to experience
St Peters	Mossy Point	My friends losing houses, animals dying and our admin building being burnt down
St Peters	Central Tilba	Evacuating and having to leave the animals behind, ducklings dying and people losing their houses and lives
Narooma High	Bermagui	Not being able to enjoy out last summer, the heartache and disappointment
St Peters	Surf Beach (formerly Malua Bay)	Losing my house in the New Year's fires
St Peters	Tomakin	I got evacuated on New Year's Day in Tomakin and suffered severe smoke damage in the house, plus not having any communication with the outside world
St Peters	Tilba/Kianga	Evacuation, fear of loss
Carroll College	Moruya	One of my mates committed suicide in the last week of the school, we never had a chance to grieve properly and I feel he deserves more

School or organisation	Town	Comment
St Peters (Youth Committee)	Mossy Point	Not one, but two band studios destroyed by natural disaster, close friends losing everything with burned houses, surviving eight weeks of expecting house to be destroyed and finally moved back in just to be flooded after rains came - the water damage was just as devastating
St Peters	Denhams Beach	A family friend was seriously injured, the power was out for three weeks, phone signal lost, evacuated for two weeks, fear of house being lost, friends' houses lost, front office at school burnt, overall fear
St Peters	Batemans Bay	Not being able to relax and enjoy the holidays. The summer was very traumatic and something I wouldn't want to go through again. The summer was also very stressful which meant that it was not easy getting back into school routine
St Peters	Broulee	Loss of power for a week and having to evacuate to Moruya
Narooma High	Bunga	Cancelling holiday plans because of the fires
Narooma High	Dalmeny	We were evacuated with no power on my birthday. NYE party was cancelled. Year 12 major works and other assignments which I couldn't work on due to circumstances. Loss of community members
Narooma High	Narooma	Not being able to do things because of the fires
Narooma High	Bermagui	Being evacuated four times and never knowing what's going on
Batemans Bay High	Batemans Bay	The fact that I was trapped in South Durras for most of it, followed by the stress of my house burning down the following week.
TTW Mission Australia	Batemans Bay	Bushfire season
TTW Mission Australia	Batemans Bay	Bushfire over New Year's
Narooma High	Narooma	The fires



School or organisation	Town	Comment
Carroll College	Currowan	Over the month we were evacuated, our house got no attention from the RFS, Forestry or the Council and if weren't for our neighbours, I wouldn't have a house
Batemans Bay High	Batemans Bay	Having no work, not being able to go to town, losing all my horse gear in the fire and evacuating on my birthday

## Young people's check-in words

Use one word to describe how you are feeling about today's meeting, or what you want from the day

- tired
- fuming
- uncertain
- positive
- happy
- determined
- open
- thrilled
- intrigued
- miserable
- interested
- unsure
- excited
- enthusiastic
- released
- nervous
- interested
- keen
- curious
- energetic
- positive
- confused
- small
- intrigued
- anxious
- complicated
- hesitant
- relaxed
- annoyed
- prepared
- hopeful
- optimistic
- energetic
- scared

## Young people's responses to proposed questions

### How have the bushfires affected you, your friends and your family?

- Peoples fire plans weren't solid
- Our street has lots of trees, so everyone got together to rake leaves and clean up
- Our street set up a camp together
- We could see flames from a boat shed at Tuross
- Adults went weird during the bushfire. Family members were terrified. Nan, who has dementia, got worse
- Parents were paranoid
- My grandma has anxiety and it got much worse as she had to look after my cousins
- The worst bit was 4 Jan. My dad prayed for the house before we went to Sydney
- We weren't allowed to use our phones
- Lack of good communication, fires near me app not updated often enough and couldn't access websites
- Hasn't affected me but my brother who lives with autism struggled. We were in constant fear of losing everything
- Had to evacuate five times, thinking is this the last time I'll see my house?
- Didn't really affect me, but we were worried about our animals as our dogs had just had puppies
- It took us a long time to evacuate as it was hard to choose what to take.
- New Year's Eve we evacuated Bodalla
- First thing packed was phone and charger
- We evacuated early to the local headland and could see the glow of the fire on the horizon. We evacuated to the Golf Club where we sat on the floor.
- My friends lost their property to fire
- My friend who lives north of Bermagui had gone to the Surf Club, then had to move to Bega where they stayed for 2 weeks.
- Not fun. Stressful. Lost contact. Sad. Helpless. Worried. Emotionally tiring. Hard. Upsetting. Big money concerns. Anxious. Traumatic. No-one knew what happened. Scary. Mentally straining. Eye-opening.
- Concern for people with mental health issues
- Hard to go back to school. No holiday. From stress – into stress – back to stress.
- Concerns about all the money donated – where is it?
- Worried about loss of work.
- Massive New Year's Eve party cancelled, it was a bit of a bummer
- New Year's ruined our plans spent the whole day putting out spot fires and watering down the house. Three houses in a row burnt
- Fires made it feel like we weren't on holidays as we were always watching and had a job to do.

- Every night one of us stayed up until dawn keeping an eye on it
- My family sold tonnes of generators. We'd be at work for hours, then drove around.
- First time I've ever seen my dad cry
- Brings out the best and worst
- People telling others they needed to evacuate and then robbing their house
- People around the floods not believing people in uniform telling them they needed to evacuate
- Flooding was the last thing we needed
- Being in year 12 we had so much work to do over the holidays, so had mental meltdowns
- I made a massive model for bio as due, had to leave it behind
- Lots of smoke. Couldn't breathe. Little brother coughing. I couldn't tell what time it was because it was dark.
- A time we were on holidays and we had to work really hard. It didn't feel like a holiday, it felt like hell.
- How scary the sky, smoke, colour of the sky was heightened people's emotions
- The dead animals livestock loss of livelihood
- Hearing about the fires that died
- Chinese whispers
- The positive thing about Facebook down, we couldn't see events
- Our house was very stressful because parents were stressed, and it rubbed off on us too. Lots of tension and fear of house burning down
- My house burnt down. Initially kicked out of the house to flee to Tomakin. Scary, I thought I was going to die.
- Made our family stronger by coming together, staying close through scary moments.
- We are living in a caravan
- Isolation, no service, internet, roads closed
- Miscommunication, lots of rumours and incorrect info which raised unnecessary anxiety and extra fear.
- Really scared at the time. Feeling relieved now it's passed. Scared of it sparking back up again.
- Hard to choose top 3 as there are so many things that are important
- Isolation, no communication
- Loss of pets – horses had to be destroyed or released
- Devastation of community, loss of homes
- Depressing atmosphere
- Damaged infrastructure
- Loss of business with not tourists
- No housing
- Can't rent without money

- Loss of essentials, fuel, food, electricity
- Couldn't contact family members
- Lack of action in clean up
- Lack of support from insurance companies
- Australia Post back log
- Loss of wildlife
- Mental health, behind at school, stressed, scared
- Poor air quality
- Isolation and fear of ember attack and spot fires
- Government wasn't organised
- Neighbours lost house
- Not really worried
- Opened accidental evacuation centre with 400+ people across the road from the evacuation centre
- Heavily traumatised, everything burnt to the ground
- Dark depressed feeling, thought people were dead and no-one knew what was going on
- Don't know how to express in words
- Really scary
- Lost family business, found out from friends and family
- Chinese whispers
- Confusion
- Really scared, sad
- Confusion
- Evacuated 3 times, every time fires were very close
- I had to look after my brothers/sisters while mum and dad took care of home
- Asked are we going to burn by 6 year old and 9 year old kids – horrible
- Dad and brother stayed behind
- I thought we had a couple of hours
- Didn't think it would reach us
- I could have lost my dad and brother that day
- Didn't know anyone was ok
- We were distracting ourselves while fire was happening
- Scared parents, worried, evacuated, dark thick smoke, anxiety
- Disconnected, little support
- Underlying effect to fires – ongoing PTSD, sirens, smoke, triggers (burnt toast)
- Red sky, pack house, flooded
- Home, ghost town, no-one around, worn out
- Everyone massively effected
- No communications

- Left out, isolated, chaos, tired, ignored
- No consideration at school for impact and ongoing trauma
- Annoyed not supported by government
- Isolated, disconnected, no communication with no power or phones
- Ignored, no support for youth, no acknowledgement of trauma
- Chaos, trauma, disorganised
- Evacuating on birthday
- Overwhelmed and unprepared
- Traumatizing for some and annoyance for some
- Stressed out and stayed stressed
- The cost of running generators, loss of income, materials, emotional, personal possessions
- Entrapment, stuck
- Lack of information, poor communication, lack of assistance
- Added pressure, feeling unprepared
- Couldn't get to school, feeling cut off
- Tired
- No time to process and grieve
- Isolation, afraid
- Time stood still
- Disrupted
- No allowances made for work
- No time to work on assignments
- No leniency
- Everything is lagging
- Teachers are under pressure and hands are tied
- Bureaucratic system letting us down
- Unable to grieve
- Thankful to those who gave us a sense of normality at the end
- Seeing the destruction was difficult
- Adult really affected
- Power of nature
- Political processes need to change
- Gratitude towards anyone who did what they could
- Saw the best and worst of people
- We all had to grow up fast

## What do you think communities can do to help you recover?

- Talk to each other
- School based volunteer projects
- Keep a close eye on how individuals are recovering
- Community programs to help recovery – support groups
- Flexible work arrangements for affected people
- Need money to fix houses and fences
- More community social events
- Create events to encourage volunteer work
- Workshops/seminars in schools teaching coping strategies etc.
- When creating an event hold a forum so that everyone has a say about the event
- More events to gather and talk about everything
- School students going out to into the community to help with a focus on serious issues
- Schools spending time to allow students to open up about what happened
- Fundraising events to raise money for people affected
- Government need to support local schools
- Not feeling supported/ questioned about grants and funding support. Business not supported, should be able to get funding
- Homes affected by fires/smoke, young people can claim for \$1000 for 16+. Some experienced great difficulties in getting grants. Too much info required.
- Support services, i.e. Telstra, phone support overseas (they don't even know where you are)
- Too much trauma to get help
- Government needs to get in touch with what the local community needs
- Local community needs to voice what they need
- People in charge of funding/money are not local and don't understand the demographic
- Talk to youth more
- Stop filtered version to youth
- Give us a say with input and decisions
- Forums to provide input and influence
- Council members to meet with youth
- Fun day for youth
- Kids, youth still scared
- Talk to each other
- Pull people up / accountability
- Dealing with problem together not solo
- If you see someone who needs help – help!

- Talk, not bottling it up
- Sharing experiences and advice
- Seek help for self so you don't snap
- Self-reflect on choices, learn from mistakes
- Talk to us – communicate
- Stop sugar coating
- As to the future – we need to know what's going on
- Have fun – arts, music, short film, competition, musicals, visual arts
- Community driven events
- Sharing resources, experiences and build new memories
- Festivals, parties, distractions, social interactions
- Relaxing opportunities
- Creating good memories to balance the bad ones
- Small events that lead to big events, things to look forward to
- Distraction through working towards something
- Building the music scene
- Participating in creative activities
- Add elements to core events to make them more inclusive
- Host more events
- Allow youth to help with clean up and recovery
- Plan of attack: what do we do now, who does what and who goes where?
- Follow through with action plans
- Music festival and fundraising events
- Broader workshop ideas for youth
- Government funded training courses to qualify us to be able to participate in clean up
- Recruitment 'hub' to link in with volunteering re clean up (more info, how, where, when do we help)
- Be nice to each other, offer resources to those without
- More school community events, donations, stalls, money raising etc.
- Get rid of school barriers, more inclusion across geographic systems
- Distance educations, at St Peters we feel closed off (public v private)
- By supporting each other schools getting together for study
- Leadership
- Youth committee
- They are not going to do anything about the stress we experience for year 11 and 12 students
- Currents music event probably our greatest achievements
- Cobargo folk festival at Moruya's Bill Smyth Oval or a music festival at Club Narooma
- Support local business



- Increase morale
- Council organise music event, start small and big one at end of year
- Andrew Constance has shut down ideas of young people
- Youth Forum means time away from school
- Public transport services
- Accurate information – not filtered
- We had to grow up a couple of years in a couple of days
- Public transport
- Check in on each other
- Use existing facilities (Tilba Hall, youth centres and school halls) to host supervised functions. Encourage family events on a regular basis and publicise events.
- Opportunities for young musicians
- Schools coming together
- No one-off festival please
- Resourcing our schools would be more helpful
- Use positive language, be kind and support one another
- Fire education in schools and make it compulsory
- Mental health awareness
- Communication – more effective across the shire
- Festivals, arts, events, workshops
- Acknowledgement of climate change
- Youth events and forums
- Expression, surveys of events and programs

### What would you like to see happen now, so you can start moving forward?

- More communication between schools. Carroll College and St Peters are close, but don't speak to each other
- This crisis is going to get worse. We need a crisis plan between schools and greater communication
- I really want to help and I am waiting for an opportunity. I'm really interested in environment and science. Council to initiate a program using young people's skills
- We don't have youth services here as they have been shut down
- I have a younger sister who has been through a lot. We lost a lot in Mogo and didn't know who to call, so had to call the police
- Somewhere permanent we can go, a room where young people can open up to someone they trust, for all young people not just 12+
- Proper mental health education
- Mental health education in school and resources made available
- Train young people to identify traumatised people and how to support them
- Love Bites – I liked how this was taught
- A not so clinical approach to mental health
- Assignment support
- Follow the science of the bushfires. Explain bushfire science clearly. People want climate action
- Communication. If you want to know, go to a human
- Find out what young people are best at and offer skill building
- More funding in schools to help with recovery
- Clean up actually getting done
- Local council to decide where to put clean up. That's why there is so little action
- Policy put in place for HSC students so there is time to recover, study and move forward
- Actual physical support, like counselling outside of school
- How do we get counselling? We want support to come to us, not us having to find it
- Clean up seems to be organised by local community members, not government - we need help
- School counsellor to be more approachable and interactive with students
- Support from schools, reduce workload, provide extensions, counselling
- Community events to make up for cancelled New Year's Eve and Moruya Rodeo
- Subsidies for sports and special interest activities, fitness passes, reduced fees, well-being checks for those most affected
- Equipment grants for schools
- More counselling services through schools, Headspace, Anglicare etc.

- Prepare for next time, with clearer communication, winter back-burns, practice drills more often
- Coordinate ASC subjects and modules
- Enlist presenters from traditional HSC study days to prepare Adobe Connect files for half yearly prep for year 11 and 12 students so they can have access to files they need. Sydney kids often get this sort of opportunity
- High school subject speed dating activity at Moruya High Hall. Three minutes to discuss subjects. Swap contact details if they can help each other out
- Provide a list of suggested questions to stimulate students' thoughts on subjects and enable them to discuss with others
- Fire and disaster plan programs that help us understand how dangerous the fires are - make sure people understand
- More time for assessments/study
- Time to talk about what happened at school
- Extended tutorship session, more time with teachers
- Need to spend more time with friends
- Youth groups, youth clubs, sporting events and clubs
- Time to talk to people and meet people outside of school
- Ways to process when bad weather hits, people have PTSD
- Ways to talk with our friends and community groups
- Support for people with social anxiety
- Ways to work through the fear of being separated from my family
- More reliable communication, many places still have poor signal quality
- Making sure there are free medical services available
- Free communication
- Locals only event to boost mental health, with music and food stalls to support local business
- More advertising for local business so tourism increases (local businesses are shutting down)
- Different schools coming together
- Continuous youth forum
- Support groups – talking to parents/family is not enough, new venues each time, opportunities to talk, social support group, art, activities to express
- Firefighters event in Eurobodalla – Sydney doesn't need more money
- Money for schools and raise money for those that need it
- Tuition programs to help catch up (free or funded) both in and out of school
- Enough clinical help but more social and creative events
- More help for people who were not directly affected
- Events that build integrity for a strong foundation for youth community
- Ground up solutions rather than top down

- Make it easier to admit you need help
- Addressing issues before it gets bad
- Acknowledge everyone has been affected
- Confirmation or reassurance this will not happen again, or will be handled better with better preparation
- Addressing further disadvantage of regional schools
- More apprenticeships, more opportunities for work
- More events – music, skate, surf, arts, dogs
- More autonomy for youth to organise their events
- Council could support groups to run their events – organisation, admin, kids engaged across groups
- Dog park – this would help with mental and physical well-being
- More assistance for small communities
- Infrastructure help
- Support for community who are doing everything for themselves
- Community events
- NESAs need to help year 12s
- A way for young people to help the community
- More communication about recovery help and things happening
- Music events and opportunities for the community to come together
- Implement harsher laws for people that light fires
- Financial and emotional support
- Another week of holidays, especially for younger students
- More support in schools
- More fire education, especially fire behaviour
- Review of rural development (Rural Lands Act)
- Listen to indigenous elders!
- We need to remember this
- Need to support better government and NGO systems
- Government to be clear about what they need to do and follow through, i.e. back-burning and clearing of land
- Improve insurance policy claiming - people with no insurance supported better than ones with insurance
- Lack of resources for 3 December, improve fire response
- Don't downplay the extent of disasters – The Prime Minister wasn't even in the country
- Support groups set up for traumatised people
- Increased community events, i.e. bands, music festivals
- Review evacuation plans, i.e. holiday/tourists staying in the area too long
- Media focus on Cobargo/Bega Valley not Eurobodalla

- Improve communication resources
- Where' the millions?
- Government to be clear about what they need to do for back burning and clearing of National Parks and State Forests
- Funds for community events for teenagers, where the community can hold markets and to make money. Promote shopping locally
- Improve resources for natural disasters

## Young people's nominated priorities

- Acknowledgement of climate change
- Fire education
- Workshops/seminars in schools to provide coping strategies etc.
- School based volunteer projects
- Plan of attack for recruitment hub, i.e. who is in charge and how do we volunteer?
- School students going out into the community to help
- Government funded training so we are qualified to help with the clean up
- Have fun! Arts, music, film, music festival, visual art etc.
- Festivals, parties and distractions
- Using existing facilities, school halls, youth centres etc. for family events to give youth musicians a go
- Music festival at Bill Smyth oval
- Music festival and fundraising events – something fun!
- Positive attitude and language
- Stop sugar coating communication
- Stop filtered version
- Talk to each other more
- Connection between schools
- Schools coming together to connect and check in on each other
- Ease the process to have access to grants, fundraising and insurance claims
- Improve support to schools, combine resources, provide emotional support and organised events and activities
- Self-reflect and also get communities to us to do this
- Government to know what the local community's needs are and local community to voice what the need
- Expand public transport services

## Young people's check out words

Use one word to describe how you are feeling now after this meeting

- relieved
- confident
- comfortable
- supported
- better
- inspired
- puzzled
- different
- interested
- acknowledged
- satisfied
- good
- set free
- positive
- emotional
- fabulous
- enlightened
- tired
- fulfilled
- empowered
- nice
- proud
- great
- achieved something
- accomplished
- hopeful
- reassured
- like someone is finally listening
- welcomed
- satisfied
- happy
- excited
- sad
- calm
- more confident than before
- released
- glad I'm not the only one
- relieved
- tired
- unsure
- sick

Appendix C  
Forum three:  
Workers with Youth Network  
Extraordinary meeting  
Thursday 12 March, 2020



## Market place themes

- Help young people to volunteer
- Support local schools
- Organise youth-driven community fundraising events
- Find out what training is needed for young people to help in the rebuild
- Find out how to approach young people
- Ensure accessibility for all young people to services and investment, regardless of location or study/employment status

## Selected key areas

1. Organise youth-driven community fundraising events
2. Ensure all young people have access to services and investment, regardless of location or study/employment status
3. Help young people to volunteer
4. Find out the most effective way to approach young people

# Key area work sheets

## 1. Organise youth-driven community fundraising events

**Participating:** Eurobodalla Shire Council, TAFE NSW and Wellways Pathways

**Insights:**

- Events should be designed collaboratively by young people, agencies and community members
- The focus need to remain on the Eurobodalla community
- The Chamber of Commerce should be involved in planning
- Certificate III in Event Management (TAFE) would be useful
- Young people should decide how money raised is spent
- The event and process needs to empower young people
- By volunteering, young people can be part of the process

**Actions:**

- Deb White (TAFE NSW) will look into TAFE NSW offering a Certificate III Event Management course for a local young person.

## 2. Ensure all young people have access to services and investment, regardless of location or study/employment status

**Participating:** Eurobodalla Shire Council, Mission Australia and Wellways Pathways

**Insights:**

- Set up a central hub for services and information and allocate tasks
- Operate in a non-confronting and culturally appropriate manner
- Utilise the 'Koori Grapevine' for sharing information useful for indigenous and non-indigenous young people
- Increase service mobility with increase face to face conversations outside the office and engage with the community
- Service providers and agencies send information to Council for promotion in the quarterly What's buzzn digital youth newsletter
- Service providers disseminate What's Buzzn to their own database
- Create a social media channel, possibly by Facebook, to share information

### 3. Help young people to volunteer

**Participating:** Eurobodalla Shire Council, PCYC, Muddy Puddles, Moruya High School and Campbell page

#### **Insights:**

- We need to collect information about volunteering from various organisations such as Animal Welfare, Blazeaid, RFS, PCYC and SES to create a guide for students
- We need to stress the importance of skill development and knowledge sharing
- Provide a one-stop shop for contact information
- Organise a volunteering road show to raise awareness about volunteering opportunities and liaise with school career advisors
- Meet and talk to young people in schools about volunteering
- Begin a volunteer drive
- Include appropriate/necessary training

#### **Actions:**

- Youth Committee to design a process to support young people to volunteer by providing ideas, input and feedback at the meeting to be held Wednesday 18 March, 2020
- Seagar Dotter of Moruya High School to introduce the concept at the Youth Committee meeting and Mission Australia to share the process designed by the Youth Committee with agencies
- PCYC to present information about PCYC and volunteering with PCYC to schools
- Muddy Puddles interested in recruiting volunteers and will assist in organising the roadshow
- Eurobodalla Shire Council to design delivery program of the roadshow and book organisation stalls
- We need to contact schools, career advisors, well-being advisors and educators of students in year 10 to 12
- The Roadshow could potentially take place during NSW Youth Week with five schools involved, from 1 to 9 April, 2020
- We need to compile a contact list and prepare promotional material advocating the advantages of volunteering
- We need to find out if volunteering activities can be accredited and lead to further skill building opportunities

#### **Take away:**

- Organise a roadshow involving all local schools, possibly within NSW Youth Week
- Compile a contact list of organisations offering volunteer opportunities and distribute the list to youth services

#### 4. Find out the most effective way to approach young people

**Participating:** Eurobodalla Shire Council, Karalika Child and Youth Advocacy, South Coast Colleges, Headspace and Mission Australia

##### **Insights:**

- Vehicle driving force for everything
- Supported by Council and services, but essentially run by young people
- The way services marketed to young people isn't effective at times. Having young people assist in what/how things are developed and promoted
- Headspace may have capacity to provide finance and administrative support to guide young people in developing the youth brand
- The brand shouldn't be enforced but instead should be subtle so young people can identify and used across services to show they are part of the youth movement. The brand has its own integrity separate to existing entities. This brand should be the vessel for all youth related promotion.
- Challenges: finding engaged young people who have an apt understanding of current issues affecting young people as a whole, rather than specific portions of the demographic. Extending the enthusiasm to help young people beyond the next few months.
- Perks: potential for volunteering opportunities and employment, opportunities for young people to socialise and engage through activities and offers organisations a platform to promote their service to people often hard to reach
- Mission Australia interested in engaging young people who aren't currently in school

##### **Actions:**

- There needs to be clarity on what services provide and who young people can contact for specific needs, like a directory that can be presented online as well as hard copies available at services
- Marketing should take place through a digital platform and promoted within schools
- Young people need to be empowered to lead the conversation
- Young people should be comfortable using channels information is disseminated and young people are naturally drawn to activities

##### **Take away:**

- We need to create a youth lead brand that bridges the gap between council, organisations and young people. Braith to follow up with services for contact information and details and suggestions on how to get started in building the brand.

## Key area summaries

### 1. Organise youth-driven community fundraising events

#### **Project ideas/concepts/opportunities:**

- Youth driven community fundraising events
- Young people, agencies and community members to co-design

#### **Resources required:**

- Young people, agencies and community members willing to be involved
- Fee-free training (Certificate III Event Management)

#### **Key actions and responsibilities:**

- Deb White (TAFE NSW) investigating options for running Certificate III Event Management course

### 2. Ensure all young people have access to services and investment, regardless of location or study/employment status

#### **Project ideas/concepts/opportunities:**

- Provide a central hub for service information, possibly online
- Include information and contact details in What's buzzn digital newsletter for services to disseminate

#### **Resources required:**

- Central point to send information
- A social media channel for distribution

#### **Key actions and responsibilities:**

- All services to distribute What's buzzn

### 3. Help young people to volunteer

#### **Project ideas/concepts/opportunities:**

- Young people volunteering

#### **Resources required:**

- Collaboration across services

#### **Key actions and responsibilities:**

- Develop and implement a school volunteer roadshow showcasing local volunteer opportunities for young people

### 4. Find out the most effective way to approach young people

#### **Project ideas/concepts/opportunities:**

- Create a brand, designed by young people that can be trusted and understand community need
- Events information maintained by service providers
- Bridge the communication gap between young people and government
- Provide employment, volunteering and approachable access to help
- Improve help available to young people
- Disconnect from unsupportive projects

#### **Resources required:**

- Council support and willingness to disconnect
- Prompt support moving forward
- External organisation support
- Financial support

#### **Key actions and responsibilities:**

- Eurobodalla Shire Council trainee Braith Mazzucchelli to promote the importance and practicality of a youth lead brand organisations and young people can trust
- Council to support Braith

## Services and agencies check-out words

Use one word to describe how you feel about this session

- community
- encouraged
- hopeful
- inspired
- intrigued
- driven
- stoked
- meaningful
- thankful
- positive

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