

'OUT OF THE SHED'

A Whyalla City Council initiative

Advertising Feature

Council helps out youth musicians

It's been a busy but fruitful year for Whyalla's youth thanks to Whyalla City Council's program Out of the Shed.

The youth music program aims to build the capacity of young musicians, increase their skills and encourage opportunities for live performances.

The council has recently partnered with local musicians Alison Hams and Mark Tempany to support 12 young people who are working each weekend to develop their vocal ability.

Once the vocal workshops are completed these youth will participate in song writing workshops provided by STORMFRONT and Rustic Recordings.

At the end of June these original tracks will be recorded in the studio and each participant will get to take home their CD and enjoy the music they have created.

Funding for the program was provided by Whyalla City Council, the Attorney General's Crime Prevention Unit and Country Arts SA, which according to communi-

ty development manager Meg Hanley has allowed plenty of support to be provided to young people who want to develop their skills.

"The project has far exceeded its original aims; the successes that have been achieved have been nothing less than fantastic," she said.

Ms Hanley said the program promotes a drug and alcohol free environment with a focus on skills development and networking between young people interested in music development.

"Living in a rural area, many of Whyalla's young musicians struggle to find opportunities to participate in training workshops in the use of up to date music systems, including access to equipment for recording of music and mixing desks."

Ms Hanley said the program also gave youth the opportunity to perform in front of a live audience.

"With the introduction of the pokies there are also limited opportunities for youth to engage

in paid performance and develop their music skills while earning some much needed income to support their band."

The program provides resources for the youth including musical instruments, which are available for use in the studio at Youth Central and hire equipment such as mixing desks, mobile stage and sound equipment.

"This has ensured that young people regardless of their situation are able to access the tools they need and to develop as musicians and participate in opportunities which allow them to practise their craft," Ms Hanley said.

"The successful partnership between (the) council and Rustic Recordings has seen the development of a state of the art recording studio and free rehearsal rooms for musicians to practise in."

Rustic Recordings led by Mick Frost has offered up to eight hours free supervision for musicians in the recording studio right through into 2007.



Drummer ... Jamie-Lee Selby makes use of the music equipment that is supplied through the Out of the Shed program.



Singing ... Jaslyn Selby (right) practices her vocals with Alison Hams.

Youngsters stamp their mark on Whyalla

Whyalla has got a lot to look forward to in the coming months as young musicians stamp their mark on the community.

The young musicians involved in the innovative and creative project Out of the Shed will soon be completing their pieces of work for the rest of the community to hear.

Once their original music has been recorded, the CDs will be played on community radio, giving these musicians the exposure they need.

"Exposure on community radio will increase their profile around town and will allow all of us to appreciate the tremendous talent Whyalla's youth have to offer," past Whyalla City Council community development officer Meg Hanley said.

"(The) council is proud to support the younger citizens of Whyalla through projects such as Out of the Shed and remains committed to ensuring that opportunities for participation continue to be developed."

This year the Out of the Shed program will also be busy at Whyalla's Fishy Fringe Festival.

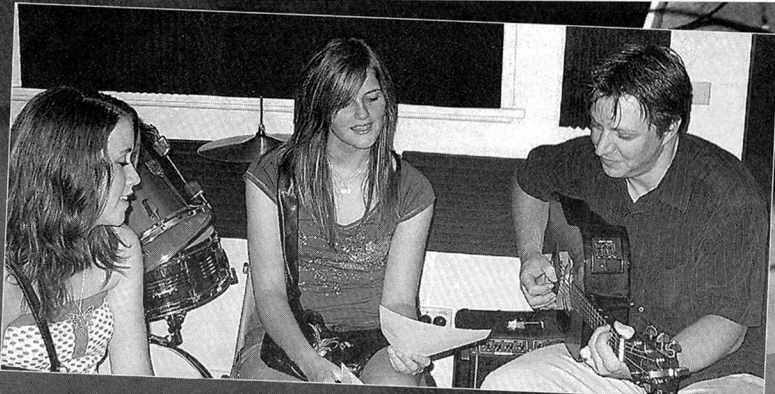
Those involved in the program will be providing satellite events as well as a Revolution Rave, which is an underage dance party and dance workshops at the Buff Hall.

There are also plans for drug and alcohol free live music events to be held at Youth Central in the next few weeks to celebrate Youth Week.

Ms Hanley said that with funding for the new youth centre located at Buff Hall and through collaborative partnerships, young people can feel assured that there are many more exciting projects developed and many more experiences to enjoy.

"We hope to see many young people attending the Revolution Rave and the Youth Week live music events, which should both prove to be a great night out," she said.

Tickets for the event will be for sale at the council and at Music Corner.



Music ... Getting vocal coaching from Mark Tempany were Stephanie Moore (left) and Sophie Gonzales.

Our youth express their gratitude for program

Whyalla City Council's Out of the Shed program has provided many young musicians in Whyalla with great opportunities and advantages.

Former Whyalla City Council community development manager Meg Hanley said through feedback, the youth have expressed their gratitude to the program.

"Young musicians have provided feedback on the project and have said that being involved in the Out of the Shed project has resulted in direct advantages for them, for example, the opportunity to work with skilled technicians and learn new skills which have been incorporated into live acts," she said.

Providing a free rehearsal space for the musicians and

the opportunity to develop and record their music were also appreciated.

"There are also far less issues for musicians who perhaps don't wish to disturb neighbours with loud music being produced in backyard sheds."

The Baptist Church provided these rehearsal rooms at no cost to the community and Ms Hanley said they should be commended for their generosity and support of young people.

"Music Corner as project sponsors have also been incredibly generous in their backing of Out of the Shed providing extensive discounts and skill workshops and organising events such as the Ashton Showcase held annually at the Whyalla Show.

"There has been a tremendous amount of support from within the community who have pulled together to ensure that opportunities exist which give young people the chance to develop to their full potential."

Ms Hanley said there had been significant interest in the project by Whyalla's more seasoned musicians.

"(They've) indicated a desire to volunteer within the program offering skill development workshops and a mentorship program which will include young musicians being invited along to live music gigs and provided with the opportunity to play live with the 'big bands' thereby increasing confidence and skill."

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