



Young Endeavour/Youth & Emergency Services Project 2007

The Young Endeavour Scheme and/or the Youth Emergency Services (YES₂) was conducted in Geelong in the latter half of 2007.

The YES₂ initiative emerged from the Victoria Police Region 2 Multicultural Liaison Unit. Their awareness of the issues facing emerging communities such as Sudanese or Horn of African refugees was acute.

The project was focused upon refugee and humanitarian entrants to the Barwon Region particularly youth, which would provide a unique opportunity for up to twenty young people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds, to participate in a life changing experience. The vision for the project was underpinned by a commitment to local cooperative and collaborative arrangements with a range of key youth, health, welfare and multi cultural services within the region. Housing and employment outcomes were major goals.

Each participating organisation has committed to provide in-kind opportunities for the personal development of the identified young people and encourage their long term active participation in community life.

The Victoria Police Region 2 Multicultural Liaison Unit (Region 2 MLU) has identified potential significant ramifications for youth in Geelong from emerging communities who are confronting a range of barriers in settling into the local area. This has become an increasingly urgent issue, with heightened levels of interface between the young people and the legal process. The project focuses upon a crime prevention approach and the building of rapport and respect amongst young people and the Victoria Police.

This project also recognises the integral role of respected community figures in supporting youth to engage in educational, social and wider community contexts. We especially recognise the importance of engaging CALD youth from emerging communities within leadership programs with career pathways so as to prevent them from adopting negative behaviours and practices and the individual, social and economic costs that arise as a consequence.

The project objectives are closely aligned with current government priorities and local initiatives being implemented in these areas around crime prevention/early intervention, integration and social cohesion, youth participation and community capacity building.

The YES₂ project, proposed a collaborative approach involving diverse CALD youth with a broad range of State Emergency Service personnel, Australian Defence Forces (ADF) representatives, police and emergency staff, community based organisations and private sector agencies staff in the Geelong region.

The Project was auspiced by Barwon Youth with whom Victoria Police has had a long and most positive association and was managed by a local Steering Group that included representatives from:

- Victoria Police Region 2 Multicultural Liaison Unit
- Diversitat
- Wathaurong Cooperative
- Barwon Youth
- City of Greater Geelong
- Metropolitan Fire Brigade and Country Fire Authority
- Regional Ambulance Service (RAV)
- State Emergency Services (SES)
- Country Fire Authority (CFA)
- Australian Defence Force Representatives (ADF)
- Other identified stakeholders

These groups were committed to working together to implement the YES2 enabling young people's access to information and social connectedness activities and cultivating opportunities for them to build their social connections and strengthen their sense of belonging.

Barwon Youth together with Diversitat and Wathaurong, are agencies that have well developed strategies, both within and outside of our respective agencies, to address youth and community issues. Each agency provides specific information and support in relation to issues impacting on new and emerging communities. Each of the participating agencies, both individually and collectively pride themselves on valuing youth in all of their diversity, and working in partnership with young people and their communities. All young people involved in the project were referred from these three agencies.

The YES2 project consisted of:

- o a three day camp held at Anglesea Sept 18th – 20th 2007 with 11 male young people from multi cultural backgrounds and representatives from participating agencies. Presentations on possible employment pathways within such services were provided over two days. Surfing and other recreational activities also bonded the group quite well.
- o Six young people (16 – 19 yrs) were selected following the camp and together with Sen. Const Paul Lees of the Vic Pol Multi Cultural Liaison Unit, undertook an eleven day voyage from Port Lincoln (SA) to Geelong (Vic) from Dec 1st – Dec 11th 2007
- o three boys from that group were then selected and with Paul Lees, participated in the Sydney to Hobart Yacht race Dec 26th – 31st 2007.

Several of the young people from the initial group of 11 will be offered fully funded apprenticeships with Skilled Employment Services.

Funds for the YES2 project were raised predominately from Geelong sources with major sponsors being the Ted Brockoff Foundation, The Geelong Community Foundation and United Way Geelong.

The Young Endeavour is a Tall Ship which was given to Australia by Great Britain as a Bi-Centennial gift in 1988. The ship is managed by the Royal Australian Navy and has already provided 10,000 young people with the experience of their lifetime in voyages around the coast of Australia since commencing in 1988. The Tall Ship also participates in other major sailing events in Australia such as the Sydney to Hobart Yacht race and the Tall Ship races in Sydney Harbour on Australia Day.

The Young Endeavour project celebrates its Twentieth Anniversary on Australia Day weekend 2008 at Garden Island Naval Centre in Sydney and the ship will then participate in Tall Ship races on Sydney Harbour over the long weekend.



Leaving Port Lincoln



YES2 Crew



View of ship – Port Arthur



Leaving Sydney for Hobart



Berthing at Hobart