



Y Ballarat - Ararat Youth Space

Youth & Community Consultation 2021-2022



YOUTH CONSULTATIONS

Biggest issues/challenges facing young people in Ararat?

- Getting to places, not having much to do in town, amount exercise.
- Getting around, socializing, amount of exercise.
- Feeling acknowledged, feeling like they're voice matters, asking for help.
- Lack of safe activities, drug and alcohol abuse in minors, lack of facilities.
- Not having any friends, bullying, drugs.
- Bullies, friends, family
- Not being to hang out with people, the littering, and making friends.
- Drugs, alcohol and family conflicts

In your opinion, what should be happening for young people in Ararat that isn't?

- Better places to hang out, more businesses with activities that 12-18's would enjoy doing after school.
- More exercise or fun activities.
- Acceptance
- More structured and unstructured activities after school and on weekends
- Us younger people should be able to hang out more, more suitable areas to hang out.
- More places for young people to be themselves.
- Apparently, there used to be a youth centre in Barkly Street many years ago?

Where do young people in Ararat currently hang out?

- Alexandra gardens
- Skate park
- With mates at their houses
- Recreation areas
- McDonalds and KFC
- Red gum

What is there to do locally after school hours?

- Browse around shops and then get something to eat from Maccas.
- Movies, shopping, food.
- Community sport/activities, skate park, ovals, pool, gym
- Local sports, go to the gym
- Go for a swim, ride. Eat food?
- Not too much other than sport [2]
- Hang out at a fast-food place, go to friends' houses, and go to the skate park or go for a ride with your friends.



IF A YOUTH SPACE EXISTED.....

What days/times should a youth space be open?

- After school (3:30-9 weekdays) on weekends all during the day (8am-9pm)
- Weekdays (4:00-7:30) Weekends (1:00-5:00) both pm
- Not sure on a specific day but I feel like between the time frame of 12-5.
- After school until 8-9pm, school holidays
- Friday to Sunday and 1:00pm to 5pm
- After school hours [2]
- 5:00 am till 12:00 pm



What would need to happen there for you to spend time?

- For it to be a safe place, quiet.
- A variety of things to do for different people, making sure it's not crowded.
- Good people
- Fun activities
- Inviting space to hang around and play unstructured sports/games, a creative space
- Easy to access
- Would need to ensure that the 'wrong' types of people were not hanging out there
- A group of people of similar age and interests, welcoming warming people.

What kinds of things would you want to do at a youth space?

- Talk to friends, have a fun time.
- Games like, giant chess or something.
- Ten pin bowling, paint ball, arcade, organised hiking trips.
- Sing
- Games like and arcade
- Play non-competitive sports – volleyball, basketball, video games, create things
- Graffiti and hangout. Skate and ride mountain bikes.
- Talk and discuss things, group activities

GETTING THE WORD OUT...

Where should Y Ballarat promote to get young people to share their ideas?

- To make Ararat a lot more fun for children/teenagers promote ideas in a more peaceful environment, where there isn't as much traffic and people.
- Ads
- If young people are involved in planning the space they will come
- Instagram, in shops young teens go in such as; Reject shop, Target, Khub, Movies, Skatepark, Mcdonalds, KFC, Subway.
- School community [2]
- Through school channels, on social media, in sports venues
- Ararat Fitness Centre.

YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AND WORKERS

The following are the key concerns and issues facing young people raised by individuals and organisations supporting young people in the Ararat community.

- Mental health concerns, social isolation and impacts of COVID
- Family issues [violence, healthy relationships, young parents]
- Crime | 'gang' role modelling | activity in key areas [shops and skatepark etc]
- Crime [fighting, graffiti, standing over YP, issues in shops, drug use]
- Nothing for young people to do [esp after 6pm & weekends] or places to spend time
- Lack of youth services | long waitlist and limited specialised support
- No youth worker at Ararat Rural City Council
- Many YP cannot see their future, unemployment, 'What's the point in doing year12?'
- Services in-reaching to Ararat may not be delivering to their full capacity.



Opportunities identified by the individuals and organisations supporting young people, included: opportunities for prevention, early intervention or diversion programs. Utilising the space as a 'youth community hub', exploring co-location opportunities and ability to offer a 'one-stop shop' or first point of contact service. Creation of a training room for meetings, training and potential space for Ararat Secondary's FLO program students. Provision of 'hot desks' for visiting services or workers, providing a neutral and comfortable place for disengaged young people to meet with supports and as a 'carrot' to draw them casual engagement. Large workshop space to provide skills development and engagement programs – ReCranked [bike] or Jump Start [automotive] or develop localised program. Scope for existing youth programs to utilise the youth space for meetings including: potential rehearsal space for the local youth-led theatre group and meeting site for Grampian Community Health's newly established Rainbow diversity group.

Opportunities exist to explore social enterprise models for rural Australia i.e.

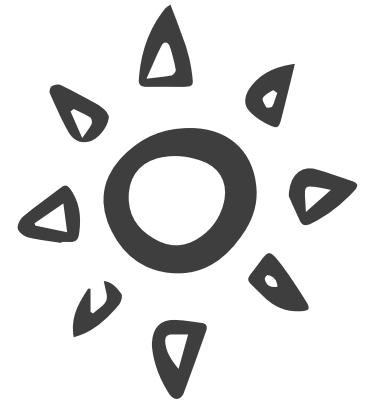
<https://acre.org.au/what-we-offer/for-young-people/social-enterprise-schools/>

COMMUNITY SURVEY

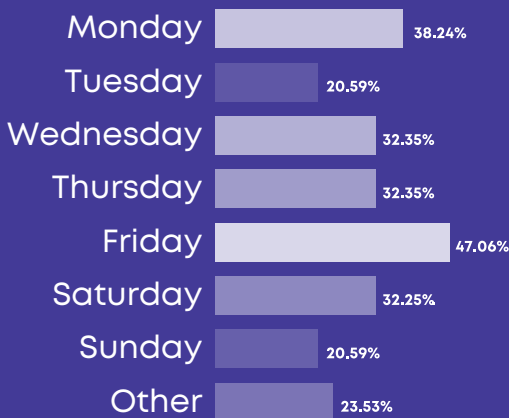
The community survey was conducted online, promotion occurred in both local Ararat newspapers and was promoted via email to key community members working with young people. Over 40 responses were received.

1. What do you think are the 3 biggest issues or challenges for young people in Ararat?

1	Boredom nothing to do outside of sport	37%
2	Access to spaces to meet peers	25%
3	Mental health depression	25%
4	Drugs	15%
5	Remoteness Isolation	12%
6	Lack of confidence social skills	12%



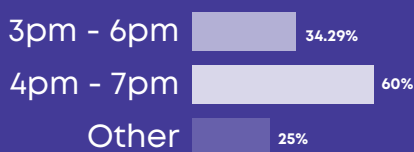
2. Which THREE days should a youth space open to start?



'Other' responses included:

- Monday – Sunday
- Any
- Saturday, Sunday & Friday
- Saturday, Friday & Tuesday
- Friday, Saturday & Sunday
- Monday [x two]
- Monday, Friday, every second Saturday & alternate Wednesdays

3. What open hours would suit local young people?



'Other' responses included:

- 2.30-6.30pm
- 3.30-6.30pm
- 4-10pm [twice]
- 24 hours, 7 days
- 8pm-5am [x two]
- 6-9pm
- They need something overnights

4. What activities should happen at the youth space?

Activity	No.	%	Activity	No.	%
Art, craft, painting	17	51.4%	Mental health	3	9.1%
Games board games	17	51.4%	Space	3	9.1%
Classes, Groups, Sessions, workshops	16	48.4%	Access	3	9.1%
Activities	7	21.2%	Life	3	9.1%
Counselling therapy	7	21.2%	One	3	9.1%
Safe	5	15.1%	Work	3	9.1%
Music	5	15.1%	Mentoring	3	9.1%
Talking	5	15.1%	Movies videos	3	9.1%
Pool table	4	12.1%	Reading	3	9.1%
Cooking	4	12.1%	Employment support	3	9.1%
Etc.	4	12.1%	Night activities	3	9.1%

5. What would attract you to spend time at a youth space?



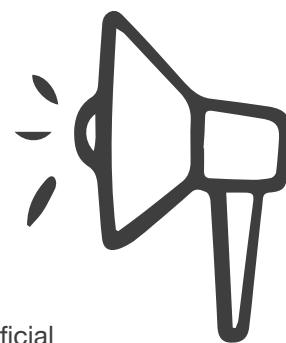
'Other' responses included:

- All of the above [x three]
- Don't know
- Fast internet [x two]
- Safe place to spend time outside of home

6. What should a youth space in Ararat be named?

Responses included:

- Youth Space [5]
- Youth Connections
- Ararat Youth Hub
- YSA
- Ararat Youth Centre
- Chill zone
- Fun Hub
- Free wifi
- Young peoples hangout
- The why
- Youth Welcome Centre
- Y Youth Hub
- The Matrix
- Yourspace Ararat
- Ararat's Future
- Something fun and not official
- Anything relevant to youth and not tacky
- Target users should develop name



7. Is there anything else you would like us to consider?

- Having on location youth supports, referral pathways for those experiencing ill physical, emotional, mental health or difficulties with substance use or possibly legal issues.
- Connection with schools, youth groups, sport groups to ensure access to all. Please note I was not able to select more than one response when asked to 'select 3'. thanks for opening this up to all!
- There is a lot of homeless kids round that are couch surfing there needs to be someone that is willing to give them time to hear them out, someone also to help with legal matters or court hearings.
- Lower the age limit. 25 is an adult, not a youth. Age limit should be lowered to 20 years.
- Engagement activities to build relationships between all youth groups. Building community togetherness
- Young people in Ararat definitely need a sense of purpose from what I see. This can be in employment or in their interests, but I think especially in recent years young people desperately need some sort of motivation to achieve something more, however big or small.
- Don't make it a place that kids just 'hang out', it will be a point to deal drugs, arrange fights and antisocial behaviour. Make it a place they kids can get help without judgement whether it be for mental health or AOD. Have some great mentors available. Have some classes to assist with being independent.
- Having longer activities available that teens can commit to and see through to the end. The main issue I see with teens in Ararat is that if you're not into sport then there really isn't anything for them to be involved with after school or on weekends.
- There are many vulnerable youth locally that will need the support to treat the place right or even give it a chance.
- Pretty sketchy location, dangerous re highway
- A meeting room / space for hire
- Possible employment
- Have a consent form to a NO bullying policy
- A program where youth workers can go to the people in some circumstances there may be someone who wants to be apart of this but has social anxiety or something that's holding them back. A home visit might be something to help push them to go

We asked if any local young people were interested in helping make the decisions as the space develops and had eleven young people express interest in being involved in the project as Youth Ambassadors.

*We believe in the power
of inspired young people*

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