

YMCA Community Impact Report

2021-2022

YMCA OF BRISBANE
Y-CARE (SOUTH EAST QLD) INC.

Creating healthy, connected
and thriving communities

YMCA BRISBANE

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YMCA BRISBANE GROUP

YMCA OF BRISBANE Y-CARE (SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND) INC.

The Y Brisbane acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and operate. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, and recognise their continuing connection to land, community and culture.

CAMPING

- Camp North Pine, Whiteside
- Camp Warrawee, Joyner

CHILD CARE

Early Education Centres

- Acacia Ridge, Birtinya

Family Day Care

- Brisbane, Gold Coast

COMMUNITY CENTRES

- Acacia Ridge, Cannon Hill, Ipswich, Mango Hill, North Lakes, Springfield, Springfield Lakes, Victoria Point, Wynnum

EDUCATION

Accredited Education and Training

- Kingston

Vocational Schools

- Acacia Ridge, Ipswich, Kingston, Mango Hill, North Lakes, Victoria Point

FITNESS AND RECREATION

Fitness, Recreation and Aquatics Centres

- QUT Gardens Point, QUT Kelvin Grove, Victoria Point, Warwick

Fitness and Recreation Centres

- Bowen Hills, Jamboree Heights,

Gymnastics Centres

- Acacia Ridge, Bowen Hills, Caloundra, Jamboree Heights, Mango Hill, Stafford, Victoria Point

HOSPITALITY

- George Williams Hotel, Brisbane
- Old Petrie Town, Whiteside

HOUSING

- Melville Place - Nerang
- Nowell B. Taylor House - Nerang
- Residential Units - Southport

OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE (OSHC)

- Albany Creek, Arundel, Ashgrove, Bald Hills, Benowa, Berrinba East, Boondall, Bray Park, Brighton, Burleigh Heads, Camira, Carbrook, Chatswood Hills, Currimundi, Currumbin Valley, Dakabin, Darling Heights, Edens Landing, Enoggera, Everleigh, Flagstone, Gabbinbar, Gainsborough, Grovely, Helensvale, Hilder Road, Kedron, Kurwongbah, Loganholme, Marsden, Merrimac, Miami, Musgrave Hill, Norris Road, Pacific Pines, Palmview, Park Ridge, Peak Crossing, Rainworth, Rochedale South, Sandgate, Seven Hills, Springfield Lakes, St Pauls, Strathpine, Tallebudgera, The Gap, Upper Mt Gravatt, Varsity College, Virginia, Warrigal Road, Whites Hill, Windsor.

Vacation care programs were also offered at Bowen Hills, Joyner and Victoria Point.

SOCIAL IMPACT

Meals for the Homeless

Op Shops

- Upper Mount Gravatt
- Mango Hill

Schools' Breakfast Program

- 116 locations across South East Queensland

The YMCA also leases commercial property to tenants in Bowen Hills, Brisbane CBD, Fortitude Valley, Jamboree Heights, Mango Hill, Norwell, Parkinson, Southport, Victoria Point and Whiteside.

Where it started...

Our History

The humble beginnings of the YMCA started a long way from home. The YMCA was founded in 1844 during the Industrial Revolution in England, a time of great despair and poverty.

George Williams, a drapery merchant, decided that something had to be done. He gathered a few friends to form a society that met regularly to support each other and gain renewed strength in body, mind and spirit. The group called itself the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). From its inception, through to the early 1900s, the focus was on the welfare of young men and related social concerns.

Together with the other founding members,



GEORGE WILLIAMS

George Williams wasted no time in organising YMCA branches throughout England, Scotland and Ireland. Over the next ten years, YMCA Movements also began to develop across Western Europe, India, USA, Australia and New Zealand.

From the mid-1930s to the early 1960s, the YMCA was forced by depression and world war to revert to the original foundations of social and community concern. The emphasis was on supporting the welfare of young men at war, youth clubs, physical development, education and leadership training.

YMCA associations and branches can now be found all over the world. To be part of the YMCA today you don't need to be young, male, or Christian!

In fact, today the YMCA, or the Y, is a vibrant community organisation seeking to make a positive difference, by providing each and every person with the opportunity to reach their full potential.



What we stand for...

Our Mission

The YMCA works from a base of Christian values to provide opportunities for all people to grow in body, mind and spirit.

Our Values

- Honesty
- Caring
- Respect
- Responsibility

Our Vision

Create healthy, connected and thriving communities

Our Belief

We believe in the power of inspired young people.



“It is cheaper to build a fence at the top of the precipice than to provide an Ambulance at the bottom – the YMCA is such a fence.”

Heather Allan

Message from the President



One hundred and seventy-eight years ago, the YMCA was a London-based society for men whose chief purpose was praying and teaching.

Today, the YMCA is a world-wide organisation that works for the good of the whole of society, in many different ways, all of them highly practical. Indeed, so diverse is the YMCA, that it is not easy to define or describe it in a single sentence. This is due to the YMCA's commitment to providing a local response to the contemporary needs and unique context of each community it serves.

Maintaining this diverse, practical response over the last year, our YMCA expanded its program offering through its schools, Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) and community centres, in twelve new service locations.

This expansion saw our Y support more than six hundred students across our eight Vocational School campuses. Our schools assist students who don't thrive in mainstream education, providing tailored programs, including vocational training, to support them in the transition to employment or further education.

With the addition of ten new OSHC services, our Child Care portfolio expanded to provide 1.27 million sessions of care to support children and young people to grow, learn and gain confidence in a safe and stimulating environment.

Our nine community centres have become thriving hubs for their respective communities, providing a safe and welcoming space for people of all ages to connect, have fun and receive support.

Through our fitness, indoor and outdoor recreation centres, our Y supported 621,000 physical activity participations, improving the physical and mental wellbeing of people aged

three to eighty plus years. Our affordable housing provided safe, long-term accommodation for more than one hundred and ten people who would otherwise be at risk of homelessness.

Although diverse, individually and collectively our programs strengthen communities by developing the wellbeing of all people.

Our significant community impact would not be possible without the ongoing assistance of our valued supporters including the Clem Jones Foundation, Foodbank Queensland, Queensland Independent Schools Block Grant Authority and Southside Community Group. Such collaborations ensure our Y can sustain its impact over the long-term term and ultimately, change lives for the better.

I record my sincere thanks to my fellow board members, to CEO Alan Bray and all of our exceptional employees for their dedication and resolve throughout the year. Despite the ongoing challenges, our Y continued to provide a wide range of valuable, yet practical, services to the community, many of which benefit the most vulnerable.

This year the Board took on the daunting challenge of finding a new CEO, just our third in thirty years. We are very pleased to welcome Damian Foley to the role. We all look forward to hearing more from Damian in the coming months as he settles in.

In closing, I would like to thank Alan Bray. Under his 15 year leadership, the Y Brisbane has more than doubled in size – growing in scope, assets and turnover. This includes the establishment of 7 new vocational school campuses; two affordable housing complexes; four new gymnastics facilities, and some 40 new OSHC services. Alan's legacy will be felt for many years to come.

Heather Allan
PRESIDENT

Alan Bray

Message from the CEO



Every business unit within our Y supports our community impact and contributes to the achievement of our Mission.

With the ongoing impact of COVID this year, we decided to focus our resources, with an emphasis on achieving growth in OSHC and Vocational Schools. I am pleased to report that over the year our Y added one new Vocational School campus in Ipswich and gained ten new OSHC services across Brisbane, Toowoomba and the Gold and Sunshine Coasts.

These areas of focus have capacity for even further growth, both in scale and impact and are financially sustainable social enterprises. These key requirements provide the environment for our Y to have long-term impact on the students that attend, their families and their communities.

Whilst a focus was placed on OSHC and schools, each community we serve deserves an individual response. An unmet need previously identified in the Slacks Creek area has led to our Y this year constructing eighteen affordable housing units, which will be available to tenants in July 2022. Housing is becoming increasingly inaccessible to many in the community, and an increased supply of affordable and safe long-term housing is essential.

Whilst the COVID pandemic has reduced its dominance in the daily headlines, it continued to affect our Y and the broader community alike. The long tail of COVID-19 impacted our staff teams, both in terms of physical and mental wellbeing. A tight employment market, combined with regular staff absences, further stretched our teams with many taking on extra shifts and Managers regularly jumping into the frontline. This demonstrates the positive culture that our staff and volunteers have generated, one that is a significant contributor to our collective success.

Beyond the pandemic, further challenges were faced by communities across Queensland and Northern NSW, when significant rainfall resulted in extensive flooding. In response, our Y has sought to reach out

beyond its four walls and provide targeted support to impacted communities.

Our fitness and community centres offered flood victims free showers, WiFi, food and places to charge phones. Our Op Shops provided 250 boxes of clothing and goods to communities in Northern NSW, following the catastrophic floods in and around Lismore. Warwick Indoor Recreation and Aquatic Centre was activated as an emergency centre when the town was impacted by flood waters and those staff undergoing hardship were supplied with tangible support to take them through hard times.

Our Y was also able to provide a financial donation to support YMCA's from across Europe in addressing the humanitarian needs of people affected by the war in Ukraine. Incredibly this includes 17 YMCAs out of the 25 actually located in the Ukraine. YMCA teams on the ground transformed their operations to feed, transport and house thousands of people displaced by the war.

In closing, I extend my deepest gratitude to our Board for their guidance and support to continue our growth, despite ongoing uncertainty from COVID-19, and to all of our wonderful staff and volunteers whose endeavours ensure our Y has a positive impact on the lives of thousands of people across South East Queensland.

Earlier this year, I took the opportunity to inform our Board that I will be stepping down as Chief Executive Officer. It has truly been a great honour to be part of such a strong and impactful organisation since 1991, and it has been a privilege to serve as Chief Executive Officer for the past fifteen years. I have been proud to help build on the strengths of past generations in the YMCA and to be a guardian of our Y for that short length of time.

In the coming years, I hope my legacy is looked upon favourably and seen as a strong base from which future generations can continue to build.

Alan Bray
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Damian Foley

Message from the incoming CEO



It is an absolute honour and privilege to be the new CEO of YMCA Brisbane and Y Care.

I'm very fortunate to be taking over the reins from a highly regarded and successful CEO and to have had a comprehensive handover.

Over the first few months in the role I've been inspired by the passion and dedication of the staff team — from the Executive Leadership team to our skilled and enthusiastic front-line staff. The level of commitment to the organisation and those we provide such a broad range of services to is obvious and completely inspiring.

Our strategic development plan and strategic plan clearly sets out our goals over 2022/23 and I'll be working closely with the Executive to deliver on these goals.

There are already a number of significant projects slated for 2023 and I feel fortunate to have joined the YMCA at such an exciting time.

Construction has already started on our new Vocational School campus in Bundaberg; and shortly work will begin on Stage 2 of our School at Redlands. This Redlands expansion will see a junior school introduced to complement the existing senior school.

We also expect to see continued growth in our Outside of School Hours Care (OSHC) services in 2023, thanks to the amazing work of the team and the fantastic reputation and relationships they have established with schools across South East Queensland.

Similarly, across all our program areas, our Op Shops, Schools' Breakfast Program, Fitness and Recreation, Camps and Hotel, we are optimistic about the future of our Y and confident about the tremendous impact we can have.

Next year will also see further development of our organisation's IT capabilities, with a range of new, exciting features and technologies to be introduced across our different services.

We are all hoping that we've seen the worst of the pandemic and already we are seeing some of the community engagement levels return to what they were in early 2020. It's been a tough time for so many over the last few years, however what is obvious is the tenacity and determination of the entire staff team and our wonderful volunteers across all our programs and we look forward to returning to more normal operations.

I want to say thank you to the whole team for the warm and generous welcome I have had into the role and the organisation. I'm looking forward to working closely with you all and building on the great work that has taken place in our 158 year history.

Damian Foley
incoming CEO

A SNAPSHOT OF YOUR Y

CHILD CARE SERVICES

Last year
1,270,669
sessions of care were provided.

HOUSING

Last year we provided
252
people with a safe, permanent place to call home.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Last year there were
621,510
participations across our fitness centres.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Last year there were
5,930
participations in youth specific programs.

YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRES

Last year we supported
68,197
program participations through our 9 centres.

SCHOOL BREAKFASTS

Last year we provided
698,636
free breakfast meals across more than 135 schools in South East Queensland.

VOLUNTEERS

Last year
280
volunteers generously donated their time and talent to our Y.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Last year
629
students were enrolled across the eight campuses of YMCA's Vocational School.

CAMPING

Last year there were
9,243
visits to our camping and outdoor education facilities.

STAFF

Last year our Y employed
1,245
passionate and dedicated staff members.

Our Impact

Making a real difference through providing people with a real opportunity to be the best that they can be.

* The names of our beneficiaries in the following stories have been changed to protect their privacy.



Michele Meredith - CHAIR, RAP WORKING GROUP

Working towards reconciliation

NAIDOC Week artwork

David Riley, a First Nations artist from Acacia Ridge, created beautiful artwork for the Y that represents diverse backgrounds coming together in peace to lead us in a hopeful future. Y Gear produced a limited run of t-shirts that were worn during NAIDOC Week 2021. 'Big Dave', as he is known, said that the artwork represents "meeting different people all in the one spot, everyone knows each other and there is a real sense of community".

Learning from community

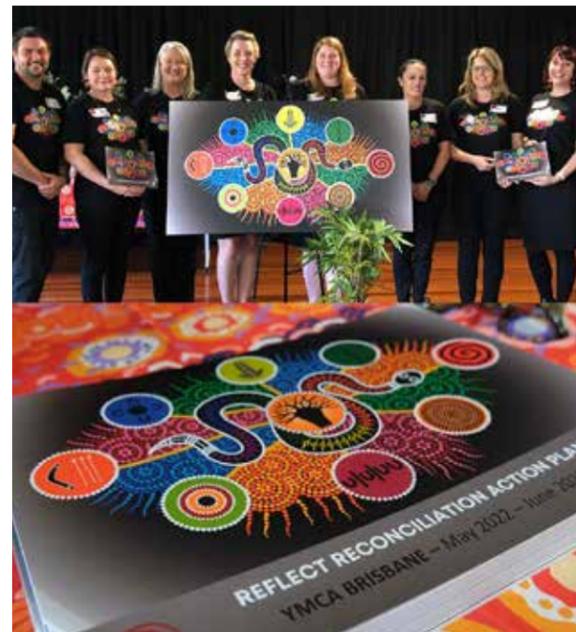
On our journey to developing the Y's Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan, a group of staff members visited Cherbourg, a reserve where Aboriginal people were relocated after being forcibly removed from their land in the early 1900s. The community elders and our visit hosts generously shared their history and stories, deepening our understanding of Aboriginal history. Understanding the injustice, then and now, but also the amazing resilience and courage of this community, was an extremely rewarding experience.

Reconciliation Action Plan

Our Y's first Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) was launched at a ceremony held at the Cannon Hill Community Centre on 26 May 2022.

Our RAP formalises the Y's commitment to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities to progress reconciliation. It provides a clear framework to achieve our planned actions and enables us to continue to build and foster stronger relationships with the First Peoples of Australia.

The foundation of these activities is built on the YMCA Core Values of Honesty, Respect, Caring and Responsibility. We are extremely proud to be playing a role in realising national prosperity for First Australians.



Robert Bitá - DEPUTY PRINCIPAL, YMCA VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

Alternative learning in Ipswich

We believe all young people have the right to achieve their full potential irrelevant of circumstance.

The development of the whole person is of utmost importance and we are guided in developing this through the YMCA's philosophy of valuing a person's body, mind and spirit. We believe that this holistic approach is best delivered through a flexible individualised learning environment, to maximise positive outcomes for every individual.

This is why our Y has transformed an aged care facility in the Ipswich CBD into a brand-new school with an embedded YMCA community centre onsite. The refurbishment has brought the space to life and made it a thriving environment for young people to excel.

The school will grow to host approximately 110 students and is fitted out with many exciting features including a wellbeing room, recording studio, makerspace (with 3D printers and Virtual Reality technology), an assembly hall with stained glass windows, career readiness spaces, a gymnasium and more. With eight school campuses across Brisbane, the YMCA's Vocational School supports students in their individual journey to employment.

98% of eligible students across our eight Vocational School campuses successfully completed Year 12 in 2021



Amanda Maystone-Towell - MANAGER, SCHOOLS' BREAKFAST PROGRAM

More than just a free breakfast



"It is such an amazing way to get people to come and feel connections with one another... Because we all know that people connect over food and it is just a really good opportunity to provide that connection and social support for kids, parents and the school."

Our Schools' Breakfast Program continues to grow and now supports more than 140 schools across South East Queensland.

We have also been delighted to work with the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy on a project to support more than 160 Queensland schools on their behalf in Cairns, Central Queensland, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Logan, Sunshine Coast, Townsville and Wide Bay.

To date, we have supplied more than 6.5 million breakfasts for children since commencing the program in 2006. This amazing result has been achieved through the gracious support of our key sponsors, including the Clem Jones Group, Club Southside and Foodbank Queensland, together with a range of other local sponsors across South East Queensland.

DID YOU KNOW...

96.5% of schools surveyed stated that they had seen benefits for students as a result of their school's breakfast program, including improved school attendance, classroom engagement and increase in effective learning related behaviours. The survey results also showed an increased positive rapport and social engagement among students and staff.

"We've got a few families where long-term unemployment has been a barrier. We've also got a few families that used to contact the office, if we were following up absences, and they would often say 'I've got no money to buy food, the kids have got no food, that's why I'm not sending them to school'. And we have been able to say to them, 'well, we can provide them with lunch and with something to eat as soon as they get here'. And it has been incredibly beneficial, because it has removed a barrier, which is getting the kids to school and... the more that they attended, the better their outcomes are going to be."

- Rural QLD Primary School

Last year, we provided 698,636 free breakfast meals across more than 135 schools in South East Queensland.





Iona Wyllie - MANAGER, HOUSING

The key to living well

Housing fulfils a basic human need for shelter, but it also contributes to wellbeing. A safe and sustainable place to live reduces stress, which leads to improvement in both physical and mental health.

Affordable housing also frees up funds within tight budgets to spend on other essential wellbeing items such as health care and food.



Slacks Creek Affordable Housing Complex

The Slacks Creek 18-unit development is scheduled to be completed in July 2022 and to welcome its first tenants from August 2022.



While providing safe accommodation is the first step, our team works with each tenant to address the issues that have contributed to their homelessness. We do this to help tenants become autonomous and independent individuals who feel empowered and in control of their lives.

With the Y's support, the tenant's quality of life is drastically enhanced as they become free of the issues and barriers that lead them into community housing.

Michael Tsiamis - GROUP MANAGER, FITNESS AND RECREATION

Improving quality of life during and after cancer

One in two Australian men and women will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85.

In the five years from 2014 to 2019, cancer grew from the second most common cause of death to the leading cause of death in Australia (almost 50,000).

That's why our Y offers the Cancer Survivor Program — a free 12-week exercise program delivered across four sites, with the purpose of empowering cancer survivors to improve their quality of life by increasing functional capacity and strength.

While the exercise component of the program supports the physical and mental improvements of participants, the program's success has also been attributed to the friendships made between survivors and also with the Y staff, which has led to an increase in their sense of belonging and support.



In 2021, our Cancer Survivor Program was also recognised nationally, receiving YMCA Australia's Program of Excellence Award.

It has been our privilege to empower more than 600 participants since launching the program in 2016. With the growing prevalence of cancer in Australia, we are committed to the program's future and keeping it accessible to all cancer survivors.



Here's just one participant's story:

"Initially when I saw the sign at the YMCA for the Cancer Survivor Program, I thought, what a great way to get fit. And it's FREE! But it became so much more than that..."

I met strangers, who I now consider friends. I felt welcomed and included, it didn't matter my ability or how fit I was, I felt like I was capable of pushing myself, not like a victim. But most importantly, my mental health improved. I felt motivated to get up and get moving and the motivation continued throughout the day.

I feel this is really important for anyone going through cancer, but for me, having a tumour sitting right on the 'personality' part of my brain, staying motivated and not letting my mental health get the better of me is a daily struggle. Which is why I was so grateful I gave this a go. I wanted to get up and go (even on the cold mornings!).

But I also felt better at home, I got more done, I was happier and I even started doing more of the things I love. I just felt better! Physically and mentally.

Our trainer Brooke, she made it fun. I felt free to do only what I was capable of but she motivated me in a way that made me want to try harder. She helped me realise I was capable of so much more. It felt so rewarding to see my self-improvement from day one to the end of the program.

I would highly recommend this to anyone who has been or is still on this cancer journey. No matter your level of fitness or ability, as long as you have a desire to move your body, feel better and have fun doing it... you'll come away from it with so much more."

Daniel Patava - COORDINATOR, QUEENSLAND YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Amplifying the voice of regional young people

In 2021, members of the YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament (QYP) Executive team expanded its impact, visiting Mount Isa, Rockhampton, Townsville and Weipa as part of the Youth Governor Regional Engagement Tour.

The Regional Engagement Tour is an entirely new forum for young people to express their views to Youth Members and Members of Parliament on local regional issues. Local Youth Members hosted community engagement events, interacted with local stakeholders and listened to the voices of young people from across their community.

The trips provided QYP with the opportunity to connect Members of Parliament, stakeholders and young people outside of Brisbane to ensure that the voice and ideas of young people were heard. It is for this reason that the regional tour sought to interact with not just Youth Members, but also unsuccessful applicants of the 2021 program and the broader community.

Queensland Youth Parliament acknowledges the Queensland Government's support to host these regional events.



Lisa Macfarlane - MANAGER, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND TRAINING

February-March Flood support

Understanding that in recent times communities have been challenged in many different ways, our Y sought to provide practical assistance to help meet some immediate needs during the February-March floods in 2022.

Many of the Y's Fitness, Gymnastics and Community Centres opened to local flooded communities with free phone charging facilities, WiFi access, shower facilities and, in some locations, food.

WIRAC was also activated as an emergency centre for displaced members of the Warwick and surrounding communities.

As well as supporting Queensland communities, our Op Shop Warehouse donated almost 250 boxes of shoes, books, winter clothing and toys to residents in Northern New South Wales who had been impacted by wide spread flooding and literally lost everything.



Chris Richards - MANAGER, THE LINK YMCA YOUTH CENTRE

Our Community Centres

There are limited youth outreach options in the Redlands, with many young people having to travel to Brisbane or Logan to receive support.

Since opening in April 2022, the Link YMCA Youth Centre at Victoria Point has hit the ground running to offer a safe, inclusive space for young people in the region.

The Link offers a bridge to support young people with better access to safe spaces and structured activities to keep them engaged, especially with the launch of our Connect @ The Link initiative in late June 2022. Who wouldn't want to record their own podcast or EP in our recording studio; verse their friends in gaming or on the pool and ping pong tables; or chill out in a comfy bean bag and charge their phone.



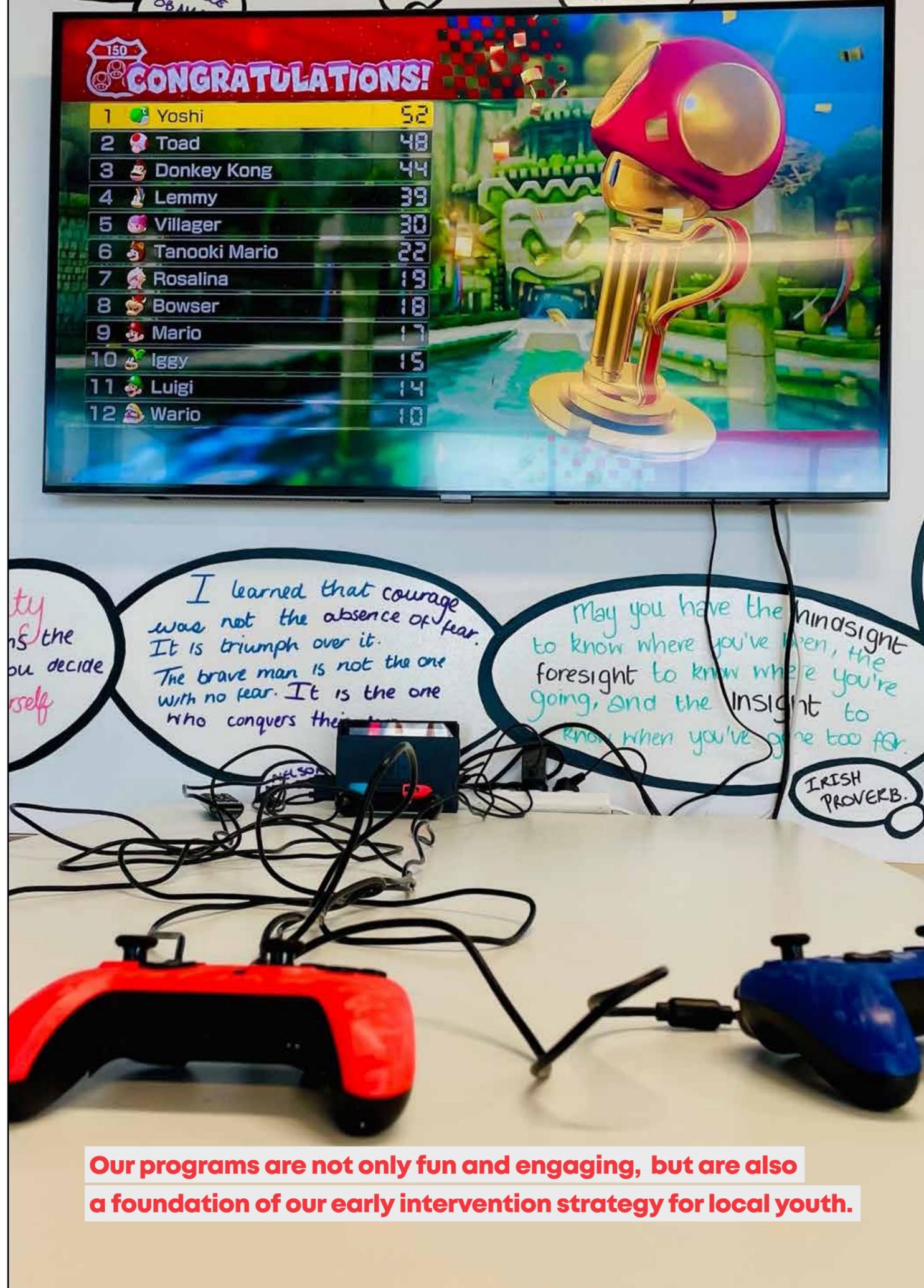
Victoria Point

Our programs are not only fun and engaging, but are also a foundation of our early intervention strategy for local youth.

At the Link, young people can connect with qualified youth workers that provide crisis intervention and referral pathways, helping them to extend their support networks and reach their goals.

In parallel with our onsite activities, the Link also actively engages with the local community outside of the centre through safe and positive engagement at local skate parks and outreach to the many island communities that exist along the bayside.

“Who wouldn't want to record their own podcast or EP in our recording studio; verse their friends in gaming or on the pool and ping pong tables; or chill out in a comfy bean bag and charge their phone.”



Our programs are not only fun and engaging, but are also a foundation of our early intervention strategy for local youth.

Just the HEADLINES



Celebration of Cultures

Harmony Week is an annual opportunity for Australia to celebrate multiculturalism and the successful integration of migrants into our community.

Old Petrie Town (OPT) marked the occasion with a Celebration of Cultures event, which brought together a diverse range of multicultural groups who added to the flavour of the site through various food stalls, dance and other cultural activities.

The family friendly event attracted significant community interest and will become an integral part of OPT's annual calendar.

The YMCA acknowledges the support of Peter Dutton MP and Sublime Audio and Active Hire, each of which contributed to the event's success.



Bingo Buddies

Everyone is welcome at Bingo Buddies, a free community program at our Cannon Hill Community Centre. There are of course games of bingo but, most importantly, the monthly activity provides opportunities for participants to meet new people, form social connections and have fun.

The importance of such community event was highlighted for us after receiving feedback from newcomer who had attended Bingo Buddies with her carer. The message explained that, due to a medical condition, it was the first time she had been out of the house in four months but, after attending Bingo Buddies and being welcomed so warmly, her spirits had been lifted and she felt happy.

The newcomer had had a wonderful experience and couldn't wait to attend again the next month!

Chipping for a cause

2021 saw the return of our annual Charity Golf Day, following a COVID-19 created hiatus in 2020. With the closure of Victoria Park Golf Course, the event was moved to, and amiably supported by, Brisbane Golf Club.

With fifteen teams participating, thirteen of which were sponsorships, the event raised more than \$20,000 for our Schools' Breakfast and Cancer Survivor Programs.

Our thanks to all of the event sponsors, contributors and to Alistair Lynch, ex AFL Brisbane Lions player, who acted as MC for the day. Congratulations to Computer One, our overall winning team.



Creating a koala corridor

Our Camping team planted 1,200 native trees and plants on their Bundalong site, with the help of volunteers from Koala Action Inc., Queensland Koala Crusaders, Moreton Bay Koala Rescue, a team from Stone & Wood Brewing and local Councillor Cath Tonks.

The plants are koala-friendly and will provide a safe corridor for rescued koalas to be released. The Y thanks Moreton Bay Regional Council for their generous funding and all of the volunteers that have supported the project.



New Australian record

Team WIRAC broke the Australian record for the largest Jazzercise class, with more than 325 participants ranging from 15 months to 92 years of age! The outdoor class was enthusiastically supported by the Warwick community, many of whom turned out in fancy dress.



Clothing young Parliamentarians

QYP prides itself on making sure all young people from across Queensland have the opportunity to have their voice heard — regardless of their personal circumstances. Unfortunately, every year, the requirement to have the appropriate attire to attend Parliament House presents an enormous barrier to many participants.

Clothing donations from YMCA staff and volunteers meant Youth Members were spoiled for choice and ensured there was something for everyone to wear. Having clothing options helped alleviate a lot of stress and discomfort for our participants and volunteers.



Community drives

The Springfield Lakes Community Centre team distributed more than forty Christmas hampers to schools, day cares, churches and families in need around the greater Springfield area at the end of 2021. The drive was supported by local businesses and the Springfield Lakes State School.

The Cannon Hill Community Centre also collected more than 200 blankets and other winter warmers to distribute to locals doing it really tough during winter 2022.

A sport for all ages

Congratulations to our Masters level competitors from the Y Caloundra and the Y Stafford Gymnastics Clubs, who performed impressively at their end of season competition, the Gladstone Gymnastics Masters.

Masters competitions are designed for a cross section of gymnasts in age groups from 18 to 60+ years and shows that gymnastics really is a sport for all. The Y comprised two of the seven clubs represented at the end of season Masters competition.



Chris Stocks - PROJECT MANAGER

Facility Developments

WIRAC renovation

Extensive renovations were completed on the WIRAC facility, thanks to funding from the Southern Downs Regional Council (SDRC).

Impressively, the entire renovation project was managed by Karen Peters (WIRAC Facility Manager) and her team — such is the trust and respect that has developed between the WIRAC staff and SDRC!

Bowen Hills Gymnastics extension

A consequence of the COVID-19 lockdowns and home schooling was an increase in demand for our Y's Gymnastics program.

Such was the emergent level of interest, the Bowen Hills Club converted their single court stadium into a second gymnastics arena in January 2022. Incorporating a ninja course as well as traditional gymnastics equipment, the extension allows gymnasts to gain self-confidence, develop personal responsibility and attain leadership skills, all while learning to work together and making friendships that last a lifetime.

The Y is the second largest gymnastics provider in Queensland.

WIRAC Before...



WIRAC After...



Slacks Creek Affordable Housing Complex

As of June 2021, there were 27,933 applications for public housing in Queensland, amounting to 50,301 people seeking a safe and affordable place to live.

More than two thirds of these applications were classified as 'very high need,' which included people who were living in inappropriate housing or even homeless.

Our Y was proud to partner with the Queensland Government to begin construction on a third affordable housing complex located in Slacks Creek.

Building on the success of our Gold Coast affordable housing programs at Melville Place and Nowell B. Taylor House, the Slacks Creek 18-unit development was scheduled to be completed in July 2022 and to welcome its first tenants from August 2022.



Bowen Hills extension



Charlene Reynolds - SAFEGUARDING MANAGER

Safeguarding children and young people

At the Y we believe in the power of inspired young people. For children and young people to be inspired, we know they need to feel safe and be safe.

That is why the Y is independently reviewed by the Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF), to ensure our services are safe for all children and young people.

In 2021 our work to create a safe place for all children and young people was recognised by the Queensland Child Protection Week committee. The Child Safe Organisation Award recognises demonstrated commitment to the ongoing journey of creating a child-focused culture that keeps children safe and well.

The award is confirmation of the dedication and passion our staff and volunteers display on a daily basis, ensuring children and young people feel and are safe during more than 1.4 million program participations each year, in our Y.

It is humbling to be recognised among so many excellent organisations that are committed to keeping children and young people safe.

Safeguarding Manager, Charlene Reynolds, accepted the award on behalf of our Y at a ceremony at Parliament House.



Contributing to our recognition as a child safe organisation is Y's 'Stay Safe, Tell Someone' Program, which empowers children, young people and adults to tell someone if they are worried or concerned about their safety, or that of others. The key message is "if you see something, hear something or feel something that makes you feel worried or unsafe — tell someone".

Please join us in speaking out and taking action to ensure all children and young people are supported to grow up free from harm.

Remember, protecting children is everyone's business.



YMCA of Brisbane Board of Directors and Y-Care (South East QLD) Inc. Management Committee



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Richard Edwards OAM
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The Board and Management Committee of our Y give their time and expertise freely and generously to help us become a sustainable organisation, that has a positive impact on communities across South East Queensland.

Thank you to Our Supporters



The YMCA wishes to acknowledge and thank all of our supporters and donors who have contributed to the community impact achieved by our YMCA over the last twelve months.

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- Australian Government
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- Logan City Council
- Moreton Bay Regional Council
- Queensland Government
 - Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
 - Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy
 - Department of Environment and Science
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The YMCA wishes to thank the many staff who support the Strong Kids Campaign by regular donations through payroll.



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