

A publication of the
**Youth and
Community
Combined Action
(YACCA) Network**

October 1998 Pilot Issue

The YAC

Contributions are Welcome!!

Write, email or fax your latest
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The YAC — Up and flying

The first important piece of news to share is that, before the new year is here (if all goes as planned), we will be able to jump on the technology highway to talk to each other (via email), participate in meetings (via chat-rooms), promote our programs (on our web page) and contribute our YACCA news (via email document attachments) to this newsletter.)

Bringing YACCA Projects across the State closer together to share ideas and keep in touch is not always easy. Meeting face-to-face can be expensive and playing telephone tag is frustrating. *The YAC* you are holding is a new networking tool for Program stakeholders. Through the newsletter and the Internet we may change the way we communicate and provide opportunities to build on relationships developed at our (hopefully) annual seminars.

Thanks to the network funds made available by DFYCC, a technology audit has been undertaken to assess YACCA Projects' accessibility to Internet and email services.

The audit reports have identified services unable to access the Internet and recommendations have been made on upgrades to bring all YACCA projects to a common level of Internet readiness. It is expected that all YACCA projects will be in a position to easily access Internet services by January 1999.

A newsletter was first identified as a networking priority in the YSTC's 1995 YACCA Program Networking Strategy Report (remember that?)

The editorial group have linked the timing of its production to the Statewide network meeting in Townsville in November. The newsletter will be evaluated at the meeting and the feedback will help to plan future editions.

It's important that each service contributes — a bit of news, update on staff changes, something important has happened in your community, you're getting a new project up, a young person has written a poem or a drawn a graphic, you want to write a letter to the editor — doesn't matter — a paragraph or a page, it's all adds to the sense of who we are, of what YACCA is.

If you're not sure about writing something or you'd like some assistance with it, please ring someone on the editorial group (see bottom left).

We are distributing this pilot edition **to YACCA project workers only** because we want your feedback before we "go public". What information do you want to see there? Who should we approach to contribute? What **don't** you want to see there? Is the look of it OK?

See you in Townsville. Happy networking.

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Graffiti - Vandalism or Art?

by Leanne Tu'ipulotu, Nambour YACCA

As with any social issues, there are many strongly held beliefs and attitudes about graffiti. What is seen by one side as a law-and-order problem requiring responses appropriate to delinquents is seen by others as a generous outpouring of creative energies upon an ugly and demoralising environment.

Graffiti is neither new nor a passing fad. It has been a feature of society for thousands of years. During that time it has undergone many changes in its nature, style and the topics expressed.

One of the biggest misgivings about the intentions of the aerosol artist is due to a confusion between graffiti and aerosol art. There has to be a differentiation made between vandals who scrawl meaningless messages on private property, vandals who smash windows, and the like and young people who are interested in producing murals with aerosol paints. The first group is often confused with the second.

The confusion results in a lack of understanding and respect for the motives and desires of the aerosol artist. A confusion which sees some of the most motivated and creative

young people in our community labelled as vandals.

An aerosol artist creates art with aerosol paints. He/she may take a nickname and use that as the framework of their painting, using the name as their theme for their painting. The artist may in fact choose to paint landscapes, portraits or any other standard genre in art. It is the choice of medium and surface that makes the aerosol artist different from any other artist.

The aerosol artist chooses to paint murals in community not to antagonise but to embrace community. They want to celebrate their creativity, to show it off to all who care to look. It is a way for young people to forge place and space within their community.

Nambour YACCA in conjunction with the Sunshine Coast Police Citizen Youth Club (PCYC) have developed a successful Community Arts Program. This program aims to give young people the opportunity to do their art in a legal way.

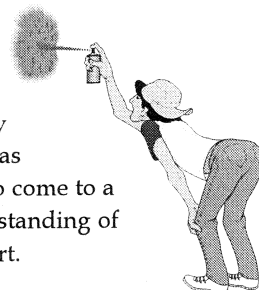


Local aerosol artist "Matt" from the Sunshine Coast

A number of successful aerosol art workshops have been held over the past three years, producing excellent murals located in public spaces throughout Nambour and Maroochydore. Nambour YACCA together with a group of young people have produced a booklet on aerosol art and features a full colour insert of local young artists work. There is also a legal wall located at the PCYC in Nambour.

Whilst this community arts program will not completely eradicate vandalistic graffiti from our community, this program does assist in minimising vandalistic graffiti. Many young people find themselves for the first time involved in an activity that is not only accepted, but also appreciated by the broader community.

A special thank you to Jason Woodward, a community artist, who has helped me to come to a better understanding of graffiti - as art.



An aerosol art mural in Maroochydore

MYO Task Force News

by Paul Wright

Current Projects

Rockhampton: A project to extend and improve the skateboard facility at Rockhampton PCYC will be co-ordinated by Jayson Robinson, a long-term skater and PCYC member. Jayson will co-ordinate the activities of a core group of about 30 young people who have an interest in the design and construction of the new facility.

Sandy Harris from Rockhampton YACCA, Mike Huxley from PCYCs Queensland and Lyle Bird from Scouts Queensland have combined with Rockhampton City Council representative Tony Christensen to form the partnership which will enable the project to commence. The success of this project will assist in the planning of another skateboard facility in North Rockhampton.

Logan: Logan project organisers completed a proposal which will enable young people to perform music in the parks of Logan.

A Crime Survey carried out earlier this year identified Logan parks as places where community members did not always feel safe. This response was related to a perception of inappropriate use of those spaces by young people. Reluctance to use these community facilities further perpetuates fear of crime as the parklands appear to become deserted expanses.

Carolyn Reid from Logan City YACCA, Rob Fiedler (Logan PCYC), Jan Kuceli (Playground and Recreation Association) and Lorna Rasmussen (Scouts Queensland) have formed the project partnership together with Derek Matthews from Logan City Council.

A rehearsal and jam space area is planned to be built at the same time as other work is completed at Logan PCYC. Workshops will then be held to include young people from YACCA's target group who will also be invited to form a group to assist with the planning and implementation of the project. Monthly performance events are planned for 1999 using portable audio equipment and organisers will investigate the possibility of constructing a portable stage to be used as a community resource following completion of the music project.

Wynnum/Redlands: YACCA project worker Daina Fernyhough has put considerable effort into supporting the Wynnum Graffiti Task Force, a group chaired by State MP Paul Lucas. The Wynnum community identified graffiti as a major cause for concern and the Task Force commissioned a graffiti audit carried out by Shauna McGilvray who has much experience in this area. The Task Force identified the plan outlined in the State Department of Justice's *Graffiti Crime Prevention Plan* as their preferred option in dealing with the issue.

The *Graffiti Crime Prevention Plan* has four elements in its approach which must be integrated into a comprehensive, community-based plan: the establishment of an effective reporting and recording system; implementation of a rapid removal policy; informing the community about prevention measures; and conducting a legal arts program. The *Plan's* objective is to reduce the incidence of graffiti in the community.

The MYO Task Force is investigating the possibility of putting together a partnership with the Wynnum Graffiti Task Force and including Lota PCYC and Scouts Queensland. Another financial partner may be

involved and Brisbane City Council have agreed to provide equipment to assist the project. Organisers are continuing to develop the project which cannot be finalised until sufficient funding arrangements are in place.

Indigenous: Cherbourg/Murgon YACCA and the YMCA have discussed plans for a project which will assist in bringing the communities of Cherbourg and Murgon – indigenous and non-indigenous – together. Activities may include legal art, cultural and sporting events.

1998/99 Projects

The MYO Task Force has not yet identified project regions for 1998/99 and will meet later this month to determine criteria for doing so. YACCA project workers will be notified of the outcome of this discussion either through the MYOTF newsletter, *MYO News* or by letter.

MYOTF CAG Meeting

The next MYOTF Community Advisory Group meeting will be held on 25 November. All YACCA project workers are welcome to attend provided that prior notice is given (Phone Paul Wright on [07] 38707969). The MYOTF CAG usually focusses on a particular issue relevant to current projects at each of its quarterly meetings and one or a number of speakers are invited to address the issue and focus discussion. The November meeting will focus on young people in public spaces. CAG member and QUT academic Phil Heywood has been invited to speak on this issue.

MYO Crime Prevention Seminar

The MYO Task Force will hold a Crime Prevention Seminar on Saturday, 13 March, 1999. MYO volunteers and staff who have an interest in crime prevention issues will be invited to attend. YACCA project workers will also receive an invitation. Leaflets will be distributed when the Seminar Program is finalised in November.

Who's Acting Up

by DFY&CC

- ✦ As individual organisations, YACCA projects are resourced by staff of the Departments' regional offices.
- ✦ Resource staff for YACCA projects may be Community Resource Officers (CROs) or Regional Youth Affairs Officers (RYAOs). These staff negotiate service agreements with community organisations and provide a general resource link between the Department and the community sector organisations.
- ✦ YACCA projects should contact their regional resource officer for information and resourcing regarding all operational issues for their service. The Department has five regions:
 - Brisbane North (incl. Sunshine Coast)
 - Brisbane South (incl. Gold Coast)
 - Central Queensland
 - South West Queensland
 - North Queensland
- ✦ Each region is managed by a Regional Director.
- ✦ The YACCA program is managed through the each regions' Service Development and Planning (SD&P) operational area.
- ✦ The Office of Youth Affairs (OYA) is based at 111 George St in Brisbane and provides policy, services and advice to the Minister and the Director-General of the Department.
- ✦ OYA also resources the Department's regions regarding youth issues and in relation to all programs administered by OYA.
- ✦ All statewide and peak youth organisations are resourced by the Office of Youth Affairs. The South East Qld YACCA network, as a statewide organisation, is

therefore resourced by OYA staff – Tim Wilson, Mary Barram, and Rhyl Jones McCoy.

Staff with responsibility for the YACCA Program in the Office of Youth Affairs

Grazia Catalano - Youth Program Director

Aqua Robins - Manager Office of Youth Affairs

Tim Wilson - Acting Principal Youth Affairs Officer Program Development

Anne Zwolinski - Acting Senior Finance Officer Grants Administration

Rhyl Jones McCoy - Youth Affairs Officer (esp: special grants projects)

Mary Barram - Acting Youth Affairs Officer (esp: crime prevention projects)

Understood

by Cherbourg/Murgon
YACCA

Our children are our greatest resource, our investment for the future of our world. It is our belief that if children grow up in an environment which promotes a sense of belonging, of unconditional loving acceptance, of self respect for their separateness and of belief in social equality, of cooperation, of freedom with boundaries and valued for the gift they are, then they are more likely to become responsible, caring, creative individuals.

However, if they grow up in an environment which denies their individuality, where they have to prove their worthiness, where unrealistic expectations are placed upon them, where violence and abuse is left unchallenged and where love is nothing but a word, children will grow up fearful, untrusting, not respecting others, unable to contribute constructively in their society in a positive manner. Parents are important people as are all other people who care for children. Children deserve caring adults who meet their needs for healthy growth and development. One only needs to reflect upon history and the treatment of children to understand why many adults still carry scars of abuse and neglect. Society has not always held children in high esteem. Often we find that parents

themselves carry a lot of pain and hurt from their own experiences and desperately need nurturing, understanding and a supportive environment. In previous times we saw the traditional extended family providing these networks of supports. Today families of ten don't have those networks and sometimes need to access resources outside their own familiar network. We see that our role as workers is to lead children and adults to discover their own inner resources. This means helping them to recognise in themselves their own strengths, and their capacity to develop skills and their abilities to cope with the experiences of the environment.

Reflect for a moment on your own childhood and how hard it was to understand adults. Perhaps this is the secret. To recall one's own experiences of being a child and seeing the world through a child's eyes.

These experiences are echoed through the words of "Violet Oaklander" who states that.

"Know how to grow, how to develop, how to learn, how to expand and discover, how to feel, laugh and cry and get mad, what is right for them and what is not right for them, what they need. They already now how to love and be joyful and to live life to its fullest, to work and to be strong and full of energy. All they (and the children within us) need is the space to do it".

Juvenile Crime - don't let the facts get in the way of a good story!

by Gwen Murray, Youth Advocacy Centre

We often hear comments that crime and, in particular, juvenile crime is "out of control", that there is a "juvenile crime wave" and we risk our lives at the hands of youth "gangs" if we leave our homes. The media is very keen to splash across the headlines any incident of a young person committing a serious offence. But is this a true picture of our young people?

Research which has looked at how young people are portrayed in the media has shown it to be overwhelmingly negative, focusing on offending type behaviours and presenting very little which shows young people's achievements or

contributions. In fact, research findings show that young people are more likely to appear in the media with a terminal illness or as "criminals".

The overall effect of this is that people live in fear of crime and are afraid of young people. The statistics clearly show that this is unnecessary.

The information collected over the last ten years or so shows that in a twelve month period, only about one percent of young people aged 10-16 in the entire State are brought before the court for offending behaviour. This is not because the police "cannot touch youngsters" as has often mistakenly been said. The police in

Queensland have always had the power to take children aged 10 or over to court, in the same way as they do with adults. It simply means that our young people's behaviour is not that bad.

It is true that a significant number of children each year are also cautioned by police instead of going to court. Cautioning is used by police where the matter is not very serious and the young person has not been in a lot of trouble before. Police themselves estimate that around 65% of those cautioned once do not come to the attention of the police again.

It is probably also important to realise that young people aged 15-24 are more likely to be the victims of a crime than any other age group.

Community Crime Prevention

1. Concept of "Community"

- geography
- social profile e.g. income, age, ethnicity
- services e.g. transport, schools
- self-definition
- type of industry, retail outlets, commercial trade
- organised interestes e.g. resident groups, business
- strucutres of power e.g. federal, state, local, lobby and action groups
- issues and site of conflict

2. Concept of "Community Participation"

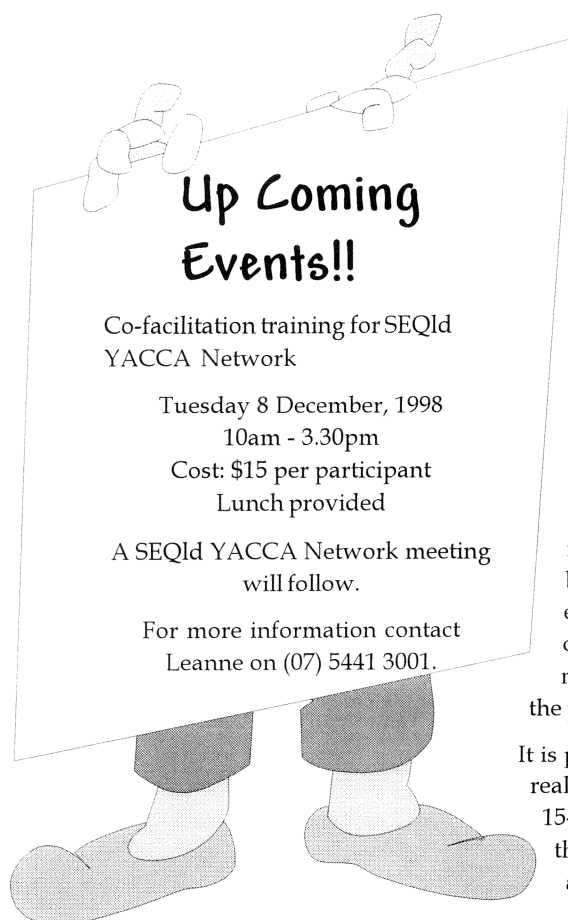
- as market research
- as appointment to decision-making committee
- as means of dissolving opposition
- as social therapy
- as grass-roots activism

3. Types of Neighbourhood Organising

- professional intervention and service delivery
- neighbourhood improvement and protection of property
- political activism to change structures and empower people

* different interets, different groups, different struggles, different agendas, different strategies, different relationships to the state.

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Community Crime Control Strategies and Perspectives

Conservative

Key concept: opportunity reduction

Main strategies: protective approaches, surveillance approaches

Crime: seen as individual choice available to everyone

Control: linked to costs and benefits

Liberal

Key concept: social problem

Main strategies: positive youth-orientated programmes, neighbourhood environmental

Crime: difference based upon biological, psychological and/or social circumstance

Control: correct individual deficits, promote social integration, improve opportunities

Radical

Key concept: social change

Main strategies: reduce inequality, communalisation of social control

Crime: effect of capitalist economic development

Control: direct, decentralised control over services, and satisfying needs through cooperatives, etc.



Good Practice Case Studies

Mary Barram, Acting Youth Affairs Officer, Office of Youth Affairs is working on a pro forma for writing up examples of good practice. Comments on the draft will be sought from YACCAs via the Network. Please contact Mary on 3224 8374 if you have any example pro formas that you have found particularly useful.

Zero Tolerance Policing - a cautionary note

by Sue Perel, Zillmere YACCA

Law & Order is one of the most important issues expressed by residents in my local community (Zillmere).

Through my links with community policing partnership meetings it is apparent that members of the local community are in fear for their personal and property safety.

Recent press articles in the "Courier Mail" identify a country town being held to ransom by youth with a crime wave of vandalism, break and enter offences and unruly behaviour.

This negative style of reporting raises the profile of young offenders in their own community and infers that all young people are offenders or potential criminals. "Hanging out" in public areas is not acceptable and residents are wary of groups of young people.

At election time the Law & Order debate draws attention to particular issues in communities and my thought is that communities may be confronted with Zero Tolerance Policing as a crime reduction strategy.

"New York crime rate has dropped 40% while the rate in the rest of the nation declined on 2%". In 1994 police commissioner, William J Bratton, combined aggressive policing tactics with a tough new managerial attitude that emphasised twin forces of empowerment and accountability among precinct

commanders. (Crime and justice international vol 13 July 1997).

Zero Tolerance Policing is supported by the broken window theory based on fixing all visible signs of decay, such as litter and graffiti. The idea is that one unrepaired window is a signal that no one cares and so breaking more windows costs nothing.

As local community workers in the area of crime prevention it may be a useful and interesting exercise to reflect on your own area with the broken window theory as a basis for developing crime prevention strategies.

On the other hand, Zero Tolerance Policing requires a long term strategy. It is aimed at intimidating criminals and vandals, which may have the potential to adversely affect some citizens rights, particularly among young people.

The term "Zero Tolerance Policing" seems to be a new buzz phrase which is often misunderstood and in my locality is being put forth as a positive step to reduce crime by the Federal Member.

I encourage workers to prepare themselves for a future response in terms of implications for young people by checking out Internet sites on this subject and contact your local member for their opinion.

Some useful Websites

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/~ncourier/oldcouriers/courier96-97/edition8/features/zerot.html> (Zero tolerance policing in Britain)

<http://www.irish-times.com/irish-times/paper/1997/0320/opt3.html> (Zero tolerance policing in Ireland)

<http://www.acdp.org.za/docs/article1.htm> (Zero tolerance policing in South Africa)

Broad Community Involvement in Youth Crime Prevention



by Leanne Tu'ipulotu, Nambour YACCA

The YACCA program working in and around Nambour on the Sunshine Coast, has operated with a community based reference group since its inception in 1993. So when the Department of Families Youth and Community Care introduced new funding guidelines in May 1997, which highlighted the establishment of a Community Advisory Group, we found ourselves sitting back and saying "we already do that".

The real challenge was in marrying the already established aims and objectives of the YACCA Reference Group with those in the funding guidelines for a Community Advisory Group (CAG). Two issues arose for us, the membership needed to be expanded and the group needed to be more focused on identifying, planning, supporting and evaluating crime prevention strategies.

Coupled with these issues, the Reference group were also concerned about the community's perceptions about youth crime and the community's level of understanding of the issues that impact on young people's lives in the late 1990's, which may lead young people to participate in illegal behaviour.

The YACCA Reference Group decided to hold a Forum that would create the opportunity for key community representatives to come together to hear a diverse panel of speakers. A range of theories and ideas about the issue of youth crime on the Sunshine Coast, highlighting the benefits of crime prevention strategies were presented. The forum also created an opportunity for

members of the community to question the many preconceived ideas on the 'causes of crime' and the 'solutions' to the so called 'crime problem'.

This forum was held at the Sunshine Coast University in June, 1998. Some 120 people attended including representatives from education department, TAFE, police, shopping centre managements, hoteliers, security guards, insurance companies, local government Councillors, youth and community workers, young people, business operators, neighbourhood watch, media, government departments, church groups, mainstream youth organisations.

Presentations at the Youth Crime Forum included the following topics :

- ✚ Key note speaker Richard Hil, Lecturer Faculty of Arts, Sunshine Coast University - "Thinking afresh about juvenile crime : some issues and strategies".
- ✚ Community Perceptions of Crime - Dispelling the Myths
- ✚ Juvenile Crime in Maroochy Shire - Who? Where? And What did they do?
- ✚ A look into young people's lives on the Sunshine Coast - from a young person's perspective.
- ✚ A view from Shopping Centre Management
- ✚ Personal Costs of Youth Crime and Public Safety
- ✚ A Juvenile Aid Bureau Perspective to Youth Crime
- ✚ A Youth Worker experiences in working with young people

It was important to the YACCA Reference Group that this forum was not just another talk fest. It was considered that a positive way to move forward with the issues of youth crime was to establish a Youth Crime Prevention Network. The primary focus of this network is to identify factors contributing to youth crime and develop strategies that could reduce the incidents of youth crime in the community.

All forum attendants were given the opportunity to indicate their support and willingness to participate in such a network. Over one hundred people indicated their support for the establishment of a Youth Crime Prevention Network and half indicated their willingness to actively participate in the Network.

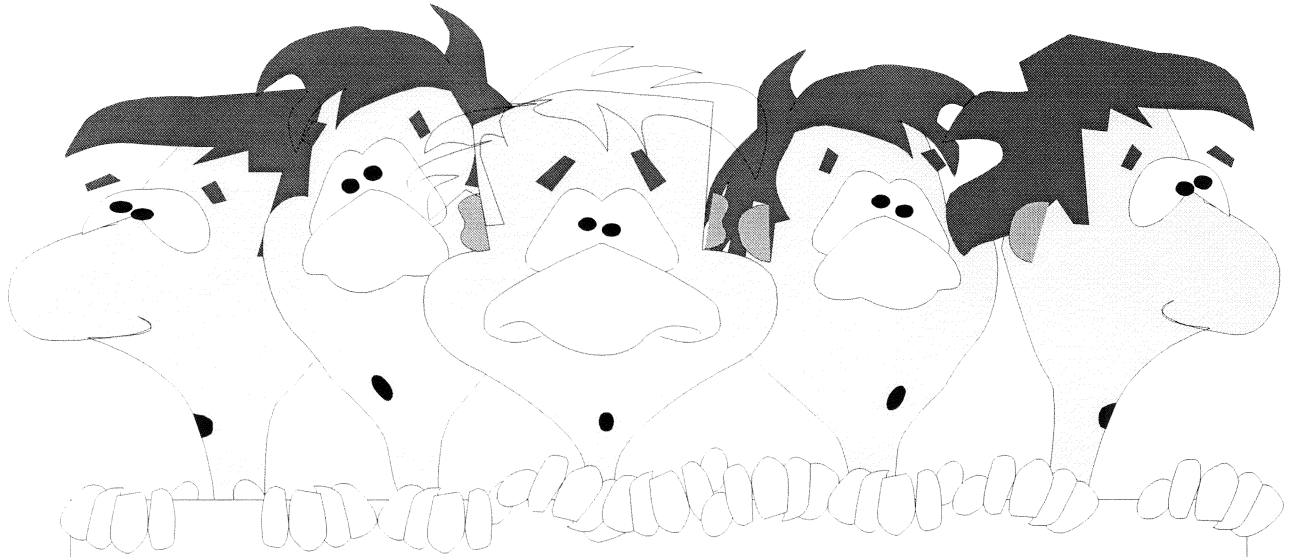
Nambour YACCA took on the task of coordinating the establishment of this Youth Crime Prevention Network. We believe that the newly formed Network better meets the aims of the Department of FYCC's guidelines for a Community Advisory Group (CAG). The YACCA Reference Group has decided to continue and provides the crucial role of supporting the YACCA program and the work of the YACCA staff.

For further information about the Youth Crime Forum and/or the Sunshine Coast Youth Crime Prevention Network contact Leanne Tu'ipulotu on (07) 5441 3001.

Resource Kit

Mary Barram, Department of Families, Youth and Community Care is currently compiling a resource kit of recent articles on juvenile crime prevention and also a listing of relevant books which may be accessed through the Departmental library.

Mary is keen to hear from anyone who knows of a good article or conference paper which they think would interest the rest of the sector.



Statewide YACCA Network Meeting
3rd Floor, The Centra, Townsville

November 3 1998, 1pm - 5pm

Agenda

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Information technology upgrade | 6. The meeting to identify key topics/issues for YACCA projects. Then to break into small groups to discuss selected topics further |
| 2. Newsletter evaluation | Break for Melbourne Cup |
| 3. YACCA Promotional Package | 7. Feedback |
| 4. Gracia Catalano (2pm) | |
| 5. Other business | |

If you have any additional agenda items,
please contact Sue Perel on 3865 2880

Food for thought....

The children of today love luxury.
They have bad manners, contempt for authority,
they show disrespect for adults
and love to talk rather than work or
exercise.

They contradict their parents,
chatter in front of company,
gobble down food at the table, and
intimidate their teachers.

Socrates, 489-399 BC