

Father Chris Riley's



Youth Off The Streets®

MACQUARIE FIELDS  
OUTREACH

# Review

ISSUE 1 • MAY • 2008

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## A Message from Father Chris Riley

Youth Off The Streets came into the Macquarie Fields area at the invitation of a group of local residents soon after the riots in February, 2005.

Since starting our work, I have found Macquarie Fields to be the best community I have ever had the pleasure of working in. In fact, it is the community I choose to spend Christmas with every year.

The support we have received for our programs to date has been both humbling and encouraging and YOTS continues to act in response to the needs of the community - meeting regularly with local residents, young people and other area service providers.

According to the most recent ABS Census in 2006, Macquarie Fields has a population of over 13,000 – the youth population is high with 25% aged 10 to 24.



Father Chris Riley



Artists impression (aerial north west) of the proposed Youth Centre.

It became clear that young people had little to occupy themselves and as we continued to work with the community it was suggested that a youth centre would help young people to be creatively organised and occupied. Currently, many young people “hang out” in and around the Glenquarie Shopping Centre, and other than spending money, there are no ‘real’ activities offered in this kind of environment. By establishing a youth centre we hope to provide a place that young people want to “hang out”, where they can learn, be entertained, and participate in constructive social activities.

Youth centres are acknowledged as being a place and space for young people and if resourced appropriately, can be the foundation for early identification/intervention and prevention initiatives – they are the way forward. Programs of this nature can provide young people

with appropriate life skills to deal with given situations.

A Macquarie Fields Youth Centre is a response to the needs of the Macquarie Fields community – as identified through consultation with government and community organisations operating in Macquarie Fields, and most importantly with community members and the youth of Macquarie Fields.

It is often said that it takes a village to raise a child - I congratulate the people of Macquarie Fields for realising that responsibility, and look forward to working with them in future to ensure that the strength of community spirit and support for young people here will set an example for communities Australia wide.

**Father Chris Riley**  
**CEO and Founder**  
**Youth Off The Streets**

# A centre for the youth of Macquarie Fields



▲ Artists impression of the Youth Centre's Outdoor Courts.

On Thursday, May 1, Youth Off The Streets were proud participants at the Glenquarie Shopping Centre Community Expo. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Community Expo organisers and all the members of the community who came to visit our stand and view the plans we have submitted to Campbelltown City Council in application to build a Youth Centre for the youth of Macquarie Fields. For those in the community who didn't make it to the Community Expo, we would like to take this opportunity to share with you this brief background to the Youth Centre proposal.

## Proposed Youth Centre Location

Youth Off The Streets have lodged an Application to Council to build a Youth Centre on Victoria Road (near Harvey & Brooks Streets), Macquarie Fields. A site 50 metres from the existing youth centre has been proposed. This site is separate to the site of the existing Child Care Centre which will continue to operate throughout and post the Youth Centre building process.

## The Outcomes Youth Off The Streets aim to achieve through the Centre include:

- Increased learning outcomes for young people
- Increased number of young people gaining and maintaining employment
- Strengthened community by bridging the gap between adults and young people
- Increased social capital and community capacity
- Established foundations on which to address long term unemployment problem

- Increased self-esteem and community pride
- Increased mental and physical health of young people over the long-term
- Increase public safety of young people and the wider community
- Decrease in incidence of juvenile crime in Macquarie Fields and neighbouring target suburbs by changing attitudes and providing positive diversion
- Gradual decrease in incidence of domestic violence over the long-term
- Shift in aspirational attitudes among young people.

## YOUNG PEOPLE, FAMILIES, THE LOCAL COMMUNITY & BUSINESS ALL STAND TO BENEFIT FROM THE CREATION OF A YOUTH CENTRE AT MACQUARIE FIELDS

Programmes & Services Youth Off The Streets plan to deliver through the Youth Centre include:

- **Learning**
  - Alternative learning program to enable young people who have been excluded from school.
  - Homework Club to assist young people at risk of exclusion from mainstream school.

▼ Artists impression – aerial south west.



- Service learning projects to provide young people with opportunities to develop empathy and skills through service to sections of the community in need.

### • Psychological

- Mentoring between older and younger members of the community; and between older adolescents and younger children.

### • Practical & life skills

- Budgeting & financial management.
- Health and hygiene.
- Cooking and nutrition.

### • Employment

- Guidance services – interview and résumé skills, job search, internet and computer facilities.
- In-reach and referrals to specialist employment services organisations, such as Job Network Agencies.
- Pre-job search training, assisting young people to become job-ready.

### • Health

- Programs focusing on health, nutrition, fitness and wellbeing.
- Health service agencies (i.e. Tharawal) will be invited to use the Centre to provide their services in this secure environment.
- Sporting and recreational activities, acting as a diversion, and also to instil good health and exercise behaviour.
- Gymnasium.

### • Training

- Hospitality programs, utilising commercial kitchen facilities.
- Skills development workshops.
- Music production workshops and training.
- TAFE modules.

### • Recreational

- Leisure facilities and programs – movies, table tennis, pool tables, dance and fitness classes, music.

### • Service Provision –

- Case workers
- Referrals
- In-reach support and counselling.

Youth Off The Streets has allocated \$1 Million per annum to staff the Youth Centre with a team of qualified professionals. The trainee youth worker programme will be extended and all staff will be subject to working with children police checks prior to employment.

The Youth Off The Streets Youth Centre proposal involves essentially a one floor building with extensive recreational areas. A small section of the building will be two levels so as to provide meeting rooms for groups.

Other facilities that will be available include:

- Facilitated learning rooms
- Music Studio
- First Aid Room
- Commercial Kitchen
- Swimming Pool
- Multipurpose courts – both indoor & outdoor
- Tennis court - outdoor

- Trampolines - indoor at ground level
- Pool & table tennis tables
- Gymnasium
- Toilet & shower facilities
- Recreational areas
- Outdoor BBQ area
- Community Garden

Youth Off The Streets greatly appreciates your support and we look forward to working with the community of Macquarie Fields in future to ensure that the strength of community spirit and support for young people here will set an example for communities Australia-wide.

To register your support and for further information, please contact:

**Ina Mullin – Ph: 8332 5005**

**Email: [inam@youthoffthestreets.com.au](mailto:inam@youthoffthestreets.com.au)**



▲ Artists impression of the Centre's main entry.

## MEET YOUR OUTREACH TEAM

**Cheryl Kinchela**

**Aboriginal Development Manager**

Hi, my name is Cheryl Kinchela and I'm the Aboriginal Development Manager at Youth Off The Streets. A large part of my role includes providing advice and direction across all services in our organisation. I actively participate in the development and review of service delivery and have most recently assisted with the set up of similar Outreach programs in Walgett and Griffith. I am thrilled to be here in Macquarie Fields assisting Gary and his team in Outreach and I look forward to getting out and about and meeting local service providers, groups and individuals to ensure that the way forward we take together will deliver the best outcome for the Macquarie Fields community.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome enquiries in regards to our

Macquarie Fields Outreach program, service delivery or new initiatives and can be contacted by telephone on **0408 467 120** or contact me by email: [cherylk@youthoffthestreets.com.au](mailto:cherylk@youthoffthestreets.com.au)



▲ Macquarie Fields Outreach Trainee Youth Workers Phillip Hoang, Peter Phillips and Chris Standing with their Certificates of Induction into the Trainee Youth Worker Program.

**Gary Lockhart**

**Program Manager**

I have worked for Youth Off The Streets for over eleven years. I started as a youth worker at St Vinnies for Youth, which later became Don Bosco House. I went on to manage that program, then worked as manager at the Youth Induction Unit - which is part of the Youth Drug Court.

Working in Outreach at Macquarie Fields is a new challenge for me and has enabled me to work with youth at an early intervention stage and thus helping young people before they develop some of the problems that faced many of the youth I worked with previously.

Managing Trainee Youth Workers is also an experience that is proving to be a great pleasure as they are such an enthusiastic and dedicated group of young people.

If I can be of any assistance please feel free to contact me by mobile phone on

**0400 314 175** or by email:

[garyl@youthoffthestreets.com.au](mailto:garyl@youthoffthestreets.com.au)



▲ L to R: Cheryl Kinchela (Aboriginal Services Manager), Gary Lockhart (Macquarie Fields Outreach Program Manager), Vittoria Borazio (YOTS Chief Operating Officer) and Christina Marchich (Service Learning & Mentoring, Macquarie Fields Outreach) man the Youth Off The Streets stand at the Community Expo.



▲ Trainee Youth Workers Stephanie Smith, Jennifer Misifosa and Rongo Pera.

# On The Ground

## MACQUARIE FIELDS OUTREACH

### A Hāngi Feast

On 15th April, as part of the Easter School Holiday fun program, Macquarie Fields Outreach joined forces with services from Youth Off The Streets' Head Office to lay a Hāngi.

**Hāngi** (pronounced [harng-eee]) is an ancient New Zealand **Māori** method of **cooking** food using super heated rocks buried in a **pit oven**.

Our Macquarie Fields trainee youth workers planned and promoted the event which attracted over 60 young people and adults from Macquarie Fields; 15 community members from Airds, and numerous staff and young people from our Merrylands services.

In traditional fashion, the Hāngi was prepared as a feast for the community that gathered parents and children together to celebrate each other's company. Chicken, pig, sweet potato and pumpkin were traditionally cooked using an above ground hāngi that was imported from New Zealand especially for the occasion.



▲ Kids love to have their faces painted! Trainee youth worker, Phillip Hoang, obliges at the recent Hāngi.

Despite the rain, lots of fun was had with volleyball, cricket, football, bullrush and face-painting activities. Youth Off The Streets thank everyone who attended and to the trainee youth workers who made possible this wonderful opportunity to experience a traditional Hāngi.

### EASTERN CREEK V8 SUPERCARS



A group of young people and trainees from Macquarie Fields Outreach went to Eastern Creek Raceway in March for Round 2 of the V8 Supercars. This was a fantastic experience for the 25 young people who were fortunate enough to attend over the three days. Many thanks to Eastern Creek's General Manager, Geoff Arnold, for donating the tickets and making this special event possible!



### HARMONY DAY

On 26th March, Youth Off The Streets had the pleasure of participating in the Macquarie Fields Harmony Day. Organised by community services operating in Macquarie Fields, such as the Department of Housing, YWCA and Campbelltown City Council, Harmony Day is an annual event that involves different cultures within the community coming together to share a meal and enjoy various cultural performances.

There was a great sense of community spirit that prevailed on the day with young people from the Youth Off The Streets Outreach program supporting the day, assisting with food preparation, and connecting with the community.

Set up as an initiative to bring the community together, Harmony Day certainly succeeded, with members of the NSW Police, representatives from the Department of Housing, Campbelltown Youth Services, Allowah House and the Men's Shed all gathering to celebrate with the community.

Harmony Day offered the chance to celebrate our shared joy in music and dance with performances presented by Aboriginal and Pacific Islander groups. This memorable community event was a great success and demonstrates a community at its best, meeting objectives through working together.

***Thank you to the organisers.***

**FOR DONATIONS PLEASE CALL 1800 06 22 88 DURING BUSINESS HOURS.**

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