



Laynha Youth Program

2018

Town Exposure Trips for
GanGan and Wandawuy
Homelands

Background

In February 2018, Community Consultations occurred with the four homelands of Dhalinybuy, Wandawuy, GanGan and Yilpara, regarding what they wanted for their youth and where the Laynha Youth Program could support. One of the discussions was an opportunity for young people in the homelands to visit organisations in town with the aim of building leadership, dreams, life-skills, understanding options and being inspired by strong Yolngu role models in the Ngapaki world of Nhulunbuy.

This idea of town trips grew to be termed 'Town Exposure Trips' with the aim of opening young peoples' eyes to the world beyond their daily lives and to expose organisation, services and Yolngu role models; to build confidence and familiarity with these places, whilst linking it all back to homelands and the opportunities young people may have in their communities in the future.

Town Exposure Trips

It was decided that the July school holidays would be ideal as we could secure safe and comfortable accommodation for the youth at Dawurr Boarding during this time. Young people aged 14/15 to 18 years were selected to come into town for 4 days to experience a variety of organisations and services. The first trip saw our two GanGan Youth Workers Djamika and Bungamana (2) leading a group of 10 youth from their homeland. The second trip was with Wandawuy where our Youth Workers Napunda (2) and Wuyatiwuy lead youth people from their homeland. All four Trainee Youth Workers rose to the challenge and led their communities in a space that was often very outside of their comfort zone. They did an incredible job of keeping the youth safe, engaged, on time, asking questions and they really did their homeland communities proud. This was a great opportunity for our youth workers personal growth as well as building the trust and respect of young people for them and each other. Congratulations to all of you, you really made us (and your communities) proud ☺

The Trainee Youth Workers planned meals and worked with the group to develop rules for each of their visits. They asked lots of questions and modelled what was expected of the youth. They also encouraged the youth to ask questions at each organisation and supported them to be bold and confident.

Not only was it a fantastic opportunity for the young people to learn, it was also great to give the Yolngu workforce in a variety of roles and organisations an opportunity to share their journey and inspire the youth. It was noted that very few young people appreciate the work that many Yolngu do in their jobs and this was an opportunity to do just that, with some organisations noting it was the first time they had hosted a group of Yolngu youth.

Interestingly too, continually strong messages were delivered in each organisation: the importance of education to get a job, the importance of having dreams and the role that these young people play in being the future leaders of their homelands.

On the following pages is a brief explanation of the visits made to organisations and services over the four days. And thank you to each of these organisations for the generous time they gave to talk to young people about what they do.

Laynhapuy Homelands Association

Youth were given a tour of Laynhapuy Homelands Association and learnt about the role of each different Department at Laynha. They had a talk from our CEO Chris Francis where they got to learn more about Laynha, how it operates and learned about the Board. Youth also heard from both Yolngu and Balanda staff in each department, visiting the workshop, homelands services, rangers, health, corporate services.





MEP Miwatj Employment Participation

Youth gained a better understanding of MEP and the role it plays with employment opportunities, work readiness and the types of activities in each homeland.



Buku Larrnggay – Mulka Centre and Print Space

Young people gained hands-on experience in the Print Space by printing, painting the mural outside the print space, as well as packing up the prints ready for Garma. In the Mulka Centre, they learned about the importance of documenting and archiving photos, sound and video, the different equipment used and how young people can be involved in the archiving process. They also got to mix music and learn about the recording studio, with each Homeland making their own beats/music.





Yolngu Radio

After a tour of the recording studio, the young people got to learn about how the radio station broadcasts and they got to make song requests. They also got to control the live broadcast including introducing the songs being played as well as recording messages to be played on Yolngu Radio at a later date. Getting to play the instruments was an added bonus!



Woolworths

Young people got to do a tour of Woolworths and see how they store their products out the back as well as how it's displayed out the front. They learnt about how the food is bought in daily by trucks from the warehouse. They also learnt about how different fresh produce is stored at different temperatures.



Lirwi Tourism

Youth learned about what tourism is, what opportunities there are in the homelands for tourism and what support Lirwi can offer if the homeland wanted to start tourism. They also learned about the different job opportunities and what it takes to be a tour guide.



Gulkula Mine

Youth from Wandawuy got to visit the Gulkula Mine and learn about how the Yolngu owned mine operates, they got to hear from Yolngu employees how to get a job in mining and what training they had done as well as some of the different roles they do at work.



Department of Business and DEAL

DEAL and the Department of Business and Innovation delivered a session to the youth from GanGan about starting up a business including what you need to run a business, where to get help if you want to start a business, some of the ways to access funding, examples of some of the businesses they have helped as well as learning about profit and running costs of a business.



Gumatj Businesses

Young people visited Gungahara to see some of the businesses that Gumatj operate and to hear from Yolngu staff about their jobs and how they started. Youth visited the Gopu Store, plant nursery, timber mill and wood workshop. GanGan youth also visited the tip to see how they recycle and get an idea of how huge the tip is in town compared to their Homeland. Wandawuy saw the saw mill operating – cutting down a large log into planks that could then be used to build houses and furniture.



Westpac Bank

Youth learned about opening a bank account with Westpac and some of the ID that is needed, as well as some tips on saving money and how to get a loan. They also learned that the bank doesn't just give out money, you need to earn it first 😊



Top End Health

Youth from GanGan did a session with Karen from Top End Health, learning about the effects of drugs and alcohol both short term and long term. They also looked at good and bad habits.



Life Skills

Life skills included sessions on finances, health talks and a talk by Nick about the No More campaign and what it means. Youth Outreach & Re-Engagement / Youth Justice from Territory Families came and did a session with the youth and talked about their roles in the Community. They also participated in free time activities which included sport and a bit of pampering for the girls 😊



YBE (Yolngu Business Enterprise)

Young people got to learn about the history of YBE, what it takes to work at YBE and what the opportunities are for employment. They also got to hear from Yolngu apprentice Daniel about his job. They learnt about how important safety is as well as the structure of YBE and how it operates under the board.



Miwatj Health

Young people visited Miwatj Health in Nhulunbuy where they learned about the effects of tobacco from the Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) team.

They also heard from the Raypirri Rom team about their program and the roles that both the teams play at Miwatj Health. CEO Eddie Mulholland spoke to the youth from Wandawuy and shared his journey with them and inspired the young people to have a dream and that anything is possible. Again, the young people learnt about another Yolngu board and the communities that Miwatj covers across the region.



Nhulunbuy Police

The young people from Wandawuy were given a tour of the watch house and learned about some of the roles police do and how they help in the Community. They also had a great time exploring some of the police equipment including the paddy wagon, motor bikes and boat.



And most importantly, everyone had a lot of fun 😊



