



## **DERWENT VALLEY YOUTH FUTURE ACTION TEAM (D'FAT)**

### **ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL FOR PERIOD 19 FEBRUARY 2010 – 19 FEBRUARY 2011**

Derwent Valley Youth Future Action Team (D'FAT) meets every fortnight on Thursday nights at 7.00 PM at the Derwent Valley Council Chambers, New Norfolk. Membership of D'FAT is free and is open to young people (12 - 25 year olds) throughout the Derwent Valley Municipality (Granton – Maydena).

Membership ceases when;

- A resignation letter is received and accepted by D'FAT
- Non-renewal of membership form
- Relocation to outside of the Municipality (Granton – Maydena)
- Termination of membership by the Youth Officer (a decision made jointly with D'FAT)
- A person reaches the age of 26

Young people need to fill in a membership form to become a member of D'FAT and agree to the following conditions of membership;

- Membership needs to be renewed on an annual basis by July 1st
- Members agree to abide by the D'FAT Guidelines
- Members agree to participate in D'FAT activities and projects when possible

D'FAT's vision is to empower young people to become respected and engaged members of the community.

D'FAT exists to;

- Increase awareness of and address youth issues and concerns
- Provide opportunities for community involvement
- Facilitate and promote consultation between young people and community groups and all levels of government
- Represent the views of young people
- Develop young leaders
- Support and co-ordinate activities and projects for young people

The D'FAT Guidelines defines the appropriate behaviour and structure of D'FAT.

Councillor Barry Lathey and Mayor Martyn Evans represent Council on this Special Committee. Council's Youth Participation Officer provides support to D'FAT.

D'FAT promoted itself through D'FAT Chat, D'FAT's monthly article in The Gazette. Other promotion included the D'FAT t-shirts, hoodies and hats worn by members at activities and projects, D'FAT signage used at activities and projects, flyers for D'FAT activities and projects and the D'FAT website at [www.dfat.com.au](http://www.dfat.com.au), D'FAT Facebook group, and D'FAT myspace at [www.myspace.com/derwentyouth](http://www.myspace.com/derwentyouth)

**During the year the following consultations with D’FAT were conducted;**

- Input into the 2010 Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal
- Input into Healthy & Luvin’ it, youth health event
- Input into graffiti art workshop
- Input into Bushy Park Agricultural Show
- Input into Derwent Valley Autumn in the Valley Festival
- Input into the Energizer Life Church Youth Centre
- Input into BMX track at Maydena
- Input into New Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch
- Input into Lachlan Festival
- Input into State Government Agenda for Children and Young People
- Input into Tasmanian Together 2020 Plan 10-year Review

**During the year the following consultations were conducted by D’FAT;**

- Information session with Councillors
- Information session with other youth advisory groups (Clarence City Council and youth group of Brighton Municipality)
- Video games survey
- Events survey
- No-go skating zones evaluation

**D’FAT is represented on the following committees;**

- Derwent Valley Council Australia Day Celebration Committee
- Derwent Valley Council Access Advisory Committee
- Derwent Valley Autumn in the Valley Festival Committee
- Derwent Valley Sport & Recreation Centre Management Committee
- Derwent Valley Council Tynwald Park Development Committee
- Derwent Valley Tidy Towns Committee
- Lachlan Festival Committee
- Valley Vision (Derwent Valley Economic Renewal Group Inc)
- Derwent Valley LOOP project

**During the year the following activities were conducted;**

- Participation in the 2010 Agricultural Bushy Park Show
- Participation in the 2010 Clean up Australia Day
- Participation in the 2010 Glenora District High School Twilight Fair
- Participation in the 2010 Derwent Valley Autumn in the Valley Festival
- Participation in the 2010 Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal
- Participation in the 2010 Planet Ark National Tree Day
- Participation in the 2010 New Norfolk High School Fair
- Participation in the 2010 Canteen National Bandanna Day
- Participation in the 2010 Diabetes Australia Buzz Day
- Participation in the 2010 Lachlan Festival
- Participation in the 2010 New Norfolk Christmas Parade
- Participation in Healthy & Luvin' it
- 1x Combined Local Area Network (LAN) Party & Movie Night (New Norfolk)
- 2x Local Area Network (LAN) Party (New Norfolk)
- 1x Movie Night (Maydena)
- 1x Disco (Westerway)
- Participation in the 2011 Derwent Valley Council Australia Day Celebrations
- Participation in the 2011 Agricultural Bushy Park Show

### **During the year the following projects were conducted;**

- D’FAT Chat
- Social Activities working group
- Events Survey
- No-go skating zones evaluation
- FEDS working group
- Legal Graffiti Wall
- Graffiti Art Workshop
- 2010 Annual D’FAT Camp
- 2011 Annual D’FAT Camp
- Annual D’FAT Activities
- Information session with other youth advisory groups
- Dunking Machine
- National Youth Week 2010

### **Social Activities working group;**

The Social Activities working group of D’FAT aims to develop social activities such as Local Area Network (LAN) parties, discos and movie nights. This working group was formed in 2004. During 2010, D’FAT conducted research to determine further playstation 2 video games to purchase to be utilised at social activities.

### **Events Survey;**

At the May 2010 Council meeting, Council adopted the results of the 2010 Community Survey: Needs of young people in the Derwent Valley Municipality, and recommendations to address the identified needs. One of these recommendations was that;

- Council identifies additional or a greater variety of activities and entertainment for young people via LOOP and D’FAT.

Preceding a meeting held between D’FAT members and LOOP participants during June 2010, a questionnaire was jointly designed by D’FAT and LOOP.

From October until December 2010, the questionnaire was distributed to students at New Norfolk High School, Glenora District High School, Glenora Skills Centre, and members of D’FAT and LOOP participants.

The questionnaire was additionally disseminated via letterbox drop and placement in The Gazette during late September 2010.

A greater awareness of this questionnaire was raised by the placement of promotional material on the D’FAT website and other D’FAT social networking sites (Myspace and Facebook) during September 2010, a D’FAT Chat article and LOOP article published in The Gazette during September 2010, and a D’FAT Chat article and LOOP vox pop published in The Gazette during October 2010.

### **No-go skating zones evaluation;**

At a Community Safety meeting held in March 2010, the task of conducting a signage audit of no-go zones was delegated to D’FAT.

Cr. Hill raised the issue of ‘policing’ the no-go zones with the Council Deputy General Manager prior to this meeting.

The task of conducting a signage audit of no-go zones was undertaken by D’FAT during June 2010 and reported at a July 2010 D’FAT meeting, with all original signage being accounted for.

## **FEDS;**

Friends of Ellis Dean Reserve (FEDS) working group of D’FAT aims to encourage social activities and improvements to Ellis Dean Reserve, New Norfolk. This working group was formed in 2003 and ceased in 2007 after establishing a children’s playground, BMX bike dirt-jumps, public BBQ area with shelter and picnic table, and mural at Ellis Dean Reserve.

During 2009, D’FAT agreed to re-establish the FEDS working group and consult with residents regarding further improvements to Ellis Dean Reserve.

During 2010, D’FAT made the following progress with the FEDS project;

- Re-located the graffiti wall closer to the skate park with the hope to minimise graffiti on the play equipment, pump shed, and BBQ area with shelter and picnic table
- Began managing the graffiti and vandalism occurring at Ellis Dean Reserve via appropriate removal and reporting
- Gained recognition by National and State Tidy Towns judges for the continued refurbishment of Ellis Dean Reserve
- Gained successful grant funding to establish additional children’s playequipment at Ellis Dean Reserve

## **Legal Graffiti Wall;**

The legal graffiti wall was established by D’FAT in 2006. During 2010, D’FAT continued with managing the legal graffiti wall located at Ellis Dean Reserve via appropriate ‘white-washing’ and reporting.

## **Graffiti Art Workshop;**

During 2010, a graffiti art workshop was formulated by the Principal of New Norfolk High School with assistance from D’FAT and Council’s Youth Participation Officer. Funding was secured by New Norfolk High School for two (2) graffiti artists to work with identified students in school to formulate designs and then transfer these designs onto the legal graffiti wall in Ellis Dean Reserve, New Norfolk.

D’FAT endorsed this proposed graffiti art workshop at the D’FAT meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

These workshops occurred on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October. Designs were formulated on 25<sup>th</sup> October at New Norfolk High School and then transferred onto the legal graffiti wall in Ellis Dean Reserve during the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October. All eight (8) sides of the legal graffiti wall were utilised. Additional art pieces were made for public display.

## **Annual D’FAT Camps;**

The Annual D’FAT Camp is a 3-day evaluation process for members of D’FAT, which is scheduled around the 13th February (D’FAT’s birthday). This camp consists of;

- Reviewing the D’FAT guidelines
- Evaluating the previous year
- Reviewing proposed activities/projects for the current year
- ‘Brainstorming’ new activity/project ideas for the current year
- Prioritising new activity/project ideas for the current year
- Team building and leadership course (every 3 years)

The 2010 Annual D’FAT Camp was held at the Gumleaves, Little Swan Port.

The 2011 Annual D’FAT Camp was held at Port Arthur Caravan and Cabin Site, Port Arthur.

**Annual D’FAT Activities;**

Annual D’FAT Activities include a 'mid-year' and an 'end of year' activity to celebrate the achievements of the current year.

**Information session with other youth advisory groups;**

Information sessions between Southern Local Government youth advisory groups were an outcome of the 2002 annual LGAT (Local Government Association of Tasmania) conference. These annual information sessions have occurred since 2002 and have been hosted by a different youth advisory group each year.

Clarence City Council hosted the 2010 information session. This information sharing session was attended by an approximate total of twenty (20) young people from D’FAT and the youth advisory group from Clarence City Council (YNAG) and the newly established Brighton group. A total of five (5) youth workers from Derwent Valley Council, Clarence City Council and Red Cross (based in Brighton) attended this information sharing session.

**Dunking Machine;**

The dunking machine was purchased by D’FAT during October 2007 and refurbished during 2008 and early 2009. This dunking machine is hired to community groups/organisations.

**National Youth Week 2010;**

Council assisted D’FAT with the facilitation of National Youth Week (NYW) 2010 activities on 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> April. These activities consisted of;

- Tournarama ( New Norfolk)
- Sports Day (New Norfolk)
- Movie Night (Maydena)

**MATT HILL  
FACILITATOR**