



Derwent Valley Youth Future Action Team Incorporated

Annual Report 2025 – 2026 Financial year

Derwent Valley Youth Future Action Team (D'FAT) is a youth led not-for-profit organisation in the Derwent Valley Local Government Area in Tasmania that exists to empower young people to become respected and engaged members of the Derwent Valley community.

D'FAT was formed in 2002* and membership is open to young people (12 – 25 years) in the Derwent Valley Local Government Area (Grantton – Maydena). Membership fee (annual subscription) is set as \$2 per the Constitution of the organisation.

**D'FAT was the youth advisory group for Derwent Valley Council from 2002 until 2021 (Special Committee of Council from 2004 until 2021).*

D'FAT aims to:

- ❖ Advise organisations and individuals on youth issues and concerns
- ❖ Develop activities and projects for young people

The objectives of D'FAT are:

- ❖ To increase awareness of and address youth issues and concerns
- ❖ To provide opportunities for community involvement
- ❖ To facilitate and promote consultation between young people and community groups and all levels of government
- ❖ To represent the views of young people
- ❖ To develop young leaders
- ❖ To promote a positive image of young people
- ❖ To support and co-ordinate activities and projects for young people

The appointed D'FAT Facilitator (and appointed Public Officer) continues to be Mr. Matt Hill.

D'FAT meets fortnightly on Thursday 7.00 PM at the Derwent Valley Community House, 56 Blair Street, New Norfolk.

Following the Special General Meeting held in October 2023, Derwent Valley Youth Future Action Team Incorporated is additionally a registered charity.

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) is the national regulator of charities. They register and regulate Australia's charities.

Policies & Procedures

The following policies and procedures were reviewed during 2025/2026:

- ❖ Board, Public Officer and Facilitator Position Descriptions
- ❖ Style Guide
- ❖ Social Media and Website Policy
- ❖ Media Policy
- ❖ Financial Controls Policy
- ❖ Fundraising and Donations Policy
- ❖ Sponsorship Policy
- ❖ Purchasing Policy
- ❖ Reimbursement Policy
- ❖ Circular Resolution Policy
- ❖ Policy Making Policy
- ❖ WHS Policy
- ❖ Risk Management Policy
- ❖ Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy
- ❖ Grievance and Complaints Resolution Policy
- ❖ Confidentiality and Privacy Policy
- ❖ Conflict of Interest Policy
- ❖ Code of Conduct Policy
- ❖ Transportation Policy
- ❖ Overnight Stays Policy
- ❖ Virtual Meetings Policy

During 2025/2026, D’FAT continued to meet the ACNC Governance Standards with correspondence received from ACNC during 2025 and 2026 confirming this. The ACNC Governance Standards are imbedded in the developed D’FAT 2026-2029 Strategic Plan.

During 2026, D’FAT developed and adopted its 2026-2029 strategic plan. This strategic plan compliments the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) 2025-2028 Strategic Plan and greatly aligns with the following objectives listed in the Derwent Valley Council 2024-2027 Youth Strategy:

- ❖ Youth Voice
- ❖ Youth Leadership
- ❖ Wellbeing
- ❖ Safety
- ❖ Advocacy and Leadership

During 2026, the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) begun working with D’FAT regarding a case-study on D’FAT as a highly effective youth engagement and participation model. This case-study will contribute towards the development of the DECYP Child and Youth Participation and Empowerment Guide. This guide is designed to be best practice when it comes to engaging with, empowering and supporting child and youth participation.

During 2026, the D’FAT Financial Controls Policy was amended due to the opening a petty cash bank account.

During 2026 to further combat waste and ongoing cost, D’FAT agreed to no longer provide hard-copy policy and procedures folders (containing hard-copies of policies, position descriptions, constitution, strategic plan and style guide) to Board members, Facilitator, Public Officer and parents / guardians (of Board members under the age of 18-years).

Alternatively, all documents (including minutes of Board meetings and meeting dates) can be accessed by current Board members, appointed Facilitator, appointed Public Officer and parents / guardians (of Board members under the age of 18-years) through the D’FAT SharePoint site. Policies and procedures, constitution, strategic plan and Board meeting dates can additionally be accessed publicly through the official D’FAT website.

During 2025/2026, D’FAT continued with an agreement to use the Safety Management Online (SMO) system of ChildSafe Australia. D’FAT has used this SMO since January 2024, which is in-line with D’FAT’s Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Code of Conduct Policy. This SMO will:

- ❖ Train employees and volunteers at all levels in the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations*
- ❖ Record Working with Vulnerable People checks, police checks, and implement risk assessment and management*
- ❖ Capture, record and report incidents*

ChildSafe Limited is a national not-for-profit organisation and registered charity with the aim to empower organisations to prevent harm and abuse to children and young people.

During 2021, D’FAT adopted the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. These principles are imbedded in the constitution, strategic plan, position descriptions (Board members, Facilitator and Public Officer) and policies and procedures of D’FAT. The Tasmanian Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023 and its Framework is based upon the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

During 2025/2026, D’FAT continued to use secure online discussion groups for Board members (Discord since 2023 and WhatsApp since 2024) to discuss and make decisions between meetings (in-line with Circular Resolution Policy). Copies of any communications sent by the D’FAT Facilitator to Board members are sent to parents/guardians (of Board members under the age of 18-years) (in-line with Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy). The appointed D’FAT Facilitator continued to use a supplied iPhone (WhatsApp enabled) for strictly D’FAT related purposes. The D’FAT Facilitator can be contacted through this iPhone, e-mail or D’FAT Facilitator Facebook page during contact hours (per Facilitator Position Description).

Training

D’FAT Board members who are 16-years and over are trained in the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

During 2025/2026, food safety training was also provided to new Board members.

During 2025/2026, training in the use of Xero was provided to the Treasurer.

Key Relationships

During 2025/2026 D’FAT continued to be a member of:

- ❖ Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT)*
- ❖ Volunteering Tasmania*
- ❖ 26TEN*

D’FAT has partnership agreements with:

- ❖ ChildSafe Australia*
- ❖ Lions Club of New Norfolk*
- ❖ Derwent Valley Community House*

- ❖ Children's University (CU) Tasmania (operated by the Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment, University of Tasmania)
- ❖ The Link Youth Health Service

D'FAT had its fourth graduate as a CU Learning Hub at the graduation ceremony held at MyState Bank Arena during December 2025.

Promotion & Publicity

During 2025/2026 D'FAT promoted itself through:

- ❖ Information sessions with local high schools (since 2004)
- ❖ Information sessions with primary schools (Grade 6) (since 2010)
- ❖ D'FAT Chat newspaper article (established 2003)
- ❖ D'FAT clothing worn by members at activities/projects (since 2004) (D'FAT Facilitator clothing worn since 2024)
- ❖ D'FAT signage displayed at activities/projects (since 2007)
- ❖ D'FAT information bags distributed at activities/projects (since 2004)
- ❖ Activity/project flyers distributed through local schools and businesses/service providers (since 2002)
- ❖ [D'FAT website](#) (established 2004)
- ❖ [D'FAT's Facebook group](#) (established 2008)
- ❖ [D'FAT's Twitter](#) (established 2009)
- ❖ [D'FAT's YouTube Channel](#) (established 2011)
- ❖ [D'FAT's Instagram](#) (established 2019)
- ❖ [D'FAT's LinkedIn](#) (established 2022)
- ❖ [D'FAT's TikTok](#) (established 2022)
- ❖ [D'FAT e-newsletter](#) (established 2022)
- ❖ D'FAT table-cloth used at activities/projects (since 2023)
- ❖ [D'FAT's Threads](#) (established 2024)
- ❖ [D'FAT e-business card](#) (established 2024) (used by D'FAT Facilitator)

Fundraising

During 2025/2026, D'FAT raised significant funds through public BBQs, the Tasmanian [Recycle Rewards Program](#), [selling of coffee](#), selling of [Cadbury chocolates](#), selling latest edition of New Norfolk and Derwent Valley News and donations received.

Advisory

During 2025/2026 the following consultations with D'FAT have been conducted:

- ❖ Input into 2025 Derwent Valley Day for Daniel event
- ❖ Input into Derwent Valley Youth Support Service
- ❖ Input into Derwent Valley Collaboration for Youth Stakeholders Meetings
- ❖ Input into Derwent Valley Healthy Together project and working group
- ❖ Input into Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) 2026
- ❖ Input into the Tasmanian Youth Voice Network (TYVN)
- ❖ Input into Derwent Valley Council – Upper Derwent Valley Precinct Plan
- ❖ Input into Derwent Valley Council – Derwent Valley Social Infrastructure Strategy
- ❖ Input into Derwent Valley Council – New Norfolk Structure Plan
- ❖ Input into Derwent Valley Council – 2026/2027 Council Budget Submission
- ❖ Input into Derwent Valley Council – Youth Strategy
- ❖ Input into Tasmanian Government – Department for Education, Children and Young People Child and Youth Participation and Empowerment Guide
- ❖ Input into Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) – Youth Political and Civic Engagement Poll

- ❖ Input into Australian Government, Office of Youth – 2025 National Youth Survey
- ❖ Input into Home Base Tasmania – Australian Government Child and Family Support (CaFS) Program submission

Activities

- ❖ Participation in 2025 Derwent Valley Day for Daniel Event
- ❖ Participation in 2025 Canteen National Bandanna Day
- ❖ Participation in 2025 Derwent Valley Community House Halloween Event
- ❖ Participation in 2025 New Norfolk Christmas Parade
- ❖ Participation in Lions Club of New Norfolk 2025 Carols in the Park
- ❖ Participation in the 2026 Lions Australia Day at the Esplanade
- ❖ Participation in 2026 Bushy Park Agricultural Show
- ❖ Participation in 2026 Clean up Australia Day
- ❖ Participation in ANZAC Day
- ❖ Participation in 2026 Youth Homelessness Matters Day
- ❖ 1x Indoor Movie Night (Westerway)
- ❖ 1x Scratch competition
- ❖ FIRST LEGO League Team (New Norfolk)

Projects

Mental Health Week

During 2025 D’FAT in-partnership with Brighton Youth Action Group (BYAG) in Mental Health Week attended and participated in the Mental Health Council of Tasmania (MCHT) Youth Peer Wellbeing Program.

The Peer Wellbeing Program uses the Take a Minute Campaign to provide peer-to-peer education on mental health and wellbeing awareness within your community. It gives young people the knowledge, skills and resources to engage their friends, family and community in understanding what positive mental health and wellbeing looks like and how to maintain it.

During 2026, D’FAT successfully gained small grant funding from MCHT. Securing this funding was a direct outcome of participating in the Youth Peer Wellbeing Program.

D’FAT Camp

A 2026 D’FAT Camp was held from January 30th until February 1st at the Lea Scout Centre, Kingston.

The Annual D’FAT Camp is an annual 3-day evaluation process of D’FAT. These camps consist of:

- ❖ 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
- ❖ Reviewing policies and procedures

Youth Week Tasmania 2026

D’FAT held the following activity during Youth Week Tasmania (YWT) 2026 (April 16th until 23rd):

- ❖ Indoor movie night – held at Westerway Community Hall, Westerway on April 17th with the film of ‘Transformers One’

- ❖ LEGO robotics workshop – held at Derwent Valley Community House, New Norfolk on April 20th
- ❖ Indoor movie night – held at Westerway Community Hall, Westerway on April 22nd with the film of ‘How to Train your Dragon’.

D’FAT additionally provided activities at and assisted with the review of the Derwent Valley Council Youth Strategy at the Derwent Valley Collaboration for Youth, Youth Week Kickoff event at Ellis Dean Reserve, New Norfolk on April 16th.

D’FAT Chat

During 2025/2026, D’FAT continued its monthly D’FAT Chat article in a local newspaper. This article is written by a D’FAT member every month.

Since October 2021, this article has been consistently published in New Norfolk and Derwent Valley News.

D’FACTS with D’FAT

During 2025/2026, D’FAT continued D’FACTS with D’FAT “Online” on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube and TikTok.

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. Annual and mid-year D’FAT activities were held during 2025/2026.

Information with other Youth Advisory Groups

During 2026, D’FAT attended an information session with BYAG at the Brighton Civic Centre.

Social & Learning Activities Sub Committee

The Social & Learning Activities Sub-Committee of D’FAT aims to develop social activities and learning activities. This Sub-Committee was formed in 2004.

Following a public information session held on August 2nd, D’FAT held a FIRST LEGO League (FLL) team program at the Derwent Valley Community House from August 9th until November 9th.

Due to increased interest, D’FAT registered two FLL teams. During November 9th, D’FAT’s Derwent Valley FLL teams competed in the Tasmanian competition (Hobart Regional). The senior team placed overall 3rd out of 16 teams and was awarded the Robot Design Trophy. The junior team (first year participants) placed overall 10th out of 16 teams. The top two placed teams qualified for the national competition.

[FLL](#) is a national and international competition catering for upper-primary and lower-secondary school students (9 - 16 years). Every year, teams of up to 10 students build, program and compete with a robot on State, National and International levels, while also learning about a modern problem in science and engineering and developing solutions for it.

Lincoln Rubenach
Chair Person



Matt Hill
Facilitator



Derwent Valley Youth Future Action Team Incorporated

Financial Report
2025 – 2026 Financial year

Nic Kaiser
Treasurer



Profit and Loss

Derwent Valley Youth Future Action Team Incorporated
For the year ended 30 June 2026

2026

Trading Income

Donations Received	2,670.00
Fundraising	3,832.55
Grants (Other)	100.00
Other Income	456.58
Square Sales	3,077.00
Total Trading Income	10,136.13

Gross Profit

10,136.13

Other Income

Dividends Received	89.01
Membership Fees	24.00
Sales of Goods	630.00
Total Other Income	743.01

Operating Expenses

Accounting Fees	1,050.00
Bank Fees	50.03
Equipment Hire/Lease	414.00
Fees and Permits	682.50
Fundraising Expenses	2,555.27
Insurance	3,029.07
Printing and Stationery	8.08
Repairs and Maintenance	125.60
Stripe Fees	1.98
Telephone and Internet	637.31
Travel and Accommodation	570.00
Total Operating Expenses	9,123.84

Net Profit

1,755.30

Balance Sheet

Derwent Valley Youth Future Action Team Incorporated
As at 30 June 2026

30 JUNE 2026

Assets

Bank

D'FAT Fundraising	3,309.02
Total Bank	3,309.02

Total Assets	3,309.02
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Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	865.29
D'FAT Administration	44.48
Total Current Liabilities	909.77

Total Liabilities	909.77
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Net Assets	2,399.25
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Equity

Current Year Earnings	1,755.30
Retained Earnings	643.95
Total Equity	2,399.25

