



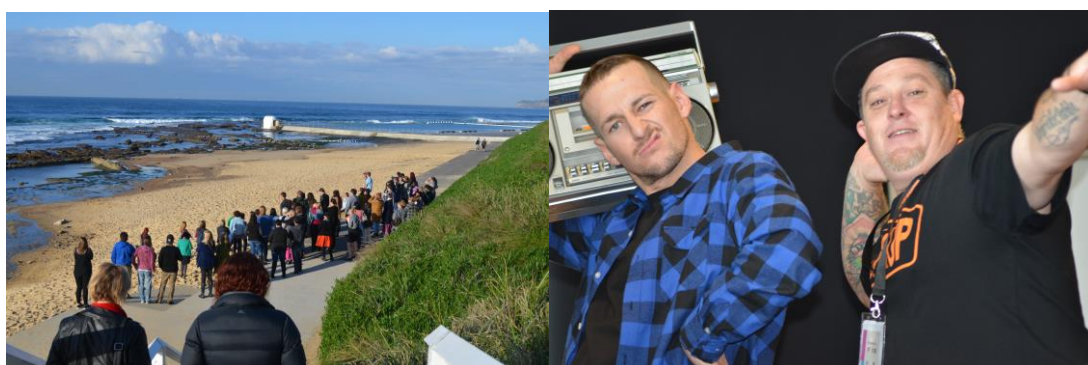
RYDON 2014-2015 AGM – Chairperson's report

As the 2014-2015 RYDON year draws to a close it gives me great pleasure to once again highlight the fantastic work that RYDON has achieved during this time. During this year we have once again provided the sector and young people with a diverse range of training and advocacy opportunities through our partnerships with each other and other organisations in our region including;

- 2 election forums in the lead up to the State Elections
- Love Bites Facilitator Training
- Trauma Informed Practice – Mary Jo McVeigh
- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Where Youth Work and Family Work Meet
- Parent session (Mental Health)



In 2015 we delivered the 26th annual RYDON conference with a focus on engagement and by all accounts it was yet another fantastic conference. The program for the conference provided an impressive and diverse line up of speakers who entertained, inspired and challenged delegates. We also presented the 4th annual RYSA awards for the youth sector on day 1 of the conference and we certainly lifted the bar on this event offering a superb dinner, entertainment and networking opportunity for attendees. Over the past few years we have seen tremendous growth and interest in these awards and certainly a lot more interest and support from around the region. A great deal of energy is put into organising both the conference and the awards night and I would like to formally acknowledge everyone in RYDON who contributed to getting both events off the ground and for the successes that they were.



This year we once again had the Aboriginal artist in residence program at the conference and we have also continued the RYDON Aboriginal Arts Grant. This year we had Ray Kelly and an amazing young person work in collaboration to produce another beautiful artwork that celebrated the energy and output of the 2015 conference. This artwork along with the arts grant recipient's piece both went up for auction during the award's night and this year new records were set by enthusiastic bidders.



January saw the launch of the RYDON newsletter as a partnership project and this new format has been well received by the sector. This change and has also meant an increased flow of traffic to our website that has current content from our monthly updates.

RYDON members received nominations in the 2014 Youth Action awards with both Astrid and Bron up for "Youth Worker of the Year" and Lakin for "Lifetime Achievement". This is not only a great recognition of our personal work, but it also reflects the wonderful work of this network.

RYDON continues to advocate for both young people and the youth sector and we continue to hold positions on both the Youth Action and Y Foundations Boards Of Governance. This year I represented our region in the newly created district representative forum for Youth Action that is starting to gather momentum. RYDON members also regularly attend other networks such as the LG+YDN and CLSD. These are fantastic opportunities to highlight regional youth issues and to also increase the profile of RYDON in the wider youth and community sector.

Thanks to everyone who works so hard to enhance the reputation of RYDON. I look forward to another great year of partnership, building that reputation and offering quality training and advocacy to the RYDON sector.

Lakin Agnew

RYDON Chairperson