



**YOUTH WITHOUT BORDERS**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2015**





## FROM THE CHAIR

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This year marks the eighth year since the conception of a youth led organisation known as Youth Without Borders. What a journey...

The world has changed significantly since 2007. Social media as we know it today was only in its infancy, Australia was still reeling from the implication of events like the Cronulla riots and the TV show 'Scrubs' was still the coolest thing in town (some argue it still is, but alas, times have moved on).

Some things however, have not changed.

The need for young people to lead their own projects and create their own solutions still remains, as nothing is as powerful as *for youth, by youth*.

The need for true, selfless collaboration in order to achieve positive change is still at the core of what we do and what we believe in, because it is much more effective to catalyse positive change by working together. That has not changed.

Most importantly, the need for young people, particularly those from diverse backgrounds, to be able to access the opportunities that will allow them to realise their full potential is still as relevant today as it was when I was a 16 year old.

So here we are, looking back at another year of youth led work that has built capacity, created opportunity and empowered young people to realise their potential to create change. I am continuously inspired and awed by the work of the young people in the organisation and look forward to the years to come.

# STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The focus of the organisation in 2015 was to set up the strategic direction of Youth Without Borders and ensure that we operated as a mature group with a clear organisational structure. This was realised through two main actions: one, appointing a 'National Executive Committee', made up of five fantastic positions and equally fantastic appointees, and secondly, through a two day strategic workshop facilitated, pro-bono by the Award winning Nous Group, one of the best management consultancies in the country.

The results of those two days informed our three-year strategic plan which now underpins all our decisions as an organisation. The workshop also led to the refining of our mission and vision statements, which now read as follows.



## VISION

Youth Without Borders believes in a world where every young person has access to the opportunities that allow them to realise their full potential.

The vision is broad and encapsulates a world that many people and organisations believe in and agree with. How do we as an organisation, work towards this?



## MISSION

We empower young people as leaders of positive change and build capacity through collaborative community based initiatives.



# STRATEGIC PLAN

The strategic plan also contains our reworked headlined by three 'big, hairy, audacious' objectives that will guide us for the coming few years.

The strategic planning exercise was an exciting process for the leadership of the organisation to go through, and sharpens our focus going forward.

This was also the first year the Board of Directors had a member over the age of 25, a move brought about at the last Annual General Meeting after recommendations by external parties. It should be noted that Youth Without Borders will always remain a youth led organisation, with a majority of Board Directors required to be under the age of 25. This change will bring additional experience and expertise to the table and provide opportunities for the young members of the Board to learn from others directly, an exciting prospect indeed!



# GOVERNANCE

Governance was the focus for 2015, however the regular programs continued to run strongly. The Spark Engineering Camp continued in both Brisbane and Melbourne, and the ENABLE leadership day ran with schools from the Logan region. Details on the programs can be found in the report. The National Executive Committee also began the development of new programs for implementation during 2016 all year, so watch this space!

The Sydney chapter also continued to grow, with the delivery of the revamped 'MasterChef meets the Streets' slated for the coming months. The development of a full new chapter has been an incredible learning experience for both the Sydney team and the organisation more broadly. We look forward to taking the learnings from this process to all our expansion opportunities in the future.

Membership from around the world continued to grow, with a new Media and Marketing Officer on the team focusing our communications and enhancing our online presence. We continue to learn, and have seen more engagement online this year than ever before. Youth Without Borders has now almost 600 members from over 20 countries. Although our strategic directions means that we are mainly focused on growing our Australian presence above overseas expansion, it is great to see that our message resonates with young people from around the world. Truly, the desire to work together for positive change is universal.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This was one of the first years that I personally was uninvolved in the operations of programs. For the founding chairperson to be able to step back from operations and see the organisation continue to thrive, it means that not only have we reached a point of true sustainability, but also that those individuals involved deserve every acknowledgement I can possibly articulate.

To the Board of Directors, thank you for coming along on the ride. To have a group so truly invested in shaping the future of the organisation enables us to have the biggest impact we possibly can and you have all been a pivotal part of that process.

To the National Executive Committee, thank you for your dedication to the organisation and your willingness to test processes, ideas and take risks. You help make the vision reality.

To the team behind the Spark Engineering Camp, as always, our greatest gratitude is never enough. Thank you for changing the lives of young people around Australia through your continued efforts to inspire.

To all the volunteers that are involved in any initiative thank you for your dedication and effort. We continue to exist and to inspire because of your contributions.

To each and every one of our sponsors, our work in inspiring and empowering young people is impossible without your support. Know that we are forever grateful, and that the support provided has an impact beyond what is measureable. To McCullough Robertson, the law firm that has supported us since the very beginning, thank you for your steadfast belief in our work.

To all of you, reading this and to anyone who has had any engagement with Youth Without Borders, thank you. Thank you for believing in a group of young people and their ability to create change and allowing us to have the space to realise our potential.

Yours in empowerment,



Yassmin Abdel-Magied

Chair and Founder, Youth Without Borders



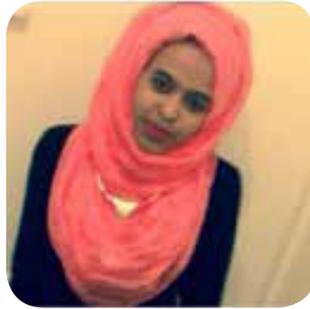
# BOARD PROFILES

## BOARD MEMBERS



**Bianca Goebel**

Acting CEO &  
Company Secretary



**Huyam Hamid**

Treasurer



**Emmy-Lou Hamley**



**Max Wasley**

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC)



**Keny Arcangeli**

Secretary



**Thomas Love**

Partnerships  
Coordinator



**Chris Bulow**

Policy & Processes



**Cory Alpert**

Media & Marketing



# STRATEGY



In 2015, Youth Without Borders revisited the organisation’s vision and mission statements, and developed a three-year strategy to guide us going forward. This was important not only to ensure alignment but also in order to ensure our impact was as focused and effective as possible.

Thank you to the Nous Group (Nous) who took the Board and National Executive Committee through the strategic planning process. Nous, named ‘Best management consulting firm, Australia’ in the 2015 Australian Financial Review Client Choice Awards, came on as pro-bono partners with Youth Without Borders, a partnership worth \$15,000. We are incredibly grateful for the expertise and enthusiasm of Nous, and the belief they had in our ability to achieve our big, hairy, audacious goals.

Together with the Nous facilitators, we sharpened our vision: “A world where every young person has access to the opportunities that allow them to realise their full potential”.

From there, we redefined how we achieved this vision through a mission that better reflected the work we do: “To empower young people as leaders of positive change and build capacity through collaborative community based initiatives”.

The strategic goals that underpinned the mission and vision fell out as follows:

To be one of the most well recognised and inspiring youth brands in Australia

1. To be the most influential youth led organisation in Australia
2. To embed resilient governance structures and revenue streams

Since establishing these goals, we have made strong progress in achieving them:

- » Established a Sydney Chapter, which be delivering a re-written and improved Masterchef Meets the Streets and Shinpads and Hijabs program to empower and engage Sydney’s youth
- » Began the process of building Enable Leadership Day
- » Built our online media presence
- » Begun the process of establishing project management frameworks to enable more young people to start their own projects

# PROJECTS

*"You're only given a little spark of madness – you mustn't lose it"*  
Robin Williams

## SPARK



Max Wasley



Laura Mayes



Suraj Ajjampur

Spark Engineering Camp is a Youth Without Border's landmark initiative; a program that offers students in Grades 10, 11 and 12 in Queensland and Victoria the opportunity to explore what university has to offer through a week long residential camp. The program is a free of charge event for students, targeting those who face barriers to higher education due to cultural, geographic, financial or other obstacles. This includes students from indigenous, refugee, migrant and low socio-economic backgrounds, as well as those who experience learning difficulties.

The camp is youth run and designed, seeking to break down these barriers and to give the students an understanding of how they can access university. In order to allow the camp to be as equal opportunity as possible, all student costs are covered, and travel scholarships are provided through the generous support of our donors and sponsors.



In 2015, Spark had 100 attendees from all across Queensland and Victoria, and was enabled by the 50 staff and 20 committee members who put in hundreds of hours of volunteer time in order to make the camp a success for both mentors and participants.

In 2016, Spark hopes to continue to solidify its base to ensure it can remain sustainable and continue to change high school student's lives into the future.



## ENABLE LEADERSHIP DAY



Thomas Love

The Enable Leadership Day provided 26 year 11 students from 13 Brisbane south-side schools who are promising candidates to be accepted into role of responsibility (e.g. school captain) in year 12 an opportunity to kick-start their leadership journey.

The day is a mixture of examining the different ways one can express leadership skills, practical hands on activities that demonstrating effect and ineffective leadership practices as well as speeches from inspiration young leaders.

Feedback from the day was 100% positive with students requesting more workshops or a longer program overall. Based on this continued feedback over the last three years, organising of the expansion of the program in 2016 is already underway!



## SYDNEY CHAPTER



Mysha Islam

Youth Without Borders formed a new official chapter in Sydney, Australia! Founded by chapter president Mysha Islam, she and the Sydney crew have been busy recruiting members and beginning work on projects based out of wider Sydney area.



# FINANCE

## P&L Statement:

| REVENUE  | NOTE | 2015 \$   | 2014 \$  |
|--|------|-----------|----------|
| Administration expense   |      | 97,457    | 113,137  |
| Advertising & promotion expenses   |      | (2,762)   | (2,187)  |
| Current year surplus before income tax   | 2    | (1,162)   | (356)    |
| Income tax expense   |      |           |          |
| Net current year surplus   |      | (101,764) | (83,228) |
| Other comprehensive income   |      | (8,231)   | 26,772   |
| Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss                 |      |           |          |
| Items that will be reclassified to profit or loss when specific conditions are met |      |           |          |
| Total other comprehensive income for the year                                      |      |           |          |
| Total comprehensive income for the year  |      | (8,231)   | 26,772   |
| Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity                   |      | (8,231)   | 26,772   |

## Assets & Liabilities

| ASSETS               | NOTE | 2015 \$ | 2014 \$ |
|----------------------|------|---------|---------|
| Current assets       |      | 48,559  | 59,790  |
| Cash                 |      | 48,559  | 59,790  |
| Total current assets |      | 48,559  | 59,790  |
| Total assets         |      | 48,559  | 59,790  |
| Liabilities          |      |         |         |
| Total liabilities    |      | 0       | 0       |
| Net Asset            |      | 48,559  | 59,790  |
| Equity               |      |         |         |
| Retained surplus     |      | 48,559  | 59,790  |
| Total equity         |      | 48,559  | 59,790  |

## Change in Equity

| BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2013  | RETAINED SURPLUS \$ |
|--|---------------------|
| Comprehensive income   | 30,018              |
| Surplus for the year attributable to members of the entity       | 26,772              |
| Other comprehensive income for the year                          |                     |
| Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity | 26,772              |
| Balance at 30 June 2014  | 56,790              |
| Comprehensive income   |                     |
| Surplus for the year attributable to members of the entity       | (8,231)             |
| Other comprehensive income for the year                          |                     |
| Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity | (8,231)             |
| Balance at 20 June 2015  | 48,559              |

# VOLUNTEERS

Our vision at YWB is “to empower young people as leaders of positive change and build capacity through collaborative community based initiatives” – a vision embodied by the young leaders who plan, organise, manage, fundraise and spend many late nights to improve the lives of the other young people who attend our programs.

## **Brisbane Committee:**

- » Coordinator: Laura Mayes
- » Staffing: Dulsara Munasinghe
- » Operations: Mitchell Crichton
- » Students: Jameel Khan
- » Secretary: Anthony Vanderkop
- » Finance: Samuel Milns
- » Partnership: Nisala Herath
- » Marketing & Media: Rhys Herriot

## **Melbourne Committee:**

- » Coordinator: Suraj Ajjampur
- » Staffing: Rhys Rodriguez
- » Operations: Kristina Hon
- » Students: Adalya Love Nash
- » Secretary: Lachlan Russel
- » Finance: Sherry Wang
- » Partnership: Pearl Li Ng

## **Brisbane Staffies:**

- » Laura Mayes
- » Daniel Townsend
- » Tharun Sonti
- » Jameel Khan
- » Rhys Herriot
- » Dulsara Munasinghe
- » Vairacona Myheart
- » Jade Withers
- » Mitchell Crichton
- » Raj Gosalia

- » Karla Richardson
- » Brigitte Danks
- » Melissa Nguyen
- » Nisala Herath
- » Flossy Harris
- » Alee Xhah
- » Christina Minuri
- » Grace Isdale
- » Dannielle Tang
- » Sanam Mithry
- » Sophie Tan
- » Nataya Branjerdporn
- » Oliver Paxton
- » Ajinkya Lomate
- » Sanjaya Piyasena
- » Nimish Thomas
- » Nor Taher

## **Melbourne Staffies:**

- » Sophie Bainbridge
- » Michael Kiffer
- » Helena Niu
- » Matthew Nguyen
- » Zongyi Wang
- » Lachlan Henderson
- » Patrick Petterson
- » Jaweed Kakae
- » Isaac Pang
- » Alistair Jones
- » Caitlin McClelland

- » David Santos
- » Mark Henein
- » Daniela Nikolic
- » Trisha D'Lima
- » Jiachun Huang
- » Lachlan Dee
- » Liam Hartley
- » Adalya Nash
- » Dileep Yogasingham
- » Eyoeal Tegegn
- » Callum Storey
- » Suraj Ajjampur
- » Kristina Hon
- » Rhys Rodrigues

## **Enable:**

- » Coordinator: Bianca Goebel
- » Jaric Throning
- » Shannon Hancock
- » Jameel Khan
- » Genevieve Ash
- » Tom Love
- » Jade Withers

## **Sydney:**

- » Mysha Islam
- » Harriet Goers
- » Mahair (Matt) Mahjoub

# OUR PARTNERS



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS





[youthwithoutborders.com.au](http://youthwithoutborders.com.au)