

# HEC ACTION Group Network Newsletter

OCTOBER 2023

Hume Empowering Communities

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## Hume Empowering Communities Update

The Hume Empowering Communities Action Group is pleased to announce the successful projects for the Youth-led Grant (Round 2, Stream 2) of the Hume Empowering Communities initiative funded through the Victorian Government's Building Safer Communities Program.

The Hume Empowering Communities Assessment Panel received a number of grant applications from youth groups and young individuals to drive, plan and deliver projects in Hume for young people aged between 8-24 years, auspice by an organisation. Total funding of \$43,230 has been administered across six Hume-based projects.

We are delighted to introduce Roukaya Hassoun, our new Hume Empowering Communities Project Officer who will support the Hume Empowering Communities initiative and implement capacity-building activities and workshops.

The Hume Empowering Communities Action Group and funded organisations and groups will meet on Tuesday 21 November 2023 for an end of year celebration. This meeting will showcase the funded organisations and groups projects, celebrate successes, and provide a space for networking and reflecting on the past year.

## LINKS

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[Hume Empowering Communities](#)

[Where Safety Begins](#)

[Imagineering Plus Flyer](#)

[Headspace Craigieburn](#)

[Banksia Gardens Community Services](#)

[Upfield Soccer Club](#)

[Waves of Wellness](#)

# Announcing: Youth-led Funded Projects

We are pleased to announce the following successful projects selected for funding:

## **Hassan Short Film Project**

*Led by Ahmad Yousuf, auspiced by Australian Multicultural Community Centre.*

Ahmad Yousuf's project, "Hassan", is set to create a compelling short film that delves into the difficulties of peer pressure and the consequences of risk-taking behaviour. Through the power of storytelling, this project aims to raise awareness and encourage healthy decision-making among our youth. "Hassan" will actively engage young people in the storytelling and filmmaking process from start to finish.

## **The Building Bridges Program**

*Led and auspiced by Victorian Afghan Youth Association.*

The Building Bridges Program is dedicated to addressing the distinct challenges encountered by Afghan youth. The goal is to provide ongoing support, create opportunities, and establish a safe space. This project will include the delivery of training, workshops, and cultural events. This initiative promotes a sense of belonging among Afghan youth and aims to play a vital role in reducing the risk of social isolation, contributing to the cohesion and strength of our community.

## **Cyber Security Awareness Project**

*Led by Leano Pheto, auspiced by Australian Multicultural Community Centre.*

Leano will be delivering a vital cyber security awareness program that will empower young people with the knowledge and skills need to stay safe online.

## **The Headstrong Podcast**

*Led by Headspace Youth Advocacy Group (YAG), auspiced by Orygen.*

"The Headstrong Podcast" aims to be a powerful platform for young voices in Hume. It will provide a space for open conversations, sharing experiences and advocating for the well-being of young people in Hume. This project hopes to empower young people facing mental health challenges, by amplifying their voices and breaking down stigmas to foster a sense of community and advocating for the well-being of our youth.

## **Pasefika Youth Day Project**

*Led by Glenroy EFKS Youth Group, auspiced by Engage Pasifika.*

This project is committed to strengthening the social and cultural connections among young Pasifika people, with a focus on organising the Pasifika Youth Day. This initiative will celebrate the rich heritage and traditions of the Pasifika community while promoting youth leadership and engagement.

## **All Saints Safety Day – T-shirt Design Project**

*Led by All Saints Teen Club, auspiced by All Saints.*

The All-Saints Teen Club will be hosting a community art competition centered around designing T-shirts that encourage positive thinking and promote a sense of safety in our community. This creative initiative provides an excellent platform to engage our talented artists while fostering a sense of belonging and safety for everyone involved.

If you are an organisation or a young person interested in learning more about any of these projects, please contact us at [HumeEmpoweringCommunities@hume.vic.gov.au](mailto:HumeEmpoweringCommunities@hume.vic.gov.au) or call the **Hume Empowering Communities Project Officer on 0419 576 895.**

# Banksia Gardens It's-4-U Program: Exciting Updates!

We are thrilled to share some recent highlights from the Banksia Gardens It's-4-U Program:

## Makers Market, a huge hit!

The Banksia Young Leaders group that has co-designed and managed the It's-4-U program hosted a Makers Market on Thursday 27 July 2023. This market showcased products created by talented young participants.

The market featured a selection of products, including organically screen-printed silk scarves, artworks, preserved fruits and vegetables, organic skincare products, stylish hoodies, and T-shirts. Among the attendees were Broadmeadows MP Kathleen Matthews-Ward and Broadmeadows Magistrates Court coordinating Magistrate, Ms. Stella Stuthridge.

The event was a huge success, with the young makers generating over \$2,000 in sales, a testament to their hard work and creativity. We are immensely proud of their achievements and the positive changes they bring to our community.



## Bike Program - Community Event



On Sunday 24 July 2023, the It's-4-U Program celebrated the outstanding efforts of young participants in the bike maintenance and restoration stream of the program, at Kenley Court Neighbourhood House, with MP

Kathleen Matthews-Ward and City of Hume Mayor Joseph Haweil in attendance.

The day's highlight was the handover of 12 restored bikes to young people. These bikes were skillfully repaired by a group of young participants all under the age of 12 showcasing their exceptional skills and dedication to the program.

Sergeant Laura Wolfe from Victoria Police added a safety touch by distributing helmets and sharing essential bicycle safety tips.

This family event, attended by parents, siblings, and friends of the young participants, brought together a total of 40 attendees. It was a delightful celebration of youth, community, and the joy of cycling.

## Next Action Group Meeting

The last Action Group Meeting for the year will be held on **Tuesday 21 November 2023** from 10am.