



SMART
TRANSFORMATION



THE TRANSFORMER

OCTOBER 2023

Welcome to the 16th edition of *The Transformer* - an update from the Smart Transformation Project.

Smart Transformation works to future-proof the communities of Dysart and Moranbah, as we face rapid technological changes being experienced globally and build the sustainability of our towns.

Smart Transformation operates independently, with support from BHP Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA), and is driven by the two towns' Smart Transformation Advisory Councils. Council members capture feedback and advice from the communities they call home, to direct resources and effort into projects important to local residents.

2024 Year of the Volunteer!

Get ready – 2024 will be the Year of the Volunteer!

Smart Transformation is kicking off its brand new Volunteering Project next year, aimed at attracting more helpers to community and sporting groups.

The Volunteering Project will increase community awareness of the need for volunteers to keep important community events on the social calendar and keep local clubs and organisations running.

Smart Transformation Advisory Council (STAC) Moranbah project lead and active community volunteer Amanda Raymond said current volunteers are getting “burnt out”, and the town needs more people to simply put up their hands to help.

“Clubs are struggling everywhere, so we’re going to run this education and awareness campaign to remind people that we all need to play a role,” Amanda said.

“Sometimes people just drop their kids off to a sporting event and they don’t think about lending a hand.

“If everyone did just a few hours a week, we wouldn’t be looking at losing our favourite community events.

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2024 YAC nominations

now open

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The 2023 YAC consisted of 16 students from Moranbah and Dysart State High Schools.

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Keeping you up to date today, for our tomorrow.



Without volunteers
coaches disappear!

VOLUNTEER!

Smart Transformation's Volunteering Project will run a campaign to encourage people to get involved in local clubs and organisations.

From page 1

"But without volunteers, that's exactly what we're looking at."

The messages will be simple – not only is it easy to volunteer for 'just one job' with your community or sporting group, but volunteering is good for you.

"The rewards are great, and you feel like you're doing something good," Amanda said.

"Without our volunteers, all the fun stops in Moranbah – so put your hand up and volunteer this weekend.

"The campaign will show appreciation for current volunteers and encourage new volunteers to share the workload so we're not always depending on the same people."

Nominations open for YAC

Nominations are now open for Smart Transformation's 2024 Youth Advisory Council (YAC), an initiative supported by BMA.

Sixteen students currently in Years 8 to 11 at both Dysart and Moranbah State High Schools will participate in a wide range of activities including workplace tours and technology briefings, as well as the chance to provide a youth voice to Smart Transformation, working to future-proof the two towns.

Moranbah State High School student and 2023 YAC member Charlotte Sneyd highly recommended giving it a go.

"Absolutely. It opens your eyes up to valuable job opportunities and gives you experiences that really make you think about your future," 16-year-old Charlotte said.

"It was really great being exposed to different work environments."

Moranbah State High School teacher and YAC Coordinator Rebecca Huggett said there are many benefits for YAC members.

"They see the uses of technology across multiple industries and workplaces, and really think about how technology is changing that way we work and the new skills we'll all need in the future," Rebecca said.

"YAC members also get the chance to represent their school and network with other students and industry representatives. They are the first to hear about new community initiatives and have their say on issues that affect them," she said.

Highlights of the year for the 2023 YAC members included tours of Goonyella Riverside Mine and the IROC facility in Brisbane.



YAC members enjoyed a four-day tour of Brisbane in July, investigating jobs of the future.

"The students were really lucky – they got to not only view multiple parts of the mine including the automatic haulage space, but they also saw the trucks in operation and learnt about their safety features," Rebecca said.

"They even got to simulate driving a truck, which was a big hit for those students who had their Learner's driving license!"

Being a YAC member changed the way 15-year-old Dysart High School student Alex Wales is looking at his future.

"I didn't want a career in the mines until I got to tour the IROC facility in Brisbane with the YAC. I was going to get into gaming technology but now I'm thinking about coding automated trucks," Alex said.

"It is definitely worth putting your hand up for the YAC because we went to so many places that I wouldn't otherwise have had the chance to see."

Nomination forms for the 2024 YAC cohort are available at the schools' offices and have to be returned by 24 November 2023.

“It opens your eyes up to valuable job opportunities and gives you experiences that really make you think about your future,“

CHARLOTTE SNEYD - YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER

Towers getting connected

Work has progressed on the construction of the Moranbah Digital Connectivity tower, after delays related to a shortage of cabling materials.

The new tower was wired for connection by a work crew in early October, and is on track to be 'switched on' shortly.

Smart Transformation's Digital Connectivity Project has tripled the mobile network in Dysart and will doubled capacity in Moranbah.



A work crew wired the new Moranbah tower in mid-October.

Outback Futures to investigate community support



Outback Futures' staff will visit Dysart in November.

Smart Transformation is investigating options for community support services in Dysart by inviting Outback Futures staff to visit the town in November.

The not-for-profit organisation specialises in delivering effective mental and allied health support services to isolated regional communities across Australia.

Smart Transformation Advisory Council (STAC) Dysart member Sandy Moffat said she's looking forward to the reconnaissance visit by Outback Futures.

// I hope Outback Futures can help us get our community to realise we're liveable and loveable, //

SANDY MOFFAT – STAC DYSART MEMBER

"We need help to re-engage our community. We have dwindling volunteers, an itinerant population and we are struggling to engage the people we've got," Sandy said.

"I hope Outback Futures can help us get our community to realise we're liveable and loveable," she said.


Sandy hopes the visit will be supported by a majority of Dysart community members.

"I'm looking forward to an independent consultation by the Outback Futures staff, so they can really listen to what we need."

STAC member and Dysart police officer Sgt Tim Fahey hopes that Outback Futures can help bring more growth and services to the town.

"Our community could do with being reinvigorated by new ideas, and if Outback Futures can spark some interest and involvement from the community, that would be good," Tim said.

"Any sort of help for our community in the mental health space is beneficial, I think."



Work progressing for new childcare staff

Smart Transformation's Childcare Leadership Alliance (CLA) is progressing its work to secure new childcare staff for Moranbah and Dysart.

Housing along with attraction/ retention issues are the current challenges being faced by the CLA Board, as well as the high costs of relocation.

The CLA is calling for funding contributions from a wide range of business and major industry stakeholders across the two towns.

STAC Moranbah member and CLA Board Chair Melissa Westcott said it's time for all industry players to "step up".

"Major industry stakeholders are encouraged to reach out to the CLA to help combat the critical shortage of childcare workers in Dysart and Moranbah," Melissa said.

"Having childcare available in the two towns not only allows new employees to move here and enter the workforce, but it also enables existing workers who've recently added to their families, go back to work too.

"We need to make childcare strong and reliable to keep Moranbah and Dysart growing."

The CLA has addressed all of its strategic priorities during its first year of operation and is looking to the future with confidence.

Major industry stakeholders are encouraged to reach out to the CLA to help combat the critical shortage of childcare workers in Dysart and Moranbah,

MELISSA WESTCOTT
- STAC MORANBAH MEMBER
AND CLA BOARD CHAIR



Get involved in Smart Transformation

The Smart Transformation Project is a community initiative to shape our own future for ourselves. If you would like more information, please drop us a line at smartransformation@outlook.com or check us out at www.smartransformation.com.au

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