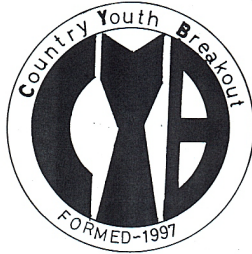


Small Resources BIG IMPACT – Country Youth Breakout



Country Youth Breakout (CYB) is a group of youth interested in the arts, especially drama. It was formed in 1997 and is based in the regional town of Henty. It has had such a large impact on the community because it offers an alternative to the usual organised activities for youth in the area, which revolve around various sports.

Over the last four years, the group has been involved in many different projects. These include: the writing, production and performance of a play based upon their knowledge of life experiences, video and media production, contemporary dance, "Theatre Sports," and the staging, direction and performance of a contemporary play. The group is currently organising a series of improvised music workshops. These activities involve CYB working with professional artists who guide the group to present a final performance to the community. CYB's workshops and activities

are open to all youth in the community. CYB is recognised in the Culcairn/Henty community as a group of young people who are doing positive things.

The basis for CYB's success is that the young people that make up CYB run the group. They initiate the projects, develop the ideas, apply for funding, and manage the projects themselves, so the group feels they are in control. CYB works because they continually try new things using ideas from the people within the group. You don't need any experience you just have to want to take part. The group has a large amount of community support from Billabong Arts Council, Culcairn Shire Council and the local business community. CYB's continued enthusiasm and willingness to apply for grants has resulted in their receiving full and partial funding for projects, thanks to the NSW Arts and the state government.

CYB contributes to the community by showcasing youth in a different way to the traditional sporting activities. They show that youth can be involved in positive things and help to bring "The Arts" to the attention of their local community through workshops and performances. They also provide regular meetings and activities for those who become involved in the group.

CYB works because it is a proactive group, willing to take a chance. ■

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