



Heather Butler, MP

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier

Wednesday, 13 May 2009

Young Tasmanians Urged to Attend Conference

The call is out for enthusiastic and committed young Tasmanians to participate in the biennial State Youth DENIM conference.

“This is a chance for young people to get together and initiate projects, learn skills, hear from dynamic presenters and engage in discussion and workshops,” Ms Butler said.

“Young people have a unique insight and perspective into topics and issues that matter to them, so their opinions and ideas are extremely valuable.”

DENIM stands for Develop, Empower, Network, Inspire, Motivate and the conference is designed for all young people aged 12 to 24 who want to be more involved in their local community.

This year’s conference will be held at Port Sorell’s Camp Banksia on Saturday 23 May and Sunday 24 May 2009 and around 100 people are expected to attend.

Ms Butler said that the DENIM State Youth Conference would bring together passionate and committed young people from youth advisory committees, schools, colleges and youth organisations across the State.

“A total of 28 workshops will be delivered across the two days on a diverse range of issues including mental health, body image, hip hop culture, mentoring and leadership.”

“Other topics include novice driver reforms, how to produce podcasts, graffiti art, life in the Polytechnic and Academy, cultural diversity, the use of public spaces as well as a workshop on youth justice by the Minister for Human Services, the Hon Lin Thorpe MLC.”

The conference’s key note address will be delivered by Sam Cawthorn, the 2009 Young Australian of the Year for Tasmania.

“Sam has certainly experienced more than most people of his age,” said Mr Bartlett, who presented Sam with his Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year title last November.”

Sam’s personal life journey changed dramatically in October 2006 when he was involved in a major car accident and died. Thankfully he was resuscitated but now lives with a permanent disability.

“It is the story of Sam’s remarkable resilience, his mental strength as well as his physical recovery that has amazed and inspired so many Australians and people around the world.”

“He is guaranteed to inspire conference goers with his upbeat and enthusiastic presentation on life, community and living with a disability,” Ms Butler said.

THE HONOURABLE HEATHER BUTLER, MP, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PREMIER

and from the conference for all young people if required.

It is organised by the Tasmanian Youth Forum and the Youth Network of Tasmania, which is the youth sector peak body funded through the Tasmanian Government.

Conference registrations must be received by 27 April and registration forms can be found on the Youth Network of Tasmania website www.ynot.org.au, by contacting 6223 5511 or email@ynot.org.au