



**Social Futures**  
Northern Rivers Social Development Council

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For Immediate Release

## **MEDIA RELEASE: CLUBHOUSE PRIMED FOR A HUGE NEW YEAR**

Riding a wave of popularity, Lismore's Youth Connections Clubhouse in Keen Street is growing, just in time to cater to the back to school rush. The new team members joining The Clubhouse will be on board to deliver the program in conjunction with the Links to Learning Program, to seven local High schools in the Lismore area.

"The Clubhouse is a creative haven for young people 12 – 18 years, where they can come after school and be in a space that is theirs. "We're not your average after school program. We're an incubator of home grown local talent!"

The Clubhouse is part of a global family of 100 Clubhouses located in 19 countries. "There are four Clubhouses located in Australia – two in Melbourne, one in Canberra, and one in little old Lismore!" smiles Dusty.

"One of the best things about The Clubhouse is that once you're a member, you're connected with a global community of young creatives. There is an alumni program and of course there's our C2C – Clubhouse to Career program - which helps to support our members to plan for their future and to realise their true potential. C2C is a really valuable opportunity for kids because it allows them the chance to explore professional jobs or academic pathways and to learn from people who've been there and who have succeeded. We work with our partners to deliver career guidance and create opportunities for our members that can really give kids an edge when they're looking for work."

"There are loads of things in the pipeline for our members this year – we'll be running our own mini Re@CH Media Fest in October and we'll be showing our members how they can tell their own stories and express the ideas that they feel need to be heard "says Dusty.

"There's the ASIA Pacific APAC Summit (date yet to be announced which) we hope to send 1-2 of our members to this year, a special course for girls called 'Girls Who Code', and we're really excited to announce that we've teamed up with the Lismore Art Gallery to deliver a spectacular creative holiday program in April so members should keep their eyes peeled for that one" says Dusty.

"Because the program has expanded so much we are always in need of mentors with a gift to share – if you have a skill you'd like the chance to pass on, do contact us. Our Clubhouse mentors are here to help youth express themselves creatively by using technology. It's a fantastic and fun process, but along the way, youth are acquiring problem-solving skills and confidence in their abilities that will aid them in the future", says Dusty.

The Youth Connections Clubhouse is delivered by Social Futures and is located at The Lismore Conservatorium on Keen St Lismore and is open from Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January from 3.30pm – 6pm on school days.

If you are interested in becoming a Clubhouse Mentor, please contact Dusty McOnie on 0428 599 157.





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*Social Futures is a community-based not-for-profit organisation that promotes fairness and social inclusion in the Northern Rivers region of NSW.*

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