

Ararat Youth Activators 2024

Impact Report

Ararat College | Marian College | Lake Bolac P-12 College | Ararat Primary School
Ararat North Primary School | Willaura Primary School

2024 saw nearly 600 local young people step up to participate in the **Ararat Youth Activators (AYA)** initiative established by Ararat Rural City Council in collaboration with Crazy Ideas College (CIC).

AYA was established in 2023 to demonstrate what can be achieved when we design new and creative ways for young people to build skills and participate in civic and economic life.

CIC has specialist expertise in engaging young people and supporting them to lift their sights and step into game changing opportunities.



6

Schools

16

Community and
Employment Partners

596

Students

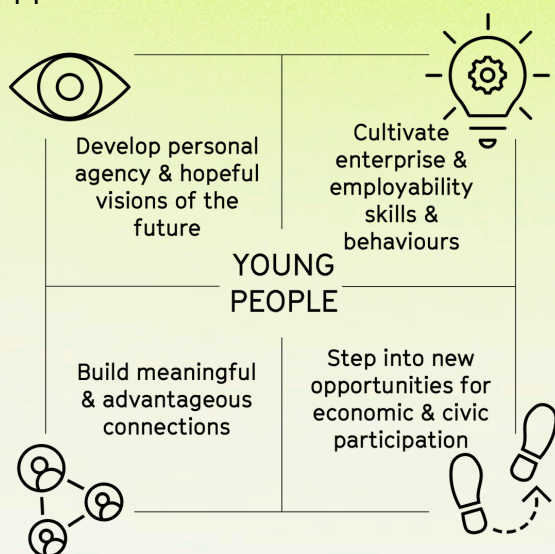


AYA focuses on:

- Lifting aspirations and building confidence among young people that their future will be bright.
- Deepening the connections young people have with their local community.
- Building the skills young people will need for their future, and allowing them to practice these skills in a real-world context.

The CIC Model enables young people to:

- **Build their confidence to share their ideas and opinion.** This better positions young people to actively participate in a changing workforce, as influenced by the rise of artificial intelligence and compounding social and environmental issues.
- **Tap into their connection with their community, helping them to connect with business, young people and community partners alike.** Forming meaningful and advantageous connections promotes the construction of shared futures.
- **Learn new skills that are highly valued by business and community.** SI unlocks the imagination, ingenuity and agency of young people to invent services and products that enrich the lives of their fellow citizens.
- **Make an impact in their community by bringing their ideas to life.** Now is a crucial time for action, and to meaningfully support young people vying for a better future. Through embedding these longer-term initiatives into the community, the benefits will continue to ripple.



Programs delivered in 2024 include:

Social Innovators (SI)

- Young people work in teams to generate crazy good ideas that showcase new and ingenious ways to care for our planet and enable more people to live, healthy, fulfilling, prosperous and connected lives.

Ideas to Life (i2L Lab)

- i2L supports teams wanting to bring their idea to life. The i2L Lab provides teams with the coaching, skills and resources they need to collaborate with business and community to bring their idea to life.

Future Ready (FR)

- Young people explore the future world of work, clarify their talents, consider career options and identify the contribution they want to make through their careers. Young people establish a Future Ready Plan that sets out the actions they will undertake to set themselves up for vocational success.

Values in Action (ViA)

- Young people are challenged to explore their personal values, reflect on what matters in their own lives and the community and identify actions to discover their best selves.

Lead4impact (L4i) - Levelling up to high school

- Extends the capacity of young people to lead change in their own lives, in their school and in their communities. This program is targeted at senior primary students and supporting them to make a successful transition to secondary schooling.

Program Snapshots

Social Innovators and ideas2Life Lab

70 Young people were equipped with the skills, confidence, and capabilities to bring an idea to life.

16 Ideas were generated with idea drop posters created for each and displayed around the community

9+ Community Partners connected with young people to hear their SI Pitches and assist with bringing their ideas to life.

Some of the great ideas generated were:

- **RARPET:** A household carpet that doubles as a treadmill keeping everyone healthy and happy
- **Bee Better Book:** A book that educates it's reader on the plants that bees likes with seed for readers to plant in their garden
- **Telepathic Top Hat:** A portal which friends can reconnect over great distances by pressing a button on the hat. Promoting friendships

Check out all the brilliant ideas at [CICBeyond](https://www.cicbeyond.com.au).



MARIAN COLLEGE
STUDENT - YEAR 9

"I thought it was a good opportunity to help expand on class knowledge and build on some skills that you don't really generally learn in school."



PAULA DAVIDSON,
HUMAN
RESOURCES
BUSINESS
PARTNER -
ARARAT RURAL
CITY COUNCIL

"I loved it! It's such a great tool for kids to connect and network. You can really see their growth as they share ideas, even though they'll all go their own ways."

It's awesome to have others focused on the same goals to bounce ideas off. Plus, involving the local community and workplaces gives them that next step with feedback and networking. It's a fantastic idea!"

Values in Action

130+ Year 7's developed a clearer understanding of their personal and school values.

2

Schools involved in this program - Ararat College and Marian College

In the workshops young people:

- Explored their personal values
- Built an understanding of school values and how they affect their community and themselves
- Developed a personal Values in Action Plan to take with them into the future

Future Ready and First Jobs Matter

270 Young people have dared to dream big, crafting their own inspiring visions of what a great career journey can be.

7 Young people from Marian college selected to extend their career journey by exploring their first or next job through the FJM Program and Pitch Event.

7 Employment Partners connected with the Students to hear their FJM Pitches and network with them around first jobs.

5+ Local part time roles were created or offered to the FJM Participants.

1 Part-time role was developed, offered and accepted by a participant of the FJM Program.



This year saw the return of both Marian College and Ararat College to the Future Ready Program. We also saw student numbers more than double, and expand to include more year levels (9-11) in the program.



STEPH SARAVANJA,
ASSISTANT
PRINCIPAL AND
HEAD OF
WELLBEING

“It’s been really uplifting for the kids, motivational and reaffirming for them to think about their futures and all their strengths and skills that they can bring to our community, it’s been awesome to see them flourish.”



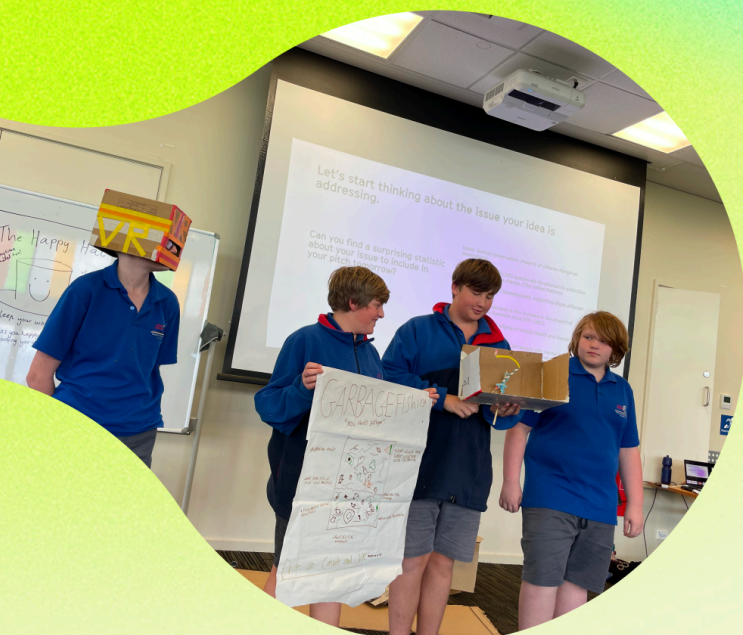
MAIARA YEAR 10,
MARIAN COLLEGE

“I liked that we had to challenge ourselves and put ourselves out there, I think this is really difficult but it gave some incentive to do it.”



BENJAMIN BAILEY-
WEBB,
PARTNERSHIPS
AND PATHWAYS
CO-ORDINATOR

“It’s fantastic to see local businesses, schools and young people coming together. Creating a platform like this encourages young people to engage with local business operators and gain exposure to industry they may not have known existed in their local patch.”



Lead4impact Grade 5-6 Transition: Powering up for High School

100

Upper primary students took part in the Lead4Impact Transition Program, equipping them with the skills and confidence to thrive as they step into senior primary or secondary school.

4

Schools involved in this program - Ararat Primary School, Ararat North Primary School, Lake Bolac P-12 College and Willaura Primary School.

In the workshops, students:

- Uncovered the skills they already have to crush it in life.
- Designed their own 2025 Superhero, complete with next-level abilities to thrive in the future.
- Mapped out a 2025 game plan, packed with tips and transition hacks to set them up for success!

Educators shared they loved the program! It gave students the confidence to talk to teachers about transitioning, even outside the workshops. Plus, it brought schools together, helping Grade 6 students form meaningful connections to assist with their transition.



NICOLA (YEAR 5 & 6) TEACHER -
ARARAT PRIMARY
SCHOOL

"I thought it was really good for the kids to move into high school but we also had the opportunity to bring the grade 5's as well so they get to learn how to be efficient leaders but also take those choices in. I think a lot of the students have taken a fair bit away."



CRAZY IDEAS COLLEGE
ABN 98 659 955 978



Looking to 2025!

2025 is set to be next-level with even more young people stepping up to join the AYA. New programs will roll out, engaging students across every year level—from upper primary through to Year 12.

The incredible stories of young people and their bold ideas will be shared far and wide, inspiring others to dream big. A wave of game-changing ideas will come to life, young people will be matched and coached to find their first part-time jobs, and participants will showcase the valuable skills they're building through AYA.

2025 is all about unleashing potential and making an impact like never before!

AYA was initiated by the Ararat Rural City Council



Ararat Rural City

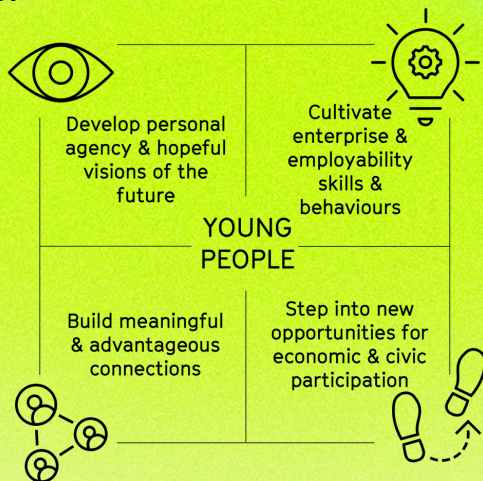
Ararat Youth Activators: Unleashing the wisdom and brilliance of Ararat's young people!

Ararat Rural City Council: Case Study

The Ararat Youth Activators (AYA) initiative helps build a pool of talented young people who are confident, capable, and actively participating in the workforce and social spheres.

AYA is a collaboration between Ararat City Council and Crazy Ideas College (CIC) in partnership with local schools, young people and community to demonstrate what can be achieved when we design new and creative ways for young people to build skills and participate in civic and economic life.

AYA leverages the power of a collaborative and integrated approach. It is designed and staged in accordance with the CIC framework, which focuses on having young people:



AYA was established to:

- Equip young people with skills and confidence to enter the workforce.
- Build strong connections between young people and local businesses.
- Create pathways for young people to contribute to the community and economy.
- Showcase the value first job experiences have in building lifelong career skills.

First Jobs Matter!

One such initiative delivered through AYA is the First Jobs Matter (FJM) program which provides young people with the opportunity to develop a personalised career plan and connect them to potential employers in the community.

FJM exemplifies how targeted initiatives can equip young people with skills, strengthen community connections, and create pathways for meaningful employment.

FJM saw Year 10 and 11 students from Marian College develop personalised career plans. These plans outlined steps to build the skills, knowledge, and networks needed for workforce readiness.

FJM Highlights:

- **Workshops and Coaching:** young people attended a Future Ready Workshop conducted by CIC, gaining essential job-seeking and communication skills.
- **Pitch Event:** participants presented their career plans to local employers, who offered feedback and advice. Eight employers participated, including representatives from the Council and local businesses.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Following the pitch event, young people and employers engaged in informal discussions to explore potential opportunities.

Meeting Maiara!

Maiara, a Year 10 student with aspirations to become a film director and actor, participated in the FJM program. Through the process, she enhanced her confidence and strengthened her network.

"I liked that we had to challenge ourselves and put ourselves out there. It gave some incentive to do it."

During the pitch event, Maiara presented her career aspirations to the panel of employment partners. Paula Davidson, Human Resources Business Partner at the Council, recognised her potential and saw a way she could work with Maiara to form a reciprocal relationship.

Feeling more confident after her pitch, Maiara reached out to Paula from the Ararat Rural City Council to follow up on their conversation at the event.

"I mentioned that I was interested in doing paid work since I already volunteer... After hearing my pitch, she suggested that we might be able to work something out where I could get paid for the work I'm already doing. She gave me her card, and I reached out."

Maiara is set to undertake paid work with Ararat Rural City Council over the summer break.

Maiara's story showcases how great partnerships between schools, councils, and businesses can support young people to confidently step into their futures.



BENJAMIN BAILEY-
WEBB,
PARTNERSHIPS AND
PATHWAYS CO-
ORDINATOR, CGLLEN

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