



“It starts with us.”

Youth Week 2015 had its expo in Ryrie Park in early April. BWD was there to take photos and later to speak to some participants about what it all means to them.

I think “It starts with us” means for youth that a lot of people feel like they don’t have a say. I guess younger people feel like adults rule the world. Rather than just sit around and wish things would happen, we need to take a stand and make things happen. That’s why I think Youth Week is really good because for a lot of young people who don’t have the courage to stand up. There were places [information stands] there to help them with

family issues, bullying and things like that. I’d like to see a youth centre in Braidwood where younger people could go if they need help.

Tashani Davidson-Fuller

“It starts with us” means it starts with us. If we want something we need to tell the world. Like the Braidwood skate park; it wouldn’t have started without my class and some other people asking council many times to

TOMORROW

start the skate park. I think we are being heard. The skate park is a very important thing because lots of people do not have many things to do in Braidwood. So we asked and we got it ... they’re now doing it. And the crossing, I actually wanted a pedestrian crossing for Braidwood and eventually that happened. So it [speaking up] is very important.

Toby Buoro

I think “It starts with us” means like, everyone’s different; different people can change the world in different ways. Like our parents, when they were younger, what they did changed the world so now it’s up to us to change what the world is like.

Liam Moritz

We still have our failures and what we should do in the future, we don’t really know what we’re going to do. Since there’s war and poverty and all that kind of stuff happening we really need to try and improve that. So we need to learn the history as well but also to know what we can do about it.

Michael Butler

I’m just going to follow in my dad’s footsteps and become a trainer of racehorses.

Matthew Coleman

Youth Week means a lot to me and others. Hearing that, “It starts with us” and just coming to the party and learning a lot of stuff about the future, doing a lot of work about it and ... yeah. If we can do a better job ... I don’t know, we’ll see what happens when we get there.

Daniel Doran

(BELOW) DANIEL AND MICHAEL



BELONGS TO THEM



ABOVE: RUBY, LUCY, MRYTLE, INGA AND SOPHIE, (RIGHT) TALITHA AND JESSIE SING.

it out, we’re not getting it out as much as we should and so we’re not being heard.

Sophie Cargill

“It starts with us” means that we’re the ones that have to live through it for the rest of our lives. It’ll affect us personally the way that what adults did as children has affected them throughout their lives. Braidwood’s not a bad little town, we do have a lot of really good opportunities here.

Ruby Gurling

I think it’s important for the whole community to get involved in understanding what’s important to us, what



“Its starts with us” is an important slogan because if the youth aren’t able to do anything, because we are the future, if we aren’t motivated then nothing is going to happen. As youth we always need to be thinking about future generations as well and if we aren’t able to do that, it’s not going to happen for anyone.

For instance, we could revitalise the Braidwood Radio station to make it more cool. When youth think about the radio station they think, “yeah, like ... old people”. If we had a time when young people could listen then we could run programs, with new music, about issues that actually matter to youth.

I think the proposed youth centre and skate park will be perfect for Braidwood. But as I said the other day when we thanked John Barilaro and the Community Bank for the money, I was in year 7 when we all got really excited about the plans [now in year 12]. We thought it would be really good to have something to do after school especially in winter. The youth centre will be a way for kids in the community to come together and hang out in a safe environment rather than loitering on the streets. People think Braidwood is safe but it’s not always the case.

Inga Neilsen

To me it means that if there are any changes we want to see in the future, changes to what the world is now, then we actually have to stand up and make a difference. I think a youth centre would be really a great place for us to hang out after school and maybe on the weekends.

Myrtle Wild

Adding to what Sophie and Ruby said, it’s up to us to make the changes for the next generation. I don’t spend a lot of time in town; it would be good if we had more activities for youth in Braidwood so they don’t have to journey to other towns.

Lucy Baumann-Lionet

I suppose it means it’s up to us, we’re the next future. So it’s up to us to determine what’s going to happen in that future. We need to use our voice to tell people what we need. We’re being heard as much as we’re getting

