



From left, Mandy Palmer, Glen O'Keefe, Ines Carver, James Jenkins, Donovan Szytura, Anneli Valkama, Kyle Voss, Helen Merrick and Kim Beven at the official launch of the Backswing programme.

# Taking a swing at harmful drug use

The Backswing programme, a federally funded, youth employment programme run by Colony 47, was officially launched at The Local in Wilmot Road, Huonville on Thursday, June 22.

Led by Donovan Szytura of Turn and course facilitator, Helen Merrick, the launch was attended by several youth who expressed an interest in participating in the project, as well as relevant Huon Valley service providers and employers.

The free, 18 week course, starting in July, will bring together a team of up to 12 young people

aged between 15 and 24 to design and run a campaign that focuses on the impact of drugs on our community.

The youth team will have a budget of \$7500 and they will control the project from start to finish, from the project concept, to the expenditure of the budget to the execution of the campaign.

Donovan said that he is hoping for a positive campaign that gives youth a voice on an important subject that affects them deeply.

"I want to emphasise that this issue is not one that is confined to the Huon Valley, or even espe-

cially prevalent in the Huon Valley," he said. "But it is an issue that affects young people all over Tasmania, Australia and the world."

The students will work in the project office, located in Huonville, for two days a week and do another day per week of online work.

They will develop skills in a real life work experience situation that are important to employers, such as research skills, digital technology skills and working as part of a team.

Course facilitator, Helen Merrick, said that the programme was about giving youth a voice

in the community.

"The project concept is wide open," she said.

"It is young people speaking to young people in a really creative and positive way.

"I want to create a space where people feel comfortable to talk about their own personal experiences and to use those experiences in the campaign."

For more information on how you can become involved in the Backswing programme, visit the website at [www.backswing.com.au](http://www.backswing.com.au) or email [info@backswing.com.au](mailto:info@backswing.com.au)

# The search has begun

The Tasmanian Community Achievement Awards have been launched for 2017 and the statewide search has begun.

The awards are all about the passion of people who are committed to making Tasmania a better place in which to live.

If someone has made an impact or difference in your life or has impressed you with their community spirit, why not nominate them.

Nominations are now open in the following categories, Health Achievement Award, Agriculture Award, Disability Achievement Award, Business Achievement Award, Employer Excellence in Aged Care Award, Physical Activity, Outstanding Achiever Award, Community Group of the Year Award, Sustainability Award and the Environmental Volunteering Award.

Each category is eligible for great prizes.

To submit a nomination, simply go online to [www.awardsaustralia.com/tascaa](http://www.awardsaustralia.com/tascaa) and click 'Nominate Now'.

Nominate someone that has touched your life or who has made a significant contribution to your community.

Nominations close Wednesday, August 23.

If you require further information or assistance with a nomination, please call the Awards Office on 6234 9677 or email [caa@awardsaustralia.com](mailto:caa@awardsaustralia.com)



Let's Get Together Action Day presented by Huonville High School Year 7 students

Huonville Primary School Multipurpose Room  
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