

Network for Indigenous youth to grow in 2019

[By Ellen Ebsary](#)



TOGETHER: Taylor Hampton, Catherine Coysh and Darren Moffitt have helped to establish the Wodonga Koorie Youth Network. Picture: MARK JESSER

A new group for Indigenous youth will build its name throughout 2018 and work to attract more members.

The Melbourne-based Koorie Youth Council of Victoria joined with the Wodonga Aboriginal Network to hold 'BlackOut Wodonga' in December 2016.

From the event, the Koorie council produced a report recommending an action group for youth be established and in September the Wodonga Koorie Youth Network (WKYN) was formed.

Catherine Coysh, who has been part of the Wodonga Aboriginal Network for almost three years, said the establishment of the youth network had been a major achievement.

"We've been strengthening our relationship with Wodonga Council and had some really successful events – a lot of positive engagements have come out of it," she said.

“We were the first BlackOut statewide, so we’re the furthest ahead in implementing the recommendations from the Koorie Youth Council in Melbourne.

“It’s really exciting.”

WKYN will have a presence at the annual First Nations Border Challenge Touch Football Match on Australia Day to engage with young Indigenous people.

Taylor Hampton said the group would have more in store throughout the year.

“We can’t go into too much detail about an event we want to host next year, but there’s definitely some ideas being spun around and we want to get our name out there,” he said.

“I was a part of the BlackOut event and those who came up with the idea of putting a youth network together in Wodonga.”

Mr Hampton said about seven young Aboriginal people were currently actively involved and had been meeting on a monthly basis.

“We have a young person working at Coles, a young person who has just started an apprenticeship – we all come from different backgrounds and it’s good to see a range of different young people coming in and bringing their experiences,” he said.

“I would like to see events for the Aboriginal young people in Wodonga, and give them a place to voice their opinions about what they’d like to see happen.

“It’s about having somewhere they can come along, feel safe and have their say – something by young people, for young people.

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Those interested in joining can find the Wodonga Koorie Youth Network on Facebook.