

# YOUNG SOCIAL PIONEERS 2016

## TOP SIXTY BIOGRAPHIES

### **Arts, supported by Betty Amsden AO, Nelson Meers Foundation, Creative Partnerships Australia**

#### **Amy Marks**

Amy Marks is a 20 year old Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. Her YSP project aims to increase representation and support for young people with disabilities by using online media channels such as Youtube and Tumblr to produce creative, informative and supportive content for young people with disabilities.

#### **Domini Marshall**

Domini Marshall is a 27 year old Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. Her YSP project *HerWords* is an online interview series sharing the stories and experiences of women with an inclusive outlook and focusing on the deep exploration of issues.

#### **Jemma Nicoll**

Jemma Nicoll is a 25 year old Young Social Pioneer from Sydney. Her YSP project *KidsPace* is a new, grassroots movement working in a political, educational and local community space, advocating for mental health, wellbeing and safety of children in Australian dance education. *KidsPace* is dedicated to creating positive and empowering dance communities for young people to thrive.

#### **Lena Mackey**

Lena Mackey is a 23 year old Young Social Pioneer from Perth. Her YSP project *Perth Living Library* aims to become an integral part of Perth's cultural scene through creating a space where stories are told. The human library allows the public to connect to people whom they may not usually interact with through storytelling.

#### **Luama Fuller**

Luama Fuller is a 24 year old Young Social Pioneer from Queensland. She has created a multi-media platform for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women called *Sisters of Self-determination (SOS)* which is also her YSP project. *SOS* seeks to uplift and empower young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to live their full potential by linking traditional values and customs with modern style, substance and perspective.

#### **Luke Tulloch Medigovich**

Luke Tulloch Medigovich is a 23 year old Young Social Pioneer from Western Australia. Luke's YSP project *Rural Voice* supports skilled musicians to travel to rural WA communities to perform and run education workshops. The aim of the project is to promote local music while building community cohesion and social well-being.

#### **Mia Falstein-Rush**

27 year old Mia Falstein-Rush is a Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. Her YSP project *Seen & Heard Melbourne* aims to redress the industry biases for women behind the camera, focusing on the film industry.



### **Natalie Wadwell**

Natalie Wadwell is a 23 year Young Social Pioneer from Sydney. Natalie's YSP project, *The Intersection* is a start-up social enterprise comprised of an annual multi-arts program of events, exhibitions and workshops. *The Intersection* creates professional development opportunities for individuals and groups to participate in an annual multi arts program that facilitates cross cultural and inter-generational conversation.

### **Steven James Finch**

Steven James Finch is a 30 year old Young Social Pioneer from Western Australia. His YSP project, the *Mountaineer's Club* aims to increase the visibility and accessibility of visual and literary arts in the WA community, through an art scouts program which connects artists with community and develops sponsorship opportunities.

### **Michael Johnston**

Michael Johnston is a 23 year old Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. His YSP Initiative, Momentary is a video production studio that uses storytelling for social impact. They help not-for-profits and social enterprises communicate their positive impact on the world by producing authentic, humanistic video content.

## **Education supported by UBS**

### **Ajay Prakash**

Ajay Prakash is a 21 year old Young Social Pioneer from Sydney. His YSP project *WireTutor* is a collaborative learning platform for university students to interact with lectures and provide live feedback. He is also co-founder of an education business Real Skills Education.

### **Cassie Dewar**

Cassie Dewar is a 27 year old Young Social Pioneer from Perth. She is founder of *Inspirationary* an eco-luxe stationery label that donates 50% of its profits to empowering women and girls globally through education and leadership programs.

### **Jarred Turner**

Jarred Turner is a 20 year old Young Social Pioneer from Brisbane. He is on the executive team of *IMPACT Social Enterprise* (also his YSP project) which is a youth-led organisation that equips young people with the skills, knowledge and networks they need to create real change in their communities.

### **Marnie Shanahan**

Marnie Shanahan is a 26 year old Young Social Pioneer from Sydney. Marnie's initiative *The New Kid* is working to address unpaid internships, through a web tool that aids young Australians to find and secure paid internships, simultaneously celebrating the companies hiring and paying interns.

### **Mikaela Sutherland**

Mikaela Sutherland is a 20 Young Social Pioneer from Sydney. She is the founder of Secure Student Loans, a fintech platform providing securitised very low cost loans to secondary school students to invest in educational resources.

### **Rona Glynn-McDonald**

Rona Glynn-McDonald is a 20 year old Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. Her YSP project *Our Tjukurpa* is an online platform where all Australians can learn about Indigenous history and culture and then participate in a discussion regarding reconciliation and our Nation's future.

### **Victor Zhang**

Victor Zhang is an 18 year old Young Social Pioneer from Sydney. He co-founded *Generation Entrepreneur* (also his YSP project) which is a not-for-profit social organisation that runs weekend events where high school students are empowered to launch a startup, social venture or project they are passionate about. The events bring together some of Australia's leading mentors from the startup, education and business community to support students.



### **Yohan Dantan**

Yohan Dantan is a 24 year old Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. He works with *myEd* (also his YSP project), a learning platform that enables teachers to differentiate student learning in seconds in a seamless workflow across an entire school.

### **Rita Nehme**

Rita Nehme is a Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. Rita's project *Steer North* is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to advancing health and education through cycling and physical activity.

## **Environment supported by The Dyson Bequest**

### **Alex Clifton-Jones**

Young Social Pioneer, Alex Clifton-Jones is a 27 year old Melburnian whose social enterprise *Bueno Apparel* is all about creating a world without poverty. With each shirt made from hand picked, Peruvian pima cotton, *Bueno Apparel* helps support local entrepreneurs working to improve the lives of people living in poverty.

### **Carmen Famularo**

Carmen Famularo is a 22 year old Young Social Pioneer from Sydney. Her YSP project *Cut the Crap* is an application that empowers Sydney-siders to rethink the way they go about their daily acts of consumption. By linking users to local services that offer incentive for reusing rather than disposing, the app aims to reduce waste and environmental impact.

### **Elise Loprete**

Elise Loprete is a 22 year old Young Social Pioneer from Byron Bay. Her YSP project *Salty Papi* aims to make fun, psychedelic looking surfboard covers to bring back character and colour to the world whilst giving back to the ocean and environment. With each surfboard cover sold, a percentage of the profits will go to charity to protect the beautiful ocean and the creatures who call it home.

### **Emily Devers**

27 year old Emily Devers is a Young Social Pioneer from Brisbane. The co-owner and creative director of visual identity studio, Frank and Mimi, whose YSP project *Sea Walls: Murals for Oceans* sees artists collaborating to address the pressing environmental issues Australian oceans currently face - forging a powerful synthesis between public art, nature, and society.

### **Liam O'Brien**

Liam O'Brien is 20 year old Young Social Pioneer from Sydney. His project *Arc Tech's* is developing the idea of wireless power transfer, to move beyond batteries and make our lives more efficient. *Arc Tech* aims to power mobile devices, electric vehicles and eventually the entire world wirelessly.

### **Matthew Hayes**

Matthew Hayes is a 22 year old Young Social Pioneer from Queensland. The *Titan* concept, his YSP project, is a scalable Fuel Cell/Battery architecture utilising solid state storage of hydrogen for the generation of clean energy for consumer, industry and specialist applications.

### **Murrawah Johnson**

Murrawah Johnson is a 21 year old Young Social Pioneer from Brisbane, whose project *Seed* is building a movement of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders working to protect their land, culture and communities from the causes and impacts of climate change. A branch of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, *Seed* runs facilitates educational campaigns and activities, building the capacity of young people to be a part of creating positive change.



### **Nathanael Foo**

Nathanael Foo is a 29 year old Young Social Pioneer from Western Australia. His social enterprise *threeonesix* (also his YSP project) aims to impact the world through socially and environmentally ethical consumer goods. *threeonesix* is passionate about tackling cycles of poverty and exploitation in underdeveloped local agricultural industries around the world.

### **Nick Peardon**

Nick Peardon is a 25 year old Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. His business *Treeincarnation* makes furniture from trees that have already been cut down. By making furniture from trees that have already been cut down, *Treeincarnation* aim to decrease demand for deforestation/habitat destruction and enable consumers to purchase goods that have allowed the trees' legacy to live on.

### **Sam Suendermann**

Sam Suendermann is a 23 year old Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. Her YSP project *Afloat* uses the power of surfing and the connectedness it brings to communities, the environment and key social issues to educate and empower people for transformative positive change.

## **Open supported by Mutual Trust**

### **Ariel Hersh**

Ariel Hersh is a 29 year old Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. With his partner, Doron Lavan, Ariel has established *fruit2work*, a project which creates second chance employment opportunities for former-offenders, through a delivery service that provides fruit for offices.

### **Jessica Bowman**

Jessica Bowman is a 30 year old Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. With a passion for driving opportunities for high quality, high impact charitable organisations, Jessica created her YSP project *The Good Cause Co*. Jessica's project rates charitable projects based on social outcomes and offers a platform for donors to direct money toward high quality initiatives.

### **Natalie Klenner**

Natalie Klenner is a 23 year old Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. *Crêpes for Change* (also her YSP project) is a non-profit commercial food truck, that reinvests 100% of the proceeds into eliminating youth homelessness.

### **Usman Iftikhar**

Usman Iftikhar is a 26 year old Young Social Pioneer from Sydney. Usman's YSP project, *Catalysr* is a startup incubator working with exceptional individuals from migrant and refugee backgrounds, by supporting them to break down barriers to employment and starting their own businesses.

### **Swathi Madike**

Swathi Madike is a 24 year old Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. Her initiative, *Life After Death* is a social design project that uses an animated website and a set of conversation cards to help people make informed decisions in regard to organ donation.

## **STEM supported by PwC**

### **Ally Watson**

Ally Watson is a Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. *Code Like a Girl*, Ally's YSP project, is a small initiative with big ambitions to inspire females into careers in coding and leadership roles within the tech industry. *Code Like a Girl* has an online community of women and hosts free events around Melbourne with a focus on celebrating women in the local tech-industry.



### **Christian Williams**

Christian Williams is a Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. *STEM School*, Christian's YSP project, is a school for gifted children in Melbourne that specialises in teaching mathematics, science and technology through project based learning, real life problem solving and mentorship from key industry partners.

### **Andy Barley**

Andy Barley is a Young Social Pioneer from Sydney. *Sci-Ground*, Andy's YSP project, is a modern, colourful, fascinating science playground which turns public spaces into STEM exploration spaces. The physical experience is augmented by an immersive app connecting the community with the ways STEM is improving our lives. Sci-Ground provides kids with a captivating opportunity to get outside and discover science hands-on.

### **Holly Kershaw**

Holly Kershaw is a Young Social Pioneer from Sydney. *Fizzics Education's After School Science Clubs*, Holly's YSP project, give kids an extracurricular activity where STEM is celebrated, and they are encouraged to experiment, tinker and explore. The clubs are structured so that students can participate no matter where they live, from cities to remote regional towns.

### **Cass Cleever**

Cass Cleever is a Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. *Empower Education*, Cass' YSP project, aims to ensure that primary school students are able to understand core concepts critical for secondary school. They intend to accomplish this through a low cost 5-week program available to all students, particularly those in lower-socioeconomic areas and aim to reduce anxiety and increase confidence within STEM areas.

## **Sustainability supported by Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation**

### **Alice Mahar**

Alice Mahar is a 29 year old Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. Her YSP project *WithOneBean* is a social enterprise working in Timor Leste to end poverty and hunger, replant forests and to build knowledge and skills of long term disadvantaged youth.

### **Dimitri Vidin**

Dimitri Vidin is a 22 year old Young Social Pioneer from Sydney. Dimitri's YSP project *Sustainaballs* addresses the problem of non-biodegradable synthetic rubber found in tennis balls. It provides an alternative, renewable input source for manufacturers and empower consumer and the sporting bodies to manage their waste. Dimitri is a professional tennis player and is studying economics.

### **Heshan Fernando**

Heshan Fernando is a 26 year old Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. He is the founder of *4dnext*, a social enterprise which 3D prints useful products from collected plastics pollution and donates 100% of profits to social and environmental projects.

### **Hosna Khaliqy**

Hosna Khaliqy is a 26 year old Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. Her YSP project is *F.A.C.E. M.E.* (Face Migrant Enclaves) a neighbourhood support consultancy assisting migrants from the global south which she co-founded. Hailing from Afghanistan, she understands the challenges and obstacles young people face coming from areas of conflict to start a new life in Australia.

### **Jack Scanlan**

Jack Scanlan is a 24 year old Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. He is founder and editor of *Lateral Magazine* (also his YSP project), an online publication focused on the intersection of science and society for a general audience. *Lateral Magazine* has published 10 monthly editions written by over 100 emerging artists and science writers. *Lateral Magazine* aims to provide contributors with a pathway to towards science media careers or to support their scientific research careers.



### **Joe Duggan**

Joe Duggan is a 28 year old Young Social Pioneer from Canberra. He founder of *Is This How You Feel* (also his YSP project) a travelling exhibition and website displaying handwritten letters from Australia's leading climate scientists outlining how climate change makes them feel. His project aims to address indifference to climate change by providing a different avenue for people to engage with the topic.

### **Kelly Pearson**

Kelly Pearson is a 26 year old Young Social Pioneer from Sydney. Kelly's YSP project *Ethical Consumerism* seeks to drive reform of product labelling, so products are labelled in a manner that outlines their ecological footprint and any harm done to animals in the production process.

### **Madeleine Dennis**

Madeleine Dennis is a 24 year old Young Social Pioneer from Sydney. Her YSP project *Original Seed* makes use of waste to create new products, for example, avocado seeds to create biodegradable designer objects. The aim of *Original Seed* is to use the resources that we already have available to us, rather than making new products from virgin materials.

### **Nada Kalam**

Nada Kalam is a 27 year old Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. Nada completed studies in Electrical Engineering which focused on renewable energy options in Australia. Nada has identified that the environment is being impacted by mismanagement of waste and a lack of sustainable energy solutions to supply at the scale required by consumers. Nada's YSP project *Why Waste Waste?* will develop a scalable waste-to-energy solution to address both these problems.

### **Nipuni Wijewickrema**

Nipuni Wijewickrema is a 23 year old Young Social Pioneer from Canberra. She is founder of *GG's Flowers* (also her YSP project) which is a socially sustainable florist that employs people with special needs and teaches them technical and life skills. *GG's Flowers* has been in operation for 2.5 years.

## **Youth Mental Health supported by The Wilson Foundation**

### **Bliss Cavanagh**

Bliss is a 25 year old Young Social Pioneer from Newcastle. Her project *Happy Senses* aims to provide a new approach to support mental health and wellbeing in the community through a Sensory-Art Centre. As a visual artist and drawing from her experience of living with Tourette syndrome, Bliss' concept draws from the benefits of multisensory rooms used in health settings and the value of experienced art.

### **Bronwyn Milkins**

Bronwyn is a 25 year old Young Social Pioneer from Perth. Her YSP project *Safety Net Register* aims to stop young people falling through the cracks of the Australian mental health system, allowing them to opt-in to a register so that they are always connected to appropriate professional support. Bronwyn is currently completing her PhD in psychology.

### **Caleb Maru**

Caleb Maru is an 18 year old Young Social Pioneer from Alice Springs. His YSP project the *Aware Project* is a platform for young people to talk about issues that they felt were normally swept under the rug or ignored by society. The *Aware Project* aims to help young people understand each other better by increasing awareness and prompting discussion around a range of important topics.

### **Laura Pintur**

Laura is a 24 year old Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. Her project *What's Normal* aims to engage and educate young people about what is currently being normalised in regards to pornography, sex, relationships and success.



### **Maddison O'Gradey-Lee**

Maddison O'Gradey-Lee is a 19 year old Young Social Pioneer from New South Wales. Maddy's YSP project *Its all about MI* is a mental health awareness program designed to start the conversation around mental health and reduce the stigma in high school.

### **Nikolina Mabic**

Nikolina is a 22 year old Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. Nikolina's YSP project *Spare Capacity* aims to create accessible support and education methods through multimedia, social networking platforms, applications and community programs. With a background in film, her documentary *The first giant hurdle* will be used as an education tool on the online platform.

### **Penny Gibson**

Penny Gibson is a 28 year old Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. She is the co-founder of *Capacity Consulting and Coaching*, a business committed to building adult capabilities to improve children's social, emotional and behavioural outcomes. Taking a holistic approach and utilising evidence based practice, *Capacity Consulting* is committed to supporting schools, educators, individuals and families.

### **Rian Smit**

Rian Smit is a 26 year old Young Social Pioneer from Darwin. Her YSP project *At the Heart of it* is an organisation that will create training and resources for young Peer Support Workers. This project enables peer support workers to empower young people to make significant progress in their own recovery by connecting with them on their own lived mental health experiences.

### **Sarah-Jane ward Brumhead**

Sarah-Jane ward Brumhead is a 25 year old Young Social Pioneer from Melbourne. The *MISFIT Project* (also her YSP project) is a social enterprise with the express purpose of creating opportunities for youth development and empowerment, giving young people a place to belong, a voice and opportunities to be heard. It is all about young people providing support to young people, exploring issues, breaking barriers and developing stronger community engagement.

### **Zoie Carroll**

Zoie Carroll is a 28 year old Young Social Pioneer from Queensland. She is the founder of *Zottie Dottie*, an online platform that shares video content to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health. The videos focus on inspiring individuals who have overcome adversity and organisations who are making a positive social impact.