



**YOUNG
MAYORS**

Hepburn Youth Council

2024 Nominee
Information Pack



Hepburn
SHIRE COUNCIL

fya



What is the Young Mayors program?

The Young Mayors program will support people aged 11 to 17 across Hepburn to run for election to a brand new Hepburn Shire Youth Council of 12 members. Elected by their peers, together this Youth Council will nominate roles, set an agenda for their 12 month Term in Office and work with the Hepburn Shire on specific issues.

With access to training, mentoring and money to run local projects and campaigns, the Youth Council won't just have a voice - but a platform to take action on the issues that young people in Hepburn truly care about.

It's free for all young people to apply and participate in Young Mayors.

Who runs the Young Mayors program?

Young Mayors is run by the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA), in partnership with Hepburn Shire and other councils around Australia. FYA is a national non-profit organisation that exists to back young people across the country to beat injustice and create long-lasting change for all.

Message from the Mayor



Hepburn Shire is home to some of the most talented, caring, unique young people in Australia.

We consulted over 660 young people while co-designing our ACE Youth Strategy (2022-2030) on the things they are most passionate about. With this information gathered from our young people, our Youth Co-Design team worked with us to develop the overarching principles of this strategy. They are:

- Advocate with and for young people on issues that matter most to them
- Celebrate our young people, their passions, skills, contributions, achievements, and endeavours
- Elevate young people as leaders and decision makers in their communities and in their own lives.

The Young Mayors program forms an important part of delivering on the ACE Youth Strategy. It provides an excellent platform for young people to practice citizenship, even when they are legally too young to vote. As part of this program young people learn about civic responsibility, community engagement and the inner workings of local government. Allowing young people to have a voice in decisions that affect them leads to better community outcomes.

Young people bring fresh perspectives, innovative ideas and a unique understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing youth. When young people participate in community projects like the Young Mayors program, we can expect to see more vibrant, inclusive and dynamic communities.

Council is very excited to be partnering with the Foundation for Young Australians to establish the Youth Council for Hepburn Shire. We look forward to seeing what ideas and projects the young people develop.

Cr Brian Hood
Mayor

What you can expect if you're elected to the Youth Council

Representing your community on the Youth Council is an important responsibility, and will be a whole lot of fun. If you're elected, you will:

- Participate in a **2-day induction**, held in July 2024
- Serve a **12 month Term in Office**, from July 2024 to July 2025
- Participate in **fortnightly meetings on a weekday, after school** (snacks/dinner provided, and transport will be available for those who need it). The meetings will be held at multiple locations across the Shire, with some meetings held online (Location may change based on accessibility. Youth Council will be informed ahead of time)
- **Work with your Youth Council** to delegate roles and shared responsibilities e.g. Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Spokesperson
- **Get involved in activities** led by the Youth Council, and opportunities to **work with the Hepburn Shire**.
- **Represent your community and celebrate its diversity**; share opinions and ideas, learn from others and contribute to creating a better future for your region

The Youth Council is non-partisan and not affiliated with any political party or ideologies. If you're a member of a political party or subscribe to the views of a specific ideology, we'll ask you to not represent any party and participate as an independent candidate.

We use the Code of Conduct and responses to your questions to decide whether or not nominees are selected to move to the next phase of the program.

Read more about our Code of Conduct at bit.ly/YoungMayorsCodeConduct



What you'll get access to

If you're selected as a candidate to run for election, you'll get access to:

- **Online and in-person workshops** to prepare you for campaigning (transport will be provided)
- A small **budget for campaign materials and 10 t-shirts** for you and your supporters to promote your campaign
- The opportunity to **speak to your constituents** through a 'Meet the Candidates' campaign (with support to prepare)
- **Coaching and well-being support** from the Young Mayors Program team throughout your campaign

If you're elected to the Youth Council you'll get access to:

- **Online workshops and training** during your induction and throughout your Term in Office
- **Support for transport** to and from meetings and events, as needed
- **Coaching and mentoring** by experts from Foundation for Young Australians and Hepburn Shire
- The chance to **connect and collaborate with young people** on Youth Councils in other parts of the country.



2024 Key Dates



Workshops during Nomination period:

- 23 April 2024 - Young Mayors 101 | in-person
- 24 April 2024 - Young Mayors 101 | online
- 30 April 2024 - What is Local Government | hybrid

Workshops during Campaigning period:

- 27 May 2024 - Face to face meet and greet for selected candidates
- 30 May - 21 June - Campaign How-To Workshops will be held online and in-person
- Early June - Meet the Candidates campaign

Who can apply?

Keen to apply? Excellent choice.

To apply, you must meet the following criteria:

- live, work, study and play in the Hepburn Shire local government area
- currently at / finishing high-school (aged between 11 - under 18 years at the time of nomination)
- be able to participate in the Youth Council induction in 2024
- You agree to and understand the Code of Conduct
- submit your own nomination

You do not need to be an Australian citizen to nominate yourself.

What is the nomination process?

To nominate, all you need to do is read and fill out this form:

bit.ly/HepburnNominations

This form should be completed by you and a parent and/or guardian.

After nominations close, your application will be assessed by a panel of FYA and Hepburn Shire team members. Not everyone who applies will be selected as a candidate to run for election. Candidates will be selected based on responses to two questions, Code of Conduct and availability to commit to the Term in Office.

If you're not selected, we will provide feedback to help you develop a stronger application if you want to apply again in future years.

Note: Once the youth council is formed, they will identify the type of administrative structure that will best serve their community. For example electing a Mayor/s or identifying key roles.

More information

If you have a question check out Young Mayors Hepburn FAQ: bit.ly/YMHepburn

For any other questions, or if you'd like support to fill out your nomination form, please email Mehak Sheikh at youngmayors@fya.org.au.