

Rural and Regional Services Development Committee – Inquiry into Retaining Young People in Rural Towns and Communities

Kinglake West Hall Committee Submission
12 April 2006

The Kinglake West Hall was delighted to host the National Youth week - funded 'Warhammer Super Workshop' on Sunday the 9th April.

Until recently Kids from Kinglake and district have been travelling to Preston to participate in Warhammer gaming and painting sessions. Local youth interested in the hobby, supported by parents, decided to hold their own gaming workshops in local garages and front rooms.

Last year a Shire grant allowed the kids to have a larger version of the workshop at the Hall, and show others who were interested in learning about how to 'Warhammer'!

The lack of non sporting groups and venues for our local youth is highlighted by the attendance on Sunday - almost sixty young people and their parents turned up to renew and strengthen old friendships and make a few new ones too.

Thanks to the young people who came along, a vibrant and educational time was had by all - several mums and dads learnt the finer art of gaming and scenery building! Thanks also to the National Youth Week grant for making the day financially possible.

From a personal point of view the day was a success, as my kids met up with friends from primary school that they may only see once or twice a year now. It also highlighted the limited opportunities that exist for young people, outside organised sport, in the Kinglake area.

The Kinglake West Hall Committee is committed to promoting social interaction, networks and communication amongst members of the Kinglake community.

Fragmentation of young people's social networks is well documented to have a negative impact on a community as a whole - any effort we can make to lessen this social disconnectedness has the potential to reduce youth suicide, crime, substance abuse and, ultimately, have a positive benefit to us all.