

# MEDIA STATEMENT



Thursday, 31 March 2016

## **Festival shifts focus to city's youth**

Bands, art, photography and even Beach Olympics fill out a free week-long program of events for the region's youth with The SHIFT 2016 – Presented by Drug Aware festival kicking off on Friday, 8 April at the Bunbury Regional Art Galleries.

The Kickoff Party will feature an exhibition by young artists, live entertainment, parkour performers and even pizza from 6pm to mark the beginning of a week of events aimed at young people aged 12 to 25.

The festival, which is sponsored by Healthway and being held in conjunction with National Youth Week, has been planned and will be run by young people in conjunction with City of Bunbury officers.

A range of workshops and events will appeal to broad cross section of our youth community, including a banner design battle on 11-12 April; a photography workshop on 13 April; a screening of the movie *Maleficent* on 14 April; Beach Olympics at Koombana Bay on 15 April; and High Fidelity Live on 16 April which will feature live music showcasing local talent.

On show at BRAG throughout the festival is The Social Network - Youth Arts Exhibition in which artists aged under 25 explore the impacts of technology on our lives and relationships.

Bunbury Mayor Gary Brennan said it was great to see local youth being involved in events that enhanced the City's vibrancy and diversity.

"The Festival shows off the abundance of young talent in Bunbury while also highlighting the positive impact the younger generation can have on the wider community," Mr Brennan said.

Healthway's Acting Executive Director, Maree De Lacey, says Drug Aware encourages young people to be aware that recreational drug use is not safe and can have negative consequences for social life, family, work and finances.

"The Drug Aware message has been very well received when promoted at Healthway sponsored events," Ms De Lacey said. "Four out of every five people who attend an event where *Drug Aware* is promoted say they are aware of the message and most say they understand what it means.

"It's great to see the Drug Aware message getting through."

For full details and registration forms visit <http://www.bunbury.wa.gov.au/Pages/The-SHIFT-Youth-Festival-is-almost-here.aspx> or search for Bunbury Youth/by YAC on Facebook.

**ENDS**

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