The Mick Young Scholarship Trust race day will be held on Saturday, 23rd of June, 2007 in the Oaks Marquee at Royal Randwick Racecourse. This year the trust is celebrating 10 years of outstanding work.

This is a huge milestone, not only for the trust but also for the thousands of students it has helped in the major cities and throughout rural Australia. The Mick Young Scholarship Trust is the only trust in Australia which distributes scholarships based solely on financial need and not academic achievement.

The MYST race day has become a celebrated annual event and this year is shaping up to be as entertaining and inspiring as ever.

Tickets are $175 per person which includes race course entry, three course lunch & drinks.

For further information please contact Janine Young, MYST Event organiser on 0422 371 706 or email jy.myst@bigpond.net.au

More scholarships due to success of Race Day

Due to the success of fund raising efforts, in particular, the main fundraiser Race Day, extra scholarships have been made possible for 2007, expanding the number of participating institutions from 17 in 2006 to 30 in 2007.
Legendary former Australian Prime Minister and First Lady Gough and Margaret Whitlam joined forces with their namesakes and fellow Australian legends, rock band The Whitlams, fronted by Tim Freedman, for a special charity. The gig, to raise money for disadvantaged students at University, TAFE and other colleges across Australia, was hosted by Peter Garrett, former Midnight Oil front man turned Labor Environment Spokesman.

It was all part of the Mick Young Scholarship Trust’s 10th anniversary celebrations. Former Immigration Minister, Mick Young AO, raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in his lifetime to ensure that all Australians could receive an education, which he saw as “a right not a privilege.” After the former Hawke Government Minister’s death in 1996, his colleagues and family established the trust, which has since raised $1.5 million to help over a thousand struggling students around Australia pay education fees, books, travel costs and child care.

The Mick Young Scholarship Trust 10 Year Celebration concert, organised by Mick Young’s daughter, Janine, was held on Sunday, February 4, at the Factory Theatre, Enmore. It attracted some 400 Attendees including 50 scholarship recipients, and several coordinators from participating colleges. Peter Garrett, MP, mc’d the event, Bob Hawke ex PM, and ex Opposition leader Kim Beazley, MP also joined in. “I love playing for the Mick Young Trust and feeling the money going to real faces in real lecture halls around the country,” says Freedman.

Gough Whitlam made a memorable speech and joined with the others to listen to one of Australia’s great bands whilst raising money for a genuinely worthy cause. “Tim Freedman and The Whitlams are major contributors to the Mick Young Scholarship Trust,” says the former PM. “The Trust gives many men and women the opportunity to develop skills which will benefit the Australian community. Through the fundraising efforts of the Mick Young Scholarship Trust, we can actually make a difference.”

Mt. Druitt TAFE Presentations

Mt Druitt TAFE recipients with Anne Ford (left) Director of Education, Manufacturing and Engineering.

The Federal member for Chifley, Roger Price made a speech to Parliament following his attendance at a presentation ceremony of Mick Young scholarships at Mt Druitt TAFE last year. Extracts from Hansard are given below.

Mr PRICE (Member for Chifley) (9.38 am)—Recently I had the opportunity to attend the presentation of the Mick Young Scholarships at Mount Druitt TAFE campus. I was inspired by the moving personal account of one of the students, Philip Farrelly. Here is his speech:

I have been asked, on behalf of the scholarship recipients, to thank the Mick Young Scholarship Trust and the people behind the Trust for the opportunity they have given the students and the hard work and time they have put in. For me, the obstacles and barriers to receiving an education can be summarised [as] moving a mountain. It can be quite overwhelming but, by moving the mountain in small sections and using the right tools the final goal can be achieved.

Currently, To help fund my studies, I have to work part-time 17 hours a week doing shift work. For two nights a week I finish work at midnight. Getting home involves catching a train and then walking 45 minutes home at about 1 or 2 am. I am lucky to get 3 or 4 hours sleep and then get up to go to TAFE.

The third night involves starting [work] at 8 pm Sunday night and often finishing 12 hours [later,] Monday morning. For a while I was going straight from work to TAFE on the Monday morning with no sleep.

After finding myself falling asleep at the computer in class and waking up to find I had typed nonsense I considered dropping out of the course. The financial circumstances were also difficult and I had to use my credit card to make up the difference between my earnings and expenses.

It is a challenge finding a balance between working and finding the time to complete studies to a reasonable standard. [I found] moving the mountain to be overwhelming and completed the paperwork to withdraw from the course. After receiving help from the staff at Mount Druitt TAFE and the teachers I was able to return to my studies.

What will I use the scholarship for? I will use it for train fares and to buy some badly-needed textbooks. How will the scholarship help me? I will no longer have to use my credit card to make up the difference between earnings and expenses. I will [now] be able to focus more on my studies.

There are also other intangible benefits to the scholarship. One of [these] is recognition. For me the recognition is just as valuable as the monetary value of the scholarship.

Having somebody say “thank you” or expressing their appreciation for your time and effort can take less than a minute but the benefits are everlasting. I would like to thank the teachers and staff at Mount Druitt TAFE. It is encouraging to see a friendly smile and to have them genuinely go out of their way to help. No words can express the appreciation or describe how useful this scholarship will be.

Today you have heard one story, but sitting before you are 15 other scholarship recipients who all have their own stories to tell.’
Following discussions with Martin Riordan, Executive Director, TAFE Directors of Australia, to explore ways of working more closely with TAFE management, Martin Riordan proposed an annual Mick Young Oration, as part of the TAFE Directors Annual Conference, with Kim Beazley to present the inaugural Oration.

The Oration session was introduced by the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education in South Australia, the Hon Paul Caica, and Martin Riordan then set the scene by explaining that the Board of TAFE Directors was excited by this dedication to the late Mick Young, and that they hoped the strategy of creating the Mick Young Oration would provide a new level of awareness of the Mick Young Scholarship Trust, and its work toward helping young Australians into vocational education.

Kim Beazley gave an enthusiastic and well prepared speech about the value of education to all Australians, and the work of the Trust in supporting financially disadvantaged student. His admiration for Mick Young and the Trust was very obvious.

Following Kim Beazley’s presentation, Barry Peddie, Chair, TDA, gave a thank you speech, reinforcing the value of further education for skills development, working with governments to achieve this, and the importance of the Mick Young scholarships to disadvantaged students to enable them to be part of the process.

There were approximately two hundred TAFE senior staff in attendance, and the event was also reported positively in the local and interstate press.

The second Mick Young Oration will take place at the TDA Conference to be held later this year.

HELP THE TRUST

YOU are invited to make your donation to the Mick Young Scholarship Trust and thereby enable the continuation of its work in support of those who need your help as they learn, develop their skills, and look to improve their lives.

Donations to The Mick Young Scholarship Trust—please cut out this section of the newsletter

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Receipt will be mailed. Please make cheques payable to: Mick Young Scholarship Trust and send to Mick Young Scholarship Trust c/o Watkins, Coffey, Martin, PO Box 276 Roseville, NSW, 2069.
In 2006 the Trust awarded 12 scholarships of $500 each from a strong field of candidates at Gordon Institute of TAFE who had shown admirable qualities in overcoming barriers to advance their education and life options. The interview panel was both humbled and inspired by the calibre of all candidates and their courage and determination in meeting a wide variety of personal challenges.

A presentation ceremony was held in August 2006. At this event Mr Gavan O’Connor Member Of Parliament for Corio and Mr Grant Sutherland, the CEO of the Gordon Institute presented the scholarship awards. The students spoke with great sincerity about the meaning of the award financially and as recognition of their efforts as students. The award ceremony was a powerful symbol of confirmation and provided a venue for the students to share their success with family and friends.

As Ian Brittain one of the mature age recipients noted “The award is an honour for me, it gives me a chance to reflect on where I am now in my life and what I have worked through. It also helps to take some of the financial pressure off my shoulders.”

SPONSORS OF THE MYST RACE DAY

![Sponsors of the MYST Race Day](image-url)