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**MusoMagic the highlight of the year for local youth**

Over ninety teenagers from Benalla, Strathbogie and Mansfield Shires gathered last week for a two-day high energy music workshop at Mansfield Sports Complex.

Strathbogie Shire has been involved in the MusoMagic for the last eight years and the program has had an ongoing increase in annual attendance, with the event being described by local youth as “the highlight of the year that changes your life.”

MusoMagic aims to build music knowledge, confidence and leadership skills to ‘mentors,’ who then pass this on to their peers over two days of filming and recording original music, dancing and singing.

Malachi Wild, who has attended the event for four consecutive years, spoke positively of the friendships and experience participants gain from the program.

“I enjoy being able to build relationships with people around the region,” Malachi explained.

The MusoMagic Program was founded by Adam Thompson, an ARIA award winner and lead singer of Chocolate Starfish and encompasses song writing, dancing, performance and freedom of expression.

Strathbogie Shire Council Youth Programs work with people aged 12-25 years to participate in workshops, training opportunities, activities and large scale projects, as well as training and career opportunity referrals.

Strathbogie Shire Mayor Amanda McClaren said the regional partnership program between Strathbogie, Benalla and Mansfield has been highly successful over the years, providing greater inclusion and personal growth opportunities for youth across North-East Victoria.

“These sorts of programs are invaluable for local youth, particularly in rural and regional areas, allowing them to develop skills and build their social networks with other young people in the region,” Mayor McClaren explained.

Evolve welcome and encourage all those who are looking for a fun and inclusive safe space to make new friends to come along and join in.

If you would like to join the group or find out more information about Evolve Youth of Strathbogie, please contact Strathbogie Shire Council Offices on 1800 065 993.

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