



Young Mentors Training Program The First Online Cohort Successfully Completes their Training

This program aims to train students to help members of the older generation with their use of technology but also learn from the seniors' life experiences.

Early this year we had planned to run a face to face Young Mentors Training Program in partnership with the eSafety Commissioner and local high schools. We would run 2 instructional meetings with the students at their schools to teach them the basics of digital mentoring and to encourage them to reflect on their own use of technology in comparison of that of older generations. There would then be 2 practical sessions where the students would come to our Dropin sessions to get practice at helping seniors with technology and experience some inter-generational conversation.

We had put these plans on hold when schools and aged care facilities closed due to COVID19 restrictions.

Now we are running all our Dropin help sessions with seniors online, we decided that we could do the same with the Young Mentors Training.

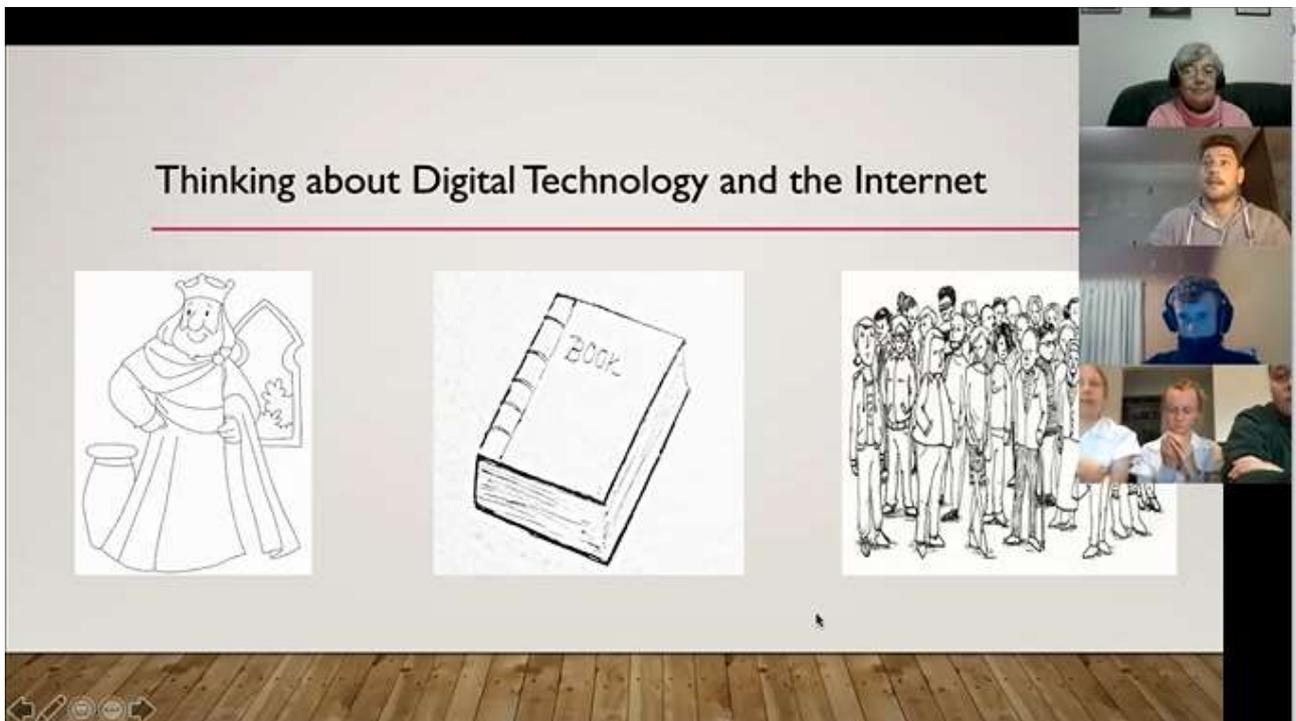
Our first online offering of the Young Mentors Training Program has just finished with 10 High School Students and 2 senior Primary School students from the Illawarra and Shoalhaven successfully completing the program.

Here is what happened.

The program started with two Zoom Sessions of tuition run by experienced mentors using the Be Connected mentor training resources adapted for online delivery and a context of cross-generational dialog.



To one session we invited PhD student Alex Trauth-Goik to engage the trainees in discussion about how we all use the Internet. Alex has been working with young people on understanding their use of the Internet and Social Media through the Buddhist temple in Wollongong.



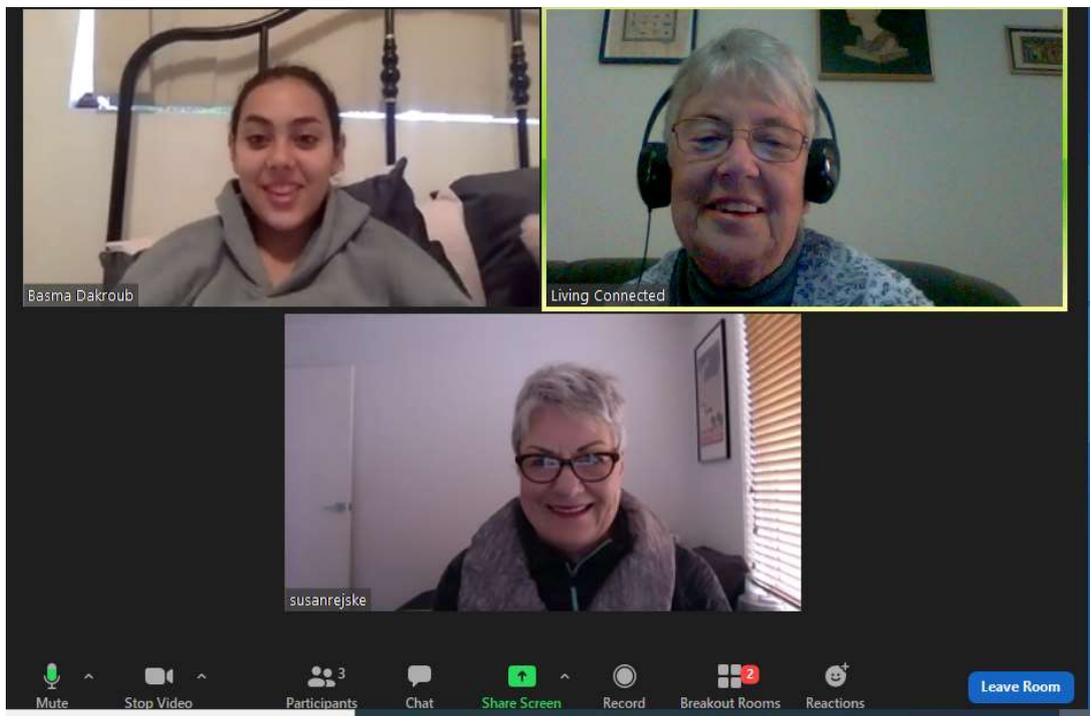
To the other, we invited Kim Leach (top left) to lead a discussion on challenges associated with online gaming.



At both sessions we used Zoom breakout rooms to allow discussions on the topics raised by Alex and Kim in small groups.



The tuition sessions were followed by two practical sessions. In the school holidays, we invited the young mentors to help out at our regular Zoom sessions with seniors held during the day throughout the week. Here, each young mentor helps one of our clients in a Zoom breakout room under the supervision of one of our Living Connected lead mentor Helen Hasan (top left).



On completion of the training we presented Digital Mentor certificates to participants. Below are the only local trainees, from left with certificates are Cooper Hunter and Jordan, with Kim, Helen Hasan, Manager of Living Connected and Alex at the iAccelerate Business Incubator of the University of Wollongong. Of the other young mentors, 2 were from Sydney, 3 from Nowra and 4 from Ulladulla.

