

WHYALLA NEWS

Thursday April 21, 2016



The Whyalla City Council have lauded the city's first Rainbow Run as a 'brilliant shade of success', with nearly 750 people registering to take part in the inaugural event.

Civic Park was drenched in a mist of pink, blue, green, and purple on Saturday, as hundreds of people enjoyed the free event for National Youth Week.

The event, organized by Whyalla City Council and the Youth Advisory Committee, was completely free to the public.

Whyalla City Council youth development officer and event coordinator Gail Rostig said she had been overwhelmed by the number of people who converged on Civic Park to be splattered in coloured dust.

"We were absolutely amazed by the sea of white we saw as we lined everyone up at the start of the event," Ms Rostig said.

"We only expected to receive about 400 participants, so to nearly double that is just incredible."

Nicole Gibson from the Rogue and Rouge Foundation hosted the event, and also spent the week leading up to the event mentoring local youth, working with them on building resilience.

"Nicole Gibson is a truly inspirational young woman, who encourages and mentors other young people to speak openly about their challenges without judgment or stigma," Ms Rostig said.

The Rainbow Run was followed by a day of local entertainment and activities in Civic Park as part of Diversity Day.

"It was great to see people enjoying the entertainment by our young local performers, and making the most of the free activities we had on offer, such

as bubble soccer and the bouncy castle," Ms Rostig said.

"We have received a lot of positive feedback about the whole event, and we are so pleased that it was so well received."

The event was supported by Mission Australia, Whyalla City Council, Whyalla Music Association, Arrium/OneSteel, Whyalla Young Tradespeople and Professionals, Advancing Whyalla, and D'faces of Youth Arts, as well as local performers from **Stormfront Students SING** and Whyalla Hip Hop Dance School.

"I'd like to say a big thank you to all of the people who came out to help on the day, by helping to set up, throwing the colour at the colour stations, hosting a stall, and also to our talented performers, and Jeff Croft for being our official event photographer," Ms Rostig said.