



News Flash!

More than another day at the office!



The week they spend as Co-operative Young Leaders (CYL) camp facilitators is more than another day at the office for 6 Gay Lea employees. The assignment? Take 32 teenagers, mixed gender, 14-15 years of age, and in one week, teach them as much as you can about leadership and teamwork.

The comments from our facilitators this year included “compassionate”, “high energy (in a positive way)” and, “one of the best groups ever!” During the week, the kids learn about co-operatives and leadership. They work on their presentation skills and public speaking, spend time swimming and canoeing, and participate in activities that are not only fun, but also have a lesson behind them.

Gay Lea has been part of CYL for many years, first as a sponsor, then more recently also providing the facilitators for one week of camp. This year the team included Daniel Giammarino, Joe Giasson, Danny Luceno, Teresa Moroney, Kim Jesson and Michael Barrett. They were joined by two young adult facilitators who as teenagers were camp attendees during Gay Lea’s week – what great success stories of our co-operative!

All 32 campers were sponsored by one of seven co-operatives. A sponsorship means that Gay Lea pays 68% of the cost for any kid whose parents are members or employees of our co-operative. Where else can you send a teenager to camp for \$190?

All in all, it is a rewarding experience, knowing you have made an impact on a teenager’s life. However, we did hear that while the kids came home energized, the facilitation team spent most of the weekend catching up on their sleep!