Team ready to advocate for the youth

Daniela Abbracciavento

CLAIRE Coleman says politics is in her blood.

Claire, 18, is one of six new faces on Campbelltown Council’s Youth Advisory Committee.

Her appointment comes just over two months after her grandfather, Robin Coleman, was elected to Tea Tree Gully Council.

“I think I got the politics gene from him and it really interests me,” the Year 12 Charles Campbell College student says.

“I’ve always been one for student leadership and giving youths a voice.

“I think youths sometimes get pushed around a bit, so I think it’s really important to stand up for youths and give them a voice and make sure they are heard.

“We will one day be adults in this community and I think to give us the best start in life is to give us the best services and people youths can go to for help or advice.”

The youth committee advises the council on activities and services for young people.

Bevan Thulkanam, 17, hopes he will be able to encourage more young people to get involved in community events and take an interest in council affairs.

The Norwood Morialta High School Year 12 student was not sure whether he would like to sit on the council one day, but said being involved in the committee provided him with an opportunity to learn the ropes.

“I think it’s very important for young people to get involved, it’s important for them to get to know their community and get more involved in it to positively contribute in the community,” he says.

“We organise many events including Thorndon Park movies, the Moonlight Markets and Imagination Nation, which is a music festival, where up-and-coming musicians from the area come and perform ... and it’s a fun event.”

Giulia-Giorgina Condoluci, a Year 11 student from St Ignatius College, applied to become a member of the Youth Advisory Committee to help other young people.

“I think I’m always looking out for ways I can help others and I think this is a great opportunity to get involved in the community,” she says.

“The YAC is a great idea because it gives people (aged) 12-25 a voice in what happens in our community.”

The other new members are Jing-Yang Li, 14, Jess Vari, 14, and Rania Neysi, 20.