

Imagine all the people... sharing all the world ...

THE SUBURB NEWS YOUTH TEAM ARE WRITING IN THIS ISSUE ABOUT THEIR TAKE ON THE THEME OF COMMUNITY AND INCLUSION

Hippie Chic



MADHU



Flower crowns, peace signs and tie dye, all quintessential symbols of the hippie movement, sadly a movement that fell out of favour for more 'productive' and profit driven attitudes of the later decades. However, the hippies weren't as transient as they seemed to be, as nearly 60 years on you can't deny that their ideas and eccentric lifestyle irrevocably changed modern society.

Hippy culture was an American counterculture movement of the late 60s and 70s as a reaction to the Vietnam War and, due to the popularity of the movement, it spread to other countries such as England and Canada. The movement directly opposed the middle class lifestyle, which they believed to be materialistic and repressed. They advocated non-violence and all around peace, summed up by their famous saying, "Make love not war". Love, tolerance and openness were their core values and their communities were often made up of people of many different races, religions and sexualities. Some famous examples of hippies are The Beatles and Bob Marley.

However, nowadays the term hippie is still thrown around as an insult, to describe someone who is unpatriotic, uninformed and naive. Once the movement waned after the Vietnam war ended, mainstream politics refused to acknowledge the loss of the culture and would rather remember it as an embarrassing blip in the American culture. The Hippies

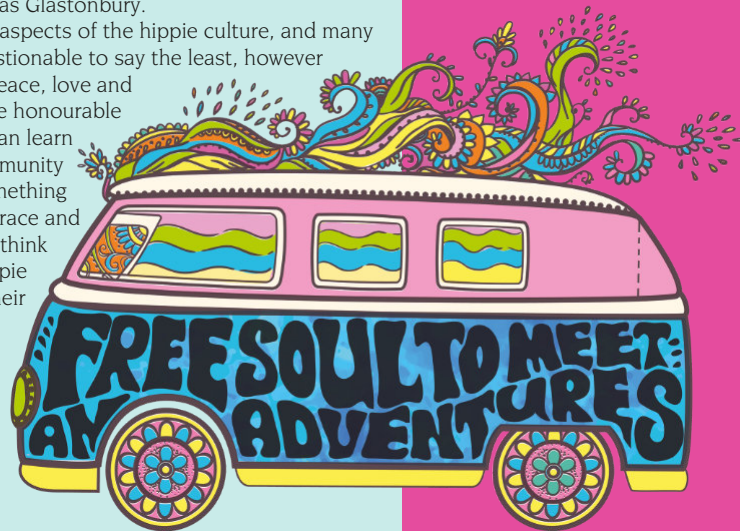
were despised by people in power because their values went against everything America stood for then, and still somewhat stands for today, a profit driven, capitalist, political and economic superpower.

Surprisingly, hippie culture is making a slight comeback. Gen Z (made up of people born from the mid 90s to the 2010s), are reclaiming the ideals and adopting the fundamental values of the hippie culture. Echoes of the movement can be seen in current efforts for equality and justice. The youth of today are more vocal about politics and are willing to show their discontent with society through actions rather than words. Hippie fashion has also made a comeback; long flowing dresses, tie-dye and eclectic jewellery can be considered staples of current mainstream fashion.

Another essential part of hippie culture is music. Massive festivals such as Woodstock helped bring together the hippie community and celebrate their shared values, even today the legacy of Woodstock can be seen in music festivals such as Glastonbury.

I don't agree with all of the aspects of the hippie culture, and many of the things they did were questionable to say the least, however at their core, they believed in peace, love and freedom for all, which I think are honourable values. There is much that we can learn from the hippies. They put community and friendship first which is something we can try to adopt as politics, race and religion continue to divide us. I think we should celebrate all that hippie culture stood for and honour their memory through actions of kindness, peace and joy.

The hippies fundamentally understood that life was precious and moments spent worrying about profit and material possessions, were moments wasted.



Sport helping to connect communities



KAYA

If there is anything that I love very dearly in this world, it is definitely sports, especially basketball. I love everything about the game; the determination and toughness displayed, the intensity and suspense when the score is close and seeing my team win. But what I really adore is its ability to connect people, no matter who they are, regardless of their age, gender or anything else. It's not just basketball that holds this power, but all sports, whether through simply viewing them or playing them. Sports unite people through their shared interest in it.

Sport not only brings people together but can help create positive impacts too. People participating in team sports learn about camaraderie and develop teamwork skills. A lot of hard work and commitment can go into playing sport whilst it is still a fun activity, making it the perfect way to develop these assets. The skills sports teach, whether it be working together, compromise or mental toughness can be valuable in other parts of life too. Team sports can also help create friendships and bonds for life, something priceless in themselves.

Sport can be a gateway into communities, something that unites people who otherwise never would have interacted with one other. For Montenegro NBA player, Nikola Vucevic (pictured), basketball has been a way for him to learn about other cultures. Playing with all types of different people helped him learn new languages such as English, helping him form new bonds



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and connections. The sport to him, cuts across language and helps mend cultural divides. He sees it as an opportunity for people to learn about each other and become more accepting, creating a unifying experience as it, most importantly, brings people together.

Sport can also bring excitement into local communities, bringing a spirit of cheer and enthusiasm like the Pac-10 Conference games, a series of college basketball games played on the Pacific coast. People are able to root for their local teams, bringing a sense of community whilst also helping support young players hoping to take their game onto a professional level. The same communities can enjoy young high school hoopers taking part in the Martin Luther King Hoopfest which not only helps to celebrate civil rights and equality, but also the transformative power of basketball.

Sport brings about opportunities to many different types of people from all backgrounds and teaches us many lessons about life, adversity, leadership, teamwork and community.