THE YEAR IN SUMMARY

Sam Redman
Youth Development Facilitator

I have really enjoyed working with WaiYouth and Youth Council in 2018, as well as supporting the North Canterbury Youth Services Network. I was appointed to the Youth Development Facilitator role in January this year after working for six years as a Youth Worker at Rangiora High School. I found the transition interesting, challenging and engaging as I adjusted to the broader perspective and got to know the ins and outs of working at a District Council.

I have been so impressed by the hard work and dedication that WaiYouth and Youth Council have given in 2018. They are talented and passionate; and have provided some amazing events and initiatives for the young people of the Waimakariri District.

WaiYouth

This year WaiYouth have planned and executed a number of events and initiatives. They began the year with a recruitment drive to fill their ranks again as some previous members stepped down to move on to new things. The group now has a total of 15 members, with 8 of those being new recruits. A large influx of new members created an interesting dynamic as the team was able to draw on past experience while also benefitting from the fresh ideas and energy of the new recruits.

The first event which WaiYouth undertook was a family movie in the park. The team went through the process of planning and gathering resources, but unfortunately had to cancel on the day due to poor weather. They learned a lot from the experience and, after attending the South Island Youth Connect training in April, they were inspired to run a new event - the All Night Party.

This event ran from 7pm one evening until 9am the next morning, a total of 14 hours, during which over 100 young people were bussed between seven different venues. These included; Mega Air Trampolining, QE2 Pools, Bowling, Timezone, Laser Strike and a chill zone. This was a massive undertaking, from planning through to running the event on the night, and I was so impressed by the way the team worked together and pulled it off without a hitch. The feedback we received from this event was overwhelmingly positive, with many young people asking if we could do it again the following week!

WaiYouth’s final event of the year was their flagship event, Centre Stage 5. This was another big event, but the team were confident in their past experience and were able to pull together 20 acts and 4 judges, culminating in an entertaining and exciting night of singing, dancing and competition. A special mention goes out to the MC, Eugene Dickie, who put on a real show! The WaiYouth team are looking forward to 2019, with another round of recruitment and some new event ideas and initiatives in the works.

Youth Council
Youth Council have been equally busy this year, starting out with a round of recruitment, they brought on board four new members after a few of the previous youth councillors finished up at the start of 2018.

The year was a big year, and I’ll leave the rest of this document to fill in some of the details, but suffice to say, I was so impressed by the dedication, hard-work and vision expressed by our Youth Councillors in 2018.

One piece of work that I must give special mention is the Youth Strategy, which was officially adopted by our Youth Council at the end of November after a long year of planning, research, discussion and hard-work. The team were so keen from the start that the Strategy be a document that was “by youth, for youth”, and I think they did an amazing job of keeping that goal front and centre. They can be proud of a job well done and look forward to the positive impact the Strategy will have in the years to come.

**North Canterbury Youth Services Network**

I have also been facilitating the North Canterbury Youth Services Network this year. After a period of time with no meetings, this year the network has gathered twice and have put in place a quarterly schedule for next year.

In 2019 the network will be travelling around North Canterbury, having meetings in Kaiapoi, Amberley, Pegasus and Rangiora. A key priority will be to further strengthen the connections between youth services throughout the region. I’m looking forward to seeing this happen, and expect to see positive results for the young people of the region.

Sam Redman
*Youth Development Facilitator*
**MEET THE TEAM**

**WAIYOUTH:**
- Sophie Marsh - Chair
- Alex Tindall
- Courtney Matthews
- Raven Purdom
- Markus Hatcher-Blacklock
- Jordan Jarman
- Monica Hodgson
- Jacob Coxhill
- Lucas Iles
- Alex Vermeulen
- Azil Ali
- Josh Fisher
- Becca Barnett
- Joel Croucher

**YOUTH COUNCIL:**
- Andrew Besuyen - Co-Chair
- Arabella Jarman - Co-Chair
- Aurora Melville
- Caitlin Tipping
- Jacob Harford
- Katie Lange
- Stella Graydon
- Ellie Tizzard
- Olivia Silby
- Alex Jackson
- Benya Ickenroth

Below are just a few of the faces around the Youth Council table. Read on to find out more about what’s been good this year and why they decided to get involved with Youth Council:

**Andrew Besuyen**

“I’m Andrew Besuyen, co-chair of the Waimakariri Youth Council. I have been a part of the Youth Council since 2015 and, regrettably, this is my fourth and final year working with the team.

Without a doubt, the highlight for 2018 for me was being involved in the revision of the Youth Development Strategy. The opportunity to write parts of a document that will help guide the District Council’s decisions and continue to make the Waimakariri a great place to live as a young person was incredible. It was really encouraging to see the amount of feedback we got from the District-wide survey and other sources. Young people, when given the opportunity in the right way, want to participate in policy making.

I look forward to hearing what the Youth Council gets up to in 2019.”
Stella Graydon

“I’m Stella, I’m 17, I live in Oxford and I’ve been a member of the Waimakariri Youth Council for 2 and a half years. Something I’ve really enjoyed about the Youth Council this year, is the sense of being a real ‘team’. We’ve had a lot of new Youth Councillors join us this year, and it has been so cool to see how the Youth Council is changing and growing.”

Alex Jackson

“Hello there, my name is Alex Jackson, I’m 15 and homeschooled (although the term “life-educated” sounds a bit more 2018). I’ve enjoyed being a part of the Waimakariri Youth Council this year. It was great to get 400 responses from the Youth Survey that questioned young people on issues that impact them. I’ve learnt so much about what happens behind the scenes in a Council setting, which was something I was always interested in. I like to know what’s going on around the place so I have appreciated the opportunity. Rangiora has grown so much since I moved here six years ago which is exciting. I’m looking forward to seeing some different things come up for youth in 2019.”

Caitlin Tipping

“To whoever is reading this, hi! My name is Caitlin Tipping and I am a year 11 student at Rangiora High School. I’ve really loved being a part of the Waimakariri Youth Council in 2018 because, I feel as though the Youth Council is making a difference and an impact in the community by working closely with the youth and making sure that they get everything they want and need. My favourite part of the Youth Council this year was being able to attend the Youth Voice Canterbury awards at the end of August, because it was lots of fun and I got to see what other people are doing and how they are making a difference and impact in their community. I am looking forward to seeing how many of our upcoming projects are going to work out and see if they have an impact on youth in the Waimakariri community. Well that’s all I got, see ya!”

Ellie Tizzard

“Heya, my name is Ellie Tizzard and I go to school at Oxford Area School and I have also recently been elected as the Youth MP for Waimakariri. I have really enjoyed being a part of the Waimakariri Youth Council this year because it has given me the opportunity grow and I have been able to involve myself in several important discussions regarding youth in our community. The highlight of my year on the WYC was getting to know other young people from our area who share the same passions and want to be a part of changes in our District. I’m looking forward to continuing this experience in 2019!”
Jacob Harford

“2018 was a busy year for the Waimakariri Youth Council. During the year I took part in the election of new members to be part of the Youth Council. We sent out a request for applications to the Waimakariri District for potential recruits. Soon afterwards we selected several candidates to be interviewed. By the end of the process, four new recruits had been added to the council.

The interview process was a very enjoyable one. I got to meet multiple new people and was put in the opposite position to the one I was in almost three years ago. I feel as though I helped contribute to the council. I would like to thank the new members, Alex, Ellie, Benya and Olivia for joining and would also like to thank the rest of the council for a successful and productive year. Bring on 2019!”

OUTGOING LETTER

In April 2015 I joined the Waimakariri Youth Council as an easy “CV booster”. The awesome people I got to meet, the projects I was a part of and positive impact that the Youth Council was making meant that I stayed on for another four years. University commitments sadly mean this will be my final year on the Youth Council, however, I’m sure I’ll keep in touch.

2018 was a slightly slow-starting year for the group. We got to recruit a bunch of super talented new members, and, once everyone was up to speed, we produced some great work in the second part of the year. A huge focus for us was updating the Youth Development Strategy, a document first created in 2010. It was a very involved process that started with creating a new survey based on old questions but revised to cover more topics, especially mental health. Once the questions were finalised, Sam did an incredible job rolling it out through the schools and we got over 400 respondents. This gave a starting point to address key issues in the writing of the new strategy. The Youth Council, along with Sam, then produced the content to create the strategy. Ultimately the strategy became a substantially more user-friendly, modern and youth-led document, that I believe will be invaluable for the future.

Other highlights for me this year were hearing from a variety of departments within the council, and other organisations associated with the council, at the start of our meetings. It was nice to get a broader context of other council operations, how it might impact on young people and to gain those connections with departments we might not otherwise interact with.

Attending the biennial Canterbury Youth Awards put on by YVC was also a very enjoyable evening.

Finally, we made use of funding from the Creative Communities Board to get the Kaiapoi skate park painted. A Christchurch graffiti artist Wongi Wilson, who has painted a lot of notable murals throughout the rebuild, created a large mural in the bowl of the skate park. Painted alongside students at the Kaiapoi High School, it was nice to have a very Waimakariri themed piece of art that also gave the students some hands-on experience with an artist.
Since this will be my last time writing for the end of year report, I like to say a massive thank you all the District Council Councillors and the Mayor for sitting in on our meetings, providing advice, support and most importantly taking on our feedback. Also to the Council staff, especially Sam and Tessa, the work you do behind the scenes to keep things running is amazing.

I know this Youth Council will continue to great things in 2019 with some fresh leaders. I am certainly going to miss being involved in the fantastic projects that no doubt lie ahead. It’s been a pleasure working with the 2018 Youth Council and I’ll be sure to catch up with you all sometime in the New Year.

Andrew  
Co-Chair

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**REPORT FROM COUNCILLORS**

Congratulations to the Waimakariri Youth Council on another successful year!

All three of us have appreciated being part of the Youth Council’s activities through 2018 and have been impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication they have shown. The group has been cohesive and has had a great mix of ages and interests and this should mean it will be able to perform its role into the future.

With Andrew Besuyen and Arabella Jarman they have been well-led and we thank them for that. Under that leadership the activities of the Youth Council have been directed towards a range of matters and concerns, from mental health issues, to the District Council’s Local Alcohol Policy, to initiating a redesign in a local park.

We thank the Youth Council for its contribution to the Waimakariri community over the past year and wish it all the best as it looks towards 2019.
Events:

Below are photos from some of the events run in 2018: