
WAIMAKARIRI YOUTH COUNCIL MINUTES

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL, RANGIORA
7.00pm TUESDAY 26th MAY 2026

1. Opening Karakia

PRESENT: Dylan LaValley (Co-Chair), Simoné Bisschoff (Co-Chair), Cherry Burgess (Waimakariri District Council Community Team Youth Development Facilitator), Esha-May McHugh, Matilda Parish, Jennie Son, Oscar Bai, Sammy Smith, Orianna Patrick, Grace Lovelock, Hannah Wells, Zack Lappin, Sophia Burgess, Risha Prasad, Nicole Villanueva, Jason Goldsworthy (Councillor), Niki Mealings (Councillor), Caitlin Sands, Rebecca Taiaroa (WDC Minute Taker)

Attended via Microsoft Teams: NONE

APOLOGIES: Sophia Edwards, Dan Gordon (Mayor), Solomon Smith (Guest presenter: Government Elections)

2. Whakatauki Simoné Bisschoff

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 28th APRIL 2026 with amendments: Correct date of the meeting in the heading (28th April 2026) and further correction to Nicole's name: Nicole Villanueva.

Moved: Simoné Bisschoff **Seconded:** Hannah Wells

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- Nicole & Zack will prepare a Whakatauki for next month.
- Repurpose Pals Purple Bins: Esha-May will bring the bin next time at the Council.

5. REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION - COUNCILLORS

a) Niki Mealings – Councillor

- **Annual Plan deliberations today:**
 - Council and staff go through the results of submissions, the budgets, staff plan, and do the number crunching to get to the final rates number.
 - This time, council were able to complete the deliberations in one day (*council staff made this possible*). Managed to do this

- On track with what Council said they were going to do re: proposed rates rise.
 - **District Licensing Committee (DLC):**
 - The DLC issues alcohol licences to people rather than businesses or organisations.
 - Government is looking to change the regulation framework, which will impact the DLC. The DLC held a submission workshop just prior to the Youth Council meeting.
 - **Field trip to Kate Valley:**
 - This has been organised for the Enviro Committee for the 6th of July.
 - **Question:** Can anyone go on the field trip *[outside of the Enviro committee.]* **Answer:** Depends on how many are interested in coming to the field trip. *[Cherry Burgess noted those who expressed interest in attending].*
 - Some will be away, or unavailable on the 6th of July, but it is possible to plan a second trip)
 - Niki can help with car-pooling.
 - **Arohatia Te Awa (Cherish the river) Working Group:**
 - projects they work on aim to increase biodiversity, increase quality of water, increase people's connection to the land (recreational options, walking).
 - Includes Lineside Road property (creating wetlands), area near Hellers, with a wetland being restored.
 - Ohoka Esplanade Reserve to the edge of Silverstream – new walking track being developed. **Tree planting day on 21st June 10am to 12noon:** meet at Butchers Road, on the berm (by the tall pine trees). All welcome to come. **ACTION:** Niki will send out formal information about the tree planting day event.
 - [‘Once in a lifetime opportunity’ for wetland near Rangiora | Star News](#) (FYI – article from 2023).
- b) Jason Goldsworthy – Councillor**
- **Simplifying Local Government, national initiative:**
 - The Government is aiming to simplify local government; a part of that simplification is removing regional councils *[Environment Canterbury ECAN is the relevant regional council].*
 - All the work conducted by regional councils will need to be carried out by the district councils, but if councils do not perform the necessary work, the national government will do it.
 - Discussions underway with neighbouring councils and the community, it is a state of flux. Some think

Christchurch/Selwyn is a good fit; others think a better fit with Hurunui/Kaikōura. Could this be done on a South Island level?

- **Emergency Management:** Tsunami Zone changes. Instead of a complicated, multi-coloured zone areas, tsunami zones are coded into one singular colour – blue. [08/25 Tsunami Evacuation » National Emergency Management Agency](#)
- **Question:** What is happening with the Rangiora Eastern link? **Answer:** Funding received to make a more detailed Business Case. Heading in the right direction.

PROJECT GROUP REPORTS

6. Dudley Park

- Re-cap: Concrete Table Tennis development.
- Improvement work to Dudley Park
- **Next meeting scheduled:** scheduled earlier because approved funding expenditure deadline is October 2026. Dudley Park meeting scheduled after fortnightly Youth Council meeting; **Tuesday 2nd June 4:30pm to 5:30pm.**

7. Enviro

- River Clean Up organising: Hoping to do this around mid-June but waiting for response from ECAN [*ECAN hold vital knowledge of where to go, and equipment such as a skip, road signage etc*]. Asking for sponsorship from Hellers (have a sausage sizzle after clean-up). Might be more likely in July.
- Field trip to Kate Valley [*previously discussed*]

8. WaiYouth

- **Youth Disco:**
 - Want to get a google form to schools, to gauge level of interest per age groups.
 - Do not want just anyone coming.
 - Approach Youth Groups, rather than schools, more likely to get engagement.
 - Needing to sort out entry and logistics. Rangiora High School said they can use the hall, but need a Contingency Plan, hence the need to be discerning about entry to the disco.
 - **Question:** Which age Group? **Answer:** Year 9-13, but year 5-8 at an earlier time, but want to gauge interest first, hence the poll/google form.
 - **Date:** August 14th for the Disco.

9. Consultations Open

- Stock Movement by-law survey closes 12th June 2026. [Stock Movement Bylaw 2026 | Let's Talk Waimakariri](#)

10. WYC Member Report

Simoné

- **Model UN:** applications soon to close, scholarships are available. Simoné explains how the model UN works, and that it is an opportunity to think differently about world affairs. **ACTION:** Simoné will send out information for the model UN. [UN Youth NZ | Inspiring Global Citizens](#)
- **Make it 16:** Simoné explains 'Make it 16' organisation devoted to lower the voting age to 16. Simoné is part of the organisation at a regional level. Make it 16 are organising events, such as handing out pamphlets in Christchurch. They have an Instagram page. [Lower the Voting Age | Make It 16](#)
- **Fees Free removal by Government:** protests have been organised across the Universities. **ACTION:** Simoné will send the date for that.

Oscar

- **Kaiapoi High School 5km run/walk event:**
 - In the planning stages, the event aims to raise funds for the Special Olympics. Would Youth Council like to get involved?
 - Main way of raising funds might be through businesses sponsoring participants. Early planning stages.
 - Suggestions from Simoné: Could use the Kaiapoi Rugby Club grounds as a venue for the event, noted Relay for Life have used the rugby grounds successfully. Worth contacting David Hill and put in the Newspaper (for older cohort who might be interested). **ACTION:** Simoné will follow up with David Hill's contact details.
 - Ask your students and teachers to get involved.

Hannah Wells (Social Media)

- Working on things to say, trying to get this down to a few words (within Social Media limits)
- **Question [Simoné]:** Can information about Make it 16 be put on Youth Council social media? **Answer:** Not sure, not telling *who* to vote for, but are telling them *to* vote. But is this non bias? Might need to go through council comms process. Changing from a statement to a question (i.e. interested in Make it 16?) could be acceptable, but it is a fine line. Or "Here's a list of organisations you might be interested in."
- **ACTION:** Simoné to send through information re: Make it 16 to Hannah, who could draft something and then see if that meets comms standards.

Nicole

- Via Girl Boss, Nicole is participating in the big sleep out in Auckland. If interested in participating/fundraising ideas. **Fundraising ideas:**
 - Youth Councillor profiles, this used to be done in the past, could we do this again? *[idea behind the question is that a Youth Council profile on Nicole, for*

example, would help raise awareness of the big sleep out event, and help with fundraising].

- **Question:** Can you walk with a bucket (on the day/night?) **Answer:** Free to fundraise as they see fit.
- Could do a car wash.
- Risha Prasad mentioned SM profile successes with Rangiora High School.
- Zack noted that static posts work better.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

• **Reflection on Youth Week**

- Networking event – Open to public but just Youth Council members came. However, it was a fun event and liked how the facilitator ran the event. Because the networking event was run by the library, it was only promoted through their channels (might explain why only Youth Council attended).

• **Bus Route Event in Christchurch (Nicole)**

- Quite fun, got to write down their opinions.
- ECAN explained more of how the funding works and got their feedback. They are trying to implement a 'turn up and go' [*a bus every 10 minutes*] frequency in the more highly urban areas. Rangiora is part of that [*the number 1 bus*].
- Potential alternatives for transport: used mostly for elderly, but it is possible the trust could be used by Youth. [*Cr Mealings*]: Noted the North Canterbury Minibus Trust is supported by ECAN and specifically targeted for the Elderly and supported by ECAN. [Community Vehicle Trust | Environment Canterbury](#)
- There will be changes to the bus route for Rangiora.

• **Cherry Burgess**

- **Podcast:** although done specifically for Youth Week, but this could be an ongoing podcast for the Youth Council. For example, it could be used to raise awareness of fundraising events (KHS 5km run/walk, the Big Sleep Out) Would need to join the Istorya Podcast Club. Every Friday at 3:30pm (Waimakariri Libraries), starts on Friday 29th May. [Istorya Podcast Club | Waimakariri Libraries](#)

• **Long term Plan**

- Simoné will send out a separate e-mail about the long-term plan.
- Still need an Enviro and a WaiYouth Section.
- Zack happy to attend Enviro and WaiYouth meetings to help get their ideas on paper for their sections of the long-term plan.
- Zack notes that the plan will need to be with council by the 6th of July.
- Simoné and Zack able to contribute time to this after their mid-terms. Matilda is interested.
- **ACTION:** Invite Lexi along to meetings (Lexi is Policy Analyst at Council)

ACTIONS:

- **NICOLE & ZACK:** Prepare a Whakatauki for next month.
- **ESHA-MAY:** Return Repurpose Pal Bin to Council
- **CR MEALINGS:** Send out formal information about the tree planting day event.
- **DUDLEY PARK PROJECT COMMITTEE:** Attend meeting following Youth Council meeting Tuesday 21st June 4:30pm
- **SIMONÉ:**
 - Send out information about Model UN
 - Date and details Fees Free removal protests.
 - Contact details to Oscar for newspaper/David Hill
 - Make it 16 information to Hannah re: meeting comms standard.
- **ENVIRO AND WAIYOUTH COMMITTEES:** Send invitation to Lexi Mealings to attend meetings.

Closing Karakia: Lead by Simoné Bischoff

Meeting closed at 8:11pm

Next meeting 7:00 pm 30th June 2026

Signed

Date