
WAIMAKARIRI YOUTH COUNCIL MINUTES

PAVILLION, OHOKA DOMAIN, OHOKA

7.00pm TUESDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2025

1. Opening Karakia

- 2. PRESENT:** Zack Lappin (Co-Chair), Simoné Bisschoff (Co-Chair), Lauren Tilley (WDC Youth Development Facilitator), Matilda Parish, Renée Eleftheriou, Dylan LaValley, Niki Mealings (Councillor), Aimee Claassens (WDC Community Development Facilitator), Rebecca Taiaroa (Minute Taker), Jason Goldsworthy (Councillor).

Attended via Microsoft Teams: Oscar Bai.

APOLOGIES: Aidan Haverkort, Dan Gordon (Mayor),

3. Whakatauki

- 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 30th SEPTEMBER 2025 (NO QUORUM TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES)**

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **Dean from Civil Defence:** visiting with Youth Council: Lauren in discussion with Dean and should have the possible dates for 2026 out in the next week
- **Survey Data:** has been circulated
- **Project Groups for next year:** discussions underway among the Youth Council.
- **Poll Options for Dinner:** Zack forgot to do this, but there is a general consensus about the end of year dinner.
- **Speaker options:** No other speaker ideas presented, but Zack has followed up with Justin Muschamp and he is happy to do this. [Wheelchair Rugby Sydney 2000 Paralympics <https://paralympics.org.nz/paralympian/justin-muschamp-128/>]

6. PRESENTATION FROM AIMEE CLAASSENS WELCOMING COMMUNITIES PLAN

- Making sure all new families are welcome in the Waimakariri District, the central aim of the Welcoming Communities plan.
- The National Welcoming Communities program started in 2017, originally nine councils took up this initiative and those nine councils are still running the program. they are still going. There are opportunities, and some gaps.
 - Funding received from MBIE for Waimakariri District Council to run the Welcoming Communities initiative.

- Aimee's team carried out extensive research and then narrowed down the multitude of data into a plan. This culminated into:
 - The formation of the Welcoming Waimakariri working Group who then developed a high-level plan.
 - Looked for the common themes and broad bubbles to then develop action plans, and then looking at actions for the next quarter.
 - Developed three themes: **Collective responsibility – Kotahitanga, A welcoming Waimakariri – Manaakitanga and Being advocates and supporters – Kaihāpai**
 - Very close to going to public consultation, with a 'let's talk' survey.

[YC then split into smaller groups, to go through actions related to the themes, can use stickers to advise how they feel, and/or write in responses].

- Following the small group discussion, Aimee explained how the team are looking at any and all crossovers in all areas of Waimakariri District Council groups/departments, to avoid unnecessary duplication. The team are also looking out for Youth Council representation on Welcoming Communities focussed initiatives on council advisory groups.
 - *What came out from the small group discussions –*
 - Newcomer isn't just from faraway places (could be from just across the Waimakariri)
 - Social media – makes it easier to connect and learn. How do we get information out to the newcomer?
 - Induction – 'How to Kiwi'
 - Best practices tool-kits for workplaces & how to connect immigrant workers with Te Reo lessons.
 - *What came out from the research for Welcoming Communities that connects with discussion above:*
 - Established connections with Welcoming Communities Australia
 - Having buy-in from the Council to continue the plan [having a strong advisory group will help].
 - Cross boarder friends (at the airports – packages relevant to where you are travelling to)
 - What came up in the focus groups in particular: pastoral care of domestic international students and bridging the gap between their often-insular education programs and the wider community.

7. REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION - COUNCILLORS

Niki Mealings – Councillor

- Post local election voter turn-out for the Waimakariri District 42.19%, which is a pleasing result. Overall, in each ward voter turn-out ranged from mid-30% to just below 45%
- Neville Atkinson retiring, Councillors Brine and Williams lost their places on Council, but Brine has retained position on his respective community board.
- *Tomorrow is the official swearing in ceremony, but Niki has confirmed attendance at the Youth Council meeting is permitted.*
- Local Government NZ provides induction program for new council members.

Jason Goldsworthy – Councillor

- Depending on the outcome of the official Swearing in of the new council, there could be some changes to the Deputy Mayor position for the next three years.
- YEM Conference coming up and seeking permission to attend.

PROJECT GROUP REPORTS

8. Dudley Park

- Rata Foundation: Lauren has reached out to Rata today (**Tuesday 28th October**) to get an update from them. The last funding round meeting was held in September.
- **Music and Kai night at Dudley Park:** most of those who signed up to audition for the talent show (cancelled) will be participating in this event. Confirmed for December 5th, from 4:30-7.

9. Enviro

- Planting day this Sunday at Silverstream 10am to 12noon.
- *[Aimee spoke this]* Environment and associated activities was a strong factor for people choosing to live in the Waimakariri District. to move to this community, with Aimee often looking at the activities the Youth Council undertake in this area re: connecting those involved in Welcoming Communities.

10. WaiYouth

- Halloween Movie Night this Friday night.

11. Consultations Open NONE

12. WYC Member Report

a. Lauren

- Youth Action Plan is in draft phases. There will be many drafts before final version is ready.

b. Zack

- Applied for Halberg Trust Youth Council membership. Zack had his interview last night (Monday 27th) and he will find out on Friday if his application is accepted. *[Youth Council wished Zack good luck]*.
- Boccia Court launch is on this Saturday at Mainpower Stadium 10-3pm. Hon. Matt Doocey (MP) vs Jeremy Morriss (Paralympian) in a game of Boccia.
- Boccia NZ. Zack had a discussion with them looking at opportunities to engage the community more in playing Boccia. Youth Council should consider putting a Boccia team together.

c. **Simoné** (*see General Business*)

13. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- **End of Year Meeting**

- **Venue:** General Consensus for Winnie Bagoes. Lauren will book, and ideally pre-order Pizzas.
- Gift exchange as well.
- **If any YC members are thinking about stepping down:** to let Lauren know before the last meeting so plans can be made for certificates and presentations.
- **Elections:** 1x Co-Chair position.

ACTION: Lauren will send out e-mail about End of Year Meeting

- **Membership – Simoné**

- Four people have stepped down from Youth Council this year, and in light of this, looking at ways to engage youth in the YC. Some ideas:
 - Look at having once a month meetings + once a term social events.
 - Meeting fortnightly rather than monthly
 - Lauren could send out a form survey, asking the question “What do you want for Youth Council in 2026?”
 - Re-elect members once a year – rather than rolling over positions.
 - Discussed importance of a work plan, as didn’t have one at the beginning of this year, long-term and short-term planning (discussion and planning underway for this now). Youth Action Plan will also inform the Youth Council’s working plan.

- **Youth Voice Canterbury (YVC)**

- Thalia was representing us, WDC struggles to have a presence at YVC (Youth Voice Canterbury)
- They do leadership trainings, and little less formal, workshop planning.
- Lauren can put this into the form.
- Two spots available at YVC.
- YVC – meet online, and also at the new youth hub in Christchurch. [hybrid meeting].
- If it did become a big commitment, then within the Waimakariri Youth Council it would be deemed as the member's project.
- Acknowledging there is already four spots open on the Youth Council.
 - A lot of interest for Youth Council from WaiYouth.
 - **[Question from Cr. Niki Mealings]:** changing monthly meeting locations, does that help with engagement? **Answer:** Demographics have changed but also depends on the availability of Council Chambers. Lauren has forward booked for 2026.
 - Preference is for Rakahuri, Chambers, Kaiapoi and Woodend,
 - But consensus to wait until new members elected before making that decision to change existing meeting room bookings.

ACTIONS:

- **LAUREN:**
 1. send out e-mail to all Youth Council about End of Year (RSVPs, Dietary requirements, details of event, gift exchange and reminder for those stepping down)
 2. Send out form survey re: engagement with the Youth Council, including number of meetings and types of meetings.
- **EVERYONE:**
 1. Let Lauren know if stepping down from Youth Council well ahead of last meeting.

Closing Karakia

Meeting closed at **8:50pm.**

Next meeting is on Tuesday 25th November, 7:00pm

Signed

Date