
WAIMAKARIRI YOUTH COUNCIL MINUTES

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL, RANGIORA
7.00pm TUESDAY 29TH JULY 2025

1. Opening Karakia

2. **PRESENT:** Zack Lappin (Co-Chair), Simoné Bisschoff (Co-Chair), Lauren Tilley (Youth Development Facilitator), Jason Goldsworthy (Councillor), Dan Gordon (Mayor), Aidan Haverkort, Dylan LaValley, Esha-May McHugh, Hannah Wells, Niki Mealings (Councillor), Matilda Parish, Renée Eleftheriou, Felicite Antoniuk-Newall, Rebecca Taiaroa (Minute Taker)

Attended via Microsoft Teams: None

APOLOGIES: Charlotte Nihoniho, Dean Eades (Civil Defence, WDC), Thalia Rae, Fiona Xu

3. Whakatauki

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 24TH JULY 2025

(with the amendment to add Esha-May McHugh to the apologies for previous meeting)

Moved: Simoné Bischoff

Seconded: Dylan LaValley - Carried

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- Community Wards Information sent
- Youth Service Awards nominations are open
- Social Media Intro Posts – still to be done for some, find the e-mail Lauren sent with questions.
- Local Action – change from the original plan

6. COMMUNITY CONNECTION DISCUSSION – Zack and Aidan

- Zack and Aidan proposed getting out and engaging with community at events. Lauren discussed the need to plan out a purpose for this sort of thing.
- Look at the Youth Action Plan survey results for info about what Waimakariri youth want instead of going out and repeatedly asking similar questions.
- We will continue Looking for opportunities in the district. Consensus with WYC to attend more local events.
- Zac will send out a list of events.
- Last year did North Canterbury Expo – Navigators were involved, but also WYC had a stall.

- Lauren to make sure WYC have a table at NC Expo – 4pm – 8pm (Tuesday August 12th). Need no more than three people at the table at a time – split into shifts.
- **Actions:** Lauren will organise table at North Canterbury Youth Futures Careers Expo.

REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION - COUNCILLORS

a) Jason Goldsworthy

- Attended the Local Government Conference in Christchurch.
- Bill before parliament: Network infrastructure, public transport, waste management, civil defence emergency management, community amenities (but removing the nice to haves). This is a change from the current model for Local Governments which have four wellbeing benchmarks.
- District Plan – Govt has effectively put them on hold, because of changes to the Resource Management Act. Govt not accepting any further plans from councils until this has been resolved.
- Next year Local Government Conference will be in Rotorua.

b) Dan Gordon

- WDC co-hosted with CCC, Environment Canterbury and Selwyn District Council the recent Local Governments New Zealand Conference.
- Taxpayers Union was in attendance – particular concern of the Union = Councils that have implemented very high rates increases. However WDC at the lower end of the rates increases
- Confirmed with the Minister that WDC District Plan is on track and not impacted by the current hold on plans.
- Public Transport Question – agnostic plan (i.e does not lean towards one particular form of transportation). Working with Greater-Christchurch.

c) Niki Mealings

- Nothing to report.

PROJECT GROUP REPORTS

7. Dudley Park

- New picnic table from Rangiora Menz shed looks great
- Dudley Dashers have hosted their run club twice
- Waiting for rotation to come round for Rata Foundation
- Funding application underway for a table tennis table, mobile volleyball and boccia set. Lauren asking if WYC support, which they agreed to. Discussion about logistics of playing with equipment re: Lighthouse's positive feedback.

8. Enviro

- Planting day at Silverstream 10am this Sunday (on social media to sign up to this)

- Repurpose Pals soft toys collections happening in schools, partnering with Lesley Ottey on this.
- Rangiora High (Dylan), Kaiapoi High (Hannah) and Matilda will take Repurpose Pal's boxes for this initiative. Esha May also has one.

9. WaiYouth – WaiYouth Members

- Cooking class – 16 attended. Great feedback received, participants are wanting to see more of these events.
- Next event: Centre Stage Talent Show – October 17th tentative date. Town Hall not available, hoping to host it at Rangiora Baptist Church Auditorium.
- **Action:** WaiYouth and Lauren will look at finding a venue for the Talent Show.

10. Local Government Elections Event - Lauren

- Discussion about what to do to engage Youth generally on democracy and their awareness of local elections:
 - Instagram Reel,
 - Q & A – Youth on the Street
 - (Zack happy to take the lead on this, but also aware will need to run past Comms team and Governance to make sure does not breach rules)

[Niki Mealing, Councillor, added the following to the discussion]

- Small number of people putting their hands up for Community Board. Engagement with Community Boards decrease. Bi-election would need to be held if not enough standing, and needed more to make up minimum required numbers.
- Discussion about NZ Government proposal to remove same-day registration to vote.
- Discussion on Proposals on 4 year-term (Local and National Governments) & ways of voting, a chance to submit on the proposed changes.

11. WYC Member Report

a) Simoné

- Attended the 2025 Youth Parliament and Youth UN
- Youth Parliament – over three days – Select Committee work, Questions for MPs & General Debate Speeches. Simoné spoke about Youth Mental Health and High Achieving Students spoke to the audience. Full access to Parliament Building. Tour of the Chamber, Beehive and National Library.
- Highly recommend applying to attend Youth Parliament, as learned a lot and meet National-Level Politicians and other like-minded people. Became a family with the Youth Parliament.
- Four days UN Youth (straight after the Youth Parliament) – 400 Students across New Zealand. Debate an issue on behalf of a Country. Canterbury UN was there. Later this

year there is a model European Union. Highly recommend applying for the model European Union – particularly if you are looking to improve debating skills.

[Congratulations to Simoné from Mayor, Dan Gordon with the good work undertaken. General discussion held with WDC Councillors and Simoné encouraging involvement with model UN, EU and Youth Parliament.]

Action: Apply if you are interested in participating in any of the above, particularly the Model EU as this is the next event.

b) Zack

- Ran a successful North Canterbury Inclusive Sports Festival.
- Boccia Courts are going to be put in at some stage. Jordan Oppert from TVNZ will cover it when the courts are in. Idea is to invite Minister for Sport and Minister for Disabilities.
- Zack has been in discussions with Martin and Sports Trust
- Action: Lauren to follow up with Grant re: Boccia Courts and make sure it happens.
- Aspiring Leaders forum – hope to report back next meeting on this (scheduled for 21st August)

c) Lauren

- Youth Action Plan Project – survey submissions have now closed.
- Hannah advised second-highest number of survey respondents. 1,000 responses, good qualitative data received.
- Next steps: Lauren and Lexie will go through the data and analyse the data. Early indicator that sports and rec are a priority [n.b: this was the first option on the survey].
- YC table – Lauren will follow up with that re: who can come
- Silverstream tree planting on Sunday (need final numbers so Silverstream know).

Questions on reports:

- Stakeholders meeting – can anyone come? At this stage only the Co-chairs will be invited due to potential space constraints. If there is extra room, the general WYC will be invited, otherwise the info will be shared in another format.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Membership Update - Lauren**
- Assuming Aled Gjelstad is not continuing as not present at meeting, Lauren will let him know his membership has been terminated.
- To add another WYC member (from list of previous applications). Might need to go through applications again to jog memories. Recruitment process again could be demoralising for youth who have already been recently rejected.

- To wait until next round of appointments,
- Vote taken: majority vote to wait until next round of appointments before filling the vacancy left by Aled.

Action: Youth Council members to let Lauren know if wanting to participate in the Environment Group.

ACTIONS:

LAUREN -

- Organise booking of table and roster at North Canterbury Expo and Youth Futures.
- follow up with Grant re: Boccia Courts progress.

WAIYOUTH AND LAUREN -

- finding a venue for the Talent Show.

ZACK -

- Organise Q&A Video for Local Action/engagement and seek approval from Communications team.

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS -

- Apply now if you are interested in participating in the model EU as this is the next event.
- Let Lauren know if wanting to participate in the Environment Group.
- Advise if participating in the tree-planting at Silverstream

Closing Karakia.

Meeting closed at **8:30pm.**

Next meeting is on 2nd September, at 7:00pm, Rangiora Chambers

Signed

Date