



Community Team Year in Review 2024/2025

30 June 2025





**WYC
Environmental
Art Competition**



**Trade sector mental
health breakfast**



**Age Concern at the
Volunteer Expo**



**Welcoming
Communities hui**



On Track top tips for funding



**Mayors Taskforce for Jobs
driver licence support**



Older Persons Expo 2024



**Mayors Taskforce for Jobs
volunteers at Tūhaitara Trust**

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Inclusive Sports Festival



Accessibility training



Presentation at Stronger Communities Conference



Mayors Taskforce for Jobs forklift training

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Introduction



Tessa Sturley
Community Team Manager

Ma tini ma mano ka rapa te whai

Many hands make light work — Unity is strength.

- **Engage** with our community so that we can capture its views, imagination, skills, experience and ideas.
- **Inform** people about significant relevant issues and opportunities that affect the lives of our residents.
- **Connect** people, groups and organisations with others who can help to address those issues and opportunities.
- **Encourage** people and organisations to come together and empower them with the skills, information and resources they need, collectively translating their ideas into action.

We can then acknowledge and celebrate, with our community, the great work they have done.

While this report documents the work of the Waimakariri District Council Community Team, it also celebrates the incredible contribution of the various geographic and ‘of interest’ communities that make up the Waimakariri District. This is a great community in which to get a bunch of like-minded people together, to roll up their sleeves and get things done. That can see, for example, a contracting company, a mental health provider and a service club working together in an unlikely, but extremely successful context. Such collaboration results in an incredible array of community-led initiatives. This exemplifies the value of collective wisdom, ability and talent.

As a team of Council-based facilitators, our role is not so much to “do stuff”, but more to work with the people from these communities to “make stuff happen”. We are open eyes, listening ears and willing hands to support the community. We can then acknowledge and celebrate, with our community, the great work that they have done.

This report is part of that celebration. We hope that you enjoy seeing all that ‘you’ as a community have achieved, over the 12-month period ending 30 June 2025...with support from us.

Mayor and Chief Executive's Message



Message from the Mayor

The Waimakariri District Council has consistently demonstrated its commitment to community wellbeing through its vision, *"to pursue with the community a high quality physical and social environment, safe communities, and a healthy economy."*

The Community Team focuses on community safety, community development, and youth development. In line with the Council's vision, they apply a collaborative approach to facilitating stronger, safer, vibrant communities across our District. This report documents the key achievements of the Community Team's work with a variety of partners in the community. The Waimakariri District Council is proud of these achievements, and we are committed to continuing to make community a priority in this District.

A blue ink signature of Dan Gordon.

Dan Gordon
Mayor



Message from the Chief Executive

I am pleased to endorse this 'Year in Review' report. Its content details the results of the community-led, collaborative work of the Community Team in conjunction with a variety of local and national stakeholders in community safety, community development and youth development.

The documented results show the value of this approach and the outcomes that are possible when community workers, community volunteers, government and non-government agencies and Council staff all work together on projects that enhance the social and economic wellbeing of the district and its residents.

A blue ink signature of Jeff Millward.

Jeff Millward
Chief Executive

Overview: “The Waimakariri Way”

Creating and maintaining strong, connected vibrant communities

The Waimakariri District has aligned with the World Health Organisation approved ‘International Safe Community’ model since 1999, when it was the second community in New Zealand to achieve such status. The Community Team works under the umbrella of the Waimakariri District Council to facilitate an evidence-based, community-led approach to foster safe, resilient communities so that

“Waimakariri is a District where people are thriving.”

Through its various working parties, project coalitions and steering groups, the Community Team has established and maintains in-depth working knowledge of the Waimakariri District and the physical, socio-economic and environmental factors that affect the quality of life of its residents. Collaborating with well over 300 community partners from the business, education, government and non-government sectors, the Community Team facilitates community development and community safety collaborations that address issues and opportunities for local residents, groups, services and organisations.

Benefits of a community-based, facilitated response

These activities need someone to pull the strings, make the connections and facilitate action. Such functions sit outside the capacity (and often capability) of already stretched service providers.

The facilitator role is:

- To scope the issues and opportunities
- To work with the experts and research-proven models, and then apply local knowledge to ensure locally relevant and effective initiatives
- To identify and work with the right partners
- To ensure appropriate reach for resources, education and community supports
- To facilitate evaluation of initiatives, so that we are making a difference, rather than just being well intentioned.



Bellyful at the Volunteer Expo



Riding for the Disabled



Oxford Skate Jam 2025

Alignment with Council Community Outcomes

This work is an active mechanism for delivery of several aspects of each of Council's four Community Outcomes for the Waimakariri District Council Long Term Plan:

Social:

(That the Waimakariri District is) a place where everyone can have a sense of belonging.

- Council commits to promoting health and wellbeing and minimising the risk of social harm to its communities.
- Our community groups are sustainable and able to get the support they need to succeed.
- Our community has access to the knowledge and skills needed to participate fully in society and to exercise choice about how to live their lives.
- People are able to enjoy meaningful relationships with others in their families, whānau, communities, iwi and workplaces.
- Our community has equitable access to the essential infrastructure and services required to support community wellbeing.

Environmental:

A place that values and restores our environment.

- Our district is resilient and able to quickly respond to and recover from natural disasters and the effects of climate change.
- Our communities are able to access and enjoy natural areas and public spaces.

Economic:

A place that is supported by a resilient and innovative economy.

- There is access to meaningful, rewarding, and safe employment within the district.
- Our district recognises the value of both paid and unpaid work.
- There are sufficient skills and education opportunities available to support the economy.

Cultural:

A place where our people are enabled to thrive and give creative expression to their identity and heritage.

- The distinctive character of our takiwā/district, arts and heritage are preserved and enhanced.
- All members of our community are able to engage in arts, culture and heritage events and activities as participants, consumers, creators or providers.
- Waimakariri's diversity is freely expressed, respected and valued.
- There is an environment that supports creativity and innovation for all.
- Local arts, culture and heritage are able to make a growing contribution to the community and economy.



Waimakariri Access Group training day planning meeting



BBQ with IHC for International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Strategic Alignment with Regional and Central Government Priorities for Safe Resilient Communities

The alignment with regional and national strategies ensures that wider evidence based research and best practice models are applied to the response to local priorities.

This translates into increased reach, as more stakeholders are brought into community-led, collaborative responses. The significant number of partner hours and/or dollars generated translates into a return on funder investment of at least double, in terms of capacity and reach.



Waimakariri Public Arts Trust Trustees with "The Crane" in Kaiapoi.



Welcome bags for new residents



Waimakariri Age-friendly Advisory group

Top 10 Priorities for 2024/2025

1. Review and adoption of the updated Review of the Waimakariri Community Development Strategy.
waimakariri.govt.nz/community-and-recreation/living-in-waimakariri/community-projects/waimakariri-community-development-strategy
2. Review and adoption of the updated Waimakariri Accessibility Plan.
waimakariri.govt.nz/community-and-recreation/living-in-waimakariri/social-and-health-services/accessibility
3. Preliminary facilitation of the newly launched Waimakariri Arts Strategy.
waimakariri.govt.nz/community-and-recreation/living-in-waimakariri/community-projects/waimakariri-arts-strategy
4. Research and engagement to inform the development of a 'Welcoming Communities' plan, to ensure that ethnic migrants and other newcomers are welcomed and included into the life of the district, and its recreation, community, social and health services.
5. Engagement and data review to inform an update of Youth Strategy 2018 and the associated development of a Youth Action Plan to frame priorities in youth development over the coming 5 year period.
6. Youth Employment, including Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) and broader development of the North Canterbury Youth Futures project, with a focus on increasing employer awareness of the value of employing youth.
7. Support for prospective tenants on the Kaiapoi Community Hub to assist with planning and resourcing for location on the newly developed site.
8. Support for the community, volunteer and social sectors, given pressure on funding and increased demand on services.
9. Support for initiatives that address poverty, including homelessness and food security, so that all local residents have a roof over their head and can access fresh, healthy food.
10. Facilitation of local provision of community and social sector education and collaborative responses to community safety, including relationship violence, alcohol and drug harm, addiction, suicide and mental health.



Accessibility training



North Canterbury Youth Futures Expo

2024/2025 Financial Year Results

The following report details a summary of results against Waimakariri Community Development Strategy Performance Measures, along with an overview of key outputs and achievements for the Team over the 2024/2025 financial year against the four strategic goals for the strategy.

Community Development Strategy 2015–2025

- **Mission:** Facilitating stronger, safer, vibrant communities
- **Vision:** Waimakariri is a District where people are thriving
- **Strategic Goals:**

- to engage
- to connect
- to inform
- to empower

the Waimakariri community.

Population indicator results

Results that the work of the Community Team can claim some part of achieving.

Population indicator results				
Goal	Indicator	Benchmark	Target 2025	Result 2024/25
Connect	Percentage of respondent households involved in recreation, arts and cultural, school, church, community, sports or service groups/organisations.	40% <i>(WDC New Dwellings Survey, 2014)</i>	75%	* Note: Change of indicator in the 2019 survey. <i>(see below)</i>
Inform	Percentage of respondent households satisfied with the information about what is going on in the District.	30% <i>(Council Community Survey 2019)</i>	55%	58.3% <i>Averaged information responses from Council Customer Community Survey 2024</i>
Goal	Indicator(NEW)	Benchmark	Result 2024/25	
Connect	* Percentage of respondent households that are satisfied with their level of Social Connectedness	75%	83.3%. <i>Note: Reflects positive responses to the question, "Do you feel part of the community?"</i>	



North Canterbury Youth Futures Expo

Performance indicator results 2024/25

Results directly attributed to the work of the Community Team.

Performance indicator results 2024/25				
Goal	Indicator	Benchmark 2025	Target 2025	Result 2024/25
Engage	Total number of partners supporting Community Development, Youth Development and Community Safety initiatives.	300	≥ 300	400+ made up of relationships from over 230 organisations, groups and agencies and 24 local schools
	Number of local groups that connect residents or organisations, supported by the Community Team.	12	≥ 12	21
Connect	Evidence of Community Team Support for the development of new groups that facilitate community connection.	N/A	≥ 8	14
	Waimakariri Community Team Facebook page following.	1,789	1,800	4,517
Inform	Annual hits on Community page of Waimakariri District Council website.	2,800	≥ 3000	11,451
	Number of community groups contributing to Chatter monthly community information newsletter each year.	150	≥ 150	163
Empower	Number of new community-led initiatives developed with support from the Community Team.	N/A	≥ 10	31

Progress against these goals is detailed on the following pages.

Engage

Engaging with people, groups and organisations

What did we do?

Maintained relationships with well over 300 local, regional and national partners covering the government, non-government, community and business sectors.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<p>Maintained connections in the local government, iwi, health, education, social service, business and grassroots community sectors, including staff involvement and/or facilitation of the following networks:</p> <p>a) Local</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Services Waimakariri • Waimakariri Health Advisory Group • Violence Free North Canterbury • Waimakariri Access Group • Waimakariri Drug and Alcohol Harm Prevention Steering Group • Waimakariri Migrant Agency Group • Waimakariri Suicide Prevention Steering Group • North Canterbury Youth Services Network • Waimakariri Age-friendly Advisory Group • Waimakariri Youth Council • WaiYouth Action Group • Youth Action Plan Advisory Group • North Canterbury Youth Futures • Volunteer Coordinators' Network • Civil Defence Response Local Welfare Committee • Welcoming Waimakariri Working Group • Global Locals of Waimakariri Multicultural Group • Older Persons Expo organising committee • Waimakariri Bike Project Committee • Waimakariri Public Arts Trust • Waimakariri Art Collection Trust. 	<p>Broad local, regional and national engagement provides increased opportunity to enhance the safety, wellbeing and resilience of Waimakariri residents.</p> <p>There are more people to plan, to do the work and to fund the work, so that community aspirations are more easily achievable.</p> <p>Issues and opportunities related to the safety and wellbeing of local residents are brought to the attention of local decision-makers.</p>
 <p style="text-align: right;">Waimakariri Youth Council</p>	

b) Regional

- Active Canterbury
- Waka Toa Ora (Healthy Greater Christchurch) Steering Group
- INFoRM Interagency Network for Refugee and Migrants
- InCommon Workplaces Working Group
- Eldercare Canterbury
- Food Secure North Canterbury Governance Group
- Together Hurunui
- Rerenga Awa – Canterbury Youth Workers Collective
- Youth Voice Canterbury
- Welcoming Communities South Island Facilitators network.

c) National

- Hauora Whenua – Rural Health Alliance of Aotearoa NZ
- Safer Aotearoa Network Transition Steering Group – as part of International Safe Community network
- Age Friendly Communities National Network
- Family Violence network
- Welcoming Communities National Facilitators Network.

Regional and national engagement ensures that Waimakariri initiatives are evidence-based, well-resourced and delivered in line with Best Practice.

What did we do?

Provided a link into community supports for some of our more vulnerable residents.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People often contact Council when they have nowhere to go, or they pop in, to see the Community Team office when they're feeling isolated or distressed. • Every week we receive emails phone calls or drop-ins related to our more vulnerable residents. We provide links with appropriate supports and services. We're also a listening ear and a word of encouragement, or celebration when they have achieved a milestone. • Our local 'personalities', who might otherwise be lost and lonely, when services are closed, regularly pop in to show us their new shoes, Special Olympics medals, new bikes and photographs that they're proud of. While this is not our core business, the outcomes for these people are significant. 	<p>People have been linked into appropriate services for supported, emergency or transitional housing when in crisis.</p> <p>Three of our most regular visitors were encouraged and supported; and kept safe and linked into appropriate social services when the need arises.</p> <p>Council front-counter and phone enquiry customers are linked with appropriate support services, including Age Concern, The Salvation Army, Hope Community Trust, Work and Income, Police, Health, Addiction Support and Social Worker Support.</p> <p>People in need of vocational support have been connected with Work and Income, Mayors Taskforce for Jobs and other job seeker support services.</p> <p>We are better off too! It is such a blessing to be invited into people's lives in times of crisis and to see them blossom as they get the help they need.</p>

Connect

Connecting people

What did we do?

Encouraged and supported collaboration between groups and services.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated and/or actively contributed to 20 local collaborations that address local priorities, to support social, physical, mental and emotional wellbeing, safety, and inclusion, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Suicide prevention and wellbeing promotion – Violence Free North Canterbury Network – Waimakariri Alcohol and Drug Harm Prevention Steering Group – Food Secure North Canterbury – North Canterbury Housing Response Working Group – North Canterbury Youth (employment and education) Futures – North Canterbury Youth Service Network – Youth Action Plan Advisory Group – North Canterbury Disability Forum Committee – North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support – Waimakariri Bike Project Committee – Older Persons Expo Committee – Waimakariri Health Advisory Group – Social Services Waimakariri – Waimakariri Access Group – Global Locals of Waimakariri – Waimakariri Migrant Agency Steering Group – Welcoming Waimakariri Working Group – Waimakariri Health Advisory Group – Waimakariri Public Arts Trust – Waimakariri Art Collection Trust. • Facilitated 10 community group and organisation networking fora, held in Rangiora, Kaiapoi, Woodend, Oxford and Pegasus. • Created opportunities for networking and collaboration through capacity building workshops and volunteer expos. 	<p>There is better local social and health service provision.</p> <p>Local youth services can connect, share trends; and acquire training that would not otherwise be available.</p> <p>Local youth have increased access to education and employment opportunities.</p> <p>The consumer and stakeholder voices are applied to planning for a more accessible and inclusive district.</p> <p>Our district has well-stocked foodbanks, community gardens and food forests to ensure fresh food and produce are available to our vulnerable residents.</p> <p>Residents with disabilities have a voice and receive appropriate service delivery.</p> <p>People have access to local services and supports, to enhance their older years.</p> <p>Opportunities are created for intergenerational connection and learning. For example through the Bike Project.</p> <p>Those working with migrants can be aware of what other services and stakeholders are seeing and experiencing in the sector. Support and advice from relevant agencies and stakeholders can easily be accessed from within the group.</p> <p>With staff support around planning and consent and appropriate contacts, a community-led, special character social housing initiative for women is now open and almost at capacity.</p> <p>Unexpected connections were made between groups who had different purpose but found they could support each other for mutual benefit.</p>

What did we do?

Provided and promoted opportunities for people to get together.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<p>Hireable Resources that Connect People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Community Events Trailer was utilised 33 times for community-led events. The Mobile Community Hub was used 34 times to support vulnerable people to have access to information, provide library services, educate about Violence Free North Canterbury, for Civil Defence Community Hubs and to connect with migrants. <p>These two valuable community resources were acquired with post-disaster funding from Department of Internal Affairs.</p>	<p>A focal point has been created for social connection in a relaxed, inclusive and family-friendly context.</p> <p>The community has more accessible outreach access to engage, educate and support communities — particularly those in crisis or with pockets of more vulnerable residents.</p>
<p>Connecting Migrants and Newcomers</p> <p>Supported Global Locals of Waimakariri (GLOW) Multicultural Group to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate a six-week Multicultural Cooking Class series showcasing a variety of international cuisines. Maintain a monthly, multicultural social gatherings at a local community meeting space, with regular attendance of people from up to 10 different cultures. Hold a family-friendly 'Celebration of Cultures' dinner, bringing 25 ethnically diverse people together over shared food from each of their home countries. 	<p>People learned how to make cultural cuisine and understand more about other cultures.</p> <p>People had the opportunity to connect and increase their understanding of one another's culture and common experience of being new to New Zealand and the District. The result is a reduced social isolation.</p> <p>Our diverse communities were acknowledged, supported, celebrated and connected.</p>
<p>Connecting People Through Sustainability</p> <p>Supported the Waimakariri Bike Project with advice, information and connections to maintain effective governance and administration, build its volunteer capacity and continue to fund its endeavours.</p> <p>The Bike Project continued their effective collaboration with the Noaia Charitable Trust, supporting alternative education and kaupapa Māori education services for local young people.</p> <div data-bbox="183 1713 758 2049" data-label="Image"> <p>A photograph showing several people, including children and adults, gathered around bicycles on a grassy field. Some are working on the bikes, while others are standing nearby. The scene is outdoors with trees in the background.</p> </div> <p><i>Waimakariri Bike Project</i></p>	<p>The Bike Project empowers people to learn and apply new practical skills. It also contributes to addressing financial hardship, by giving people free bikes, sometimes their only mode of transport; and provides social connection for some of our more vulnerable residents.</p> <p>Community Team support has helped the initiative to maintain a strong volunteer base and acquire adequate funding for its operation.</p>

Connecting people

Connecting Young People Through Events

- Supported the Waimakariri Youth Council and WaiYouth Action Group to deliver events that connect young people together, including:
 - Youth Council’s High School Music Night in Dudley Park with 80 attendees,
 - WaiYouth’s Cooking Class, which brought 16 youth together to learn new skills and make new connections.
- Collaborated with Council’s Greenspace, Aquatics, Libraries teams and other community partners to deliver a series of Youth Week events with the purpose of connecting like-minded young people.
- Over 150 young people attended the various events, which included a Skate Jam in Oxford, learner licensing support sessions, inflatable session at Dudley Aquatics, and Library activities such as DIY Home Spa events, and more.

The Dudley Park activation platform allows a wider range of uses to connect people to the space.

Over 240 local youth were entertained, learnt a new skill, made a new friend or connection, or found out how to get involved regularly with community initiatives.



High School Music Night

Connecting Older People

- Supported the Older Persons Expo collaboration, which provided older residents in Waimakariri the opportunity to interact and learn from over 30 older persons service providers.

Over 70 older persons were connected to information about local support services and recreational opportunities, whilst celebrating the gift of being older, with music, singing and connection.

What did we do?

Supported developing subdivisions to create opportunities for connection.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 76 welcome bags to service centres for people to collect to give to new neighbours. • Supported the Pegasus Community Centre to ensure that new residents were welcomed and informed, receiving welcome packs full of resources, and a friendly welcome from a person from their community. 	<p>People in developing subdivisions were welcomed and informed about local services and opportunities.</p>

What did we do?

Supported Residents Groups and Community Associations.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued to support Silverstream and Pegasus residents’ groups/community associations, as required, with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – information, advice and connections to assist with events. – community information resources for their residents. 	<p>Residents’ groups are equipped and supported to achieve their aspirations.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connected with and supported the transition of the Pegasus Community Cuppa from The Waiora Links Community Trust to the new organisers. 	<p>Pegasus residents continue to have opportunities to connect and welcome new residents.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented at the Ravenswood 'Community Cuppa' about Council services and support options for neighbourhood building and connection. 	<p>Residents at new subdivisions are aware of Council services and connection/volunteering opportunities.</p>

What did we do?

Encouraged and supported volunteering as a means to connect residents into the life of the community.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<p>General Public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised three Volunteer Expos, held in Rangiora, Woodend and Kaiapoi. 26 volunteer reliant organisations participated, and approximately 80 potential volunteers attended. Disseminated information about volunteering opportunities via a range of online, social and printed media. The Waimakariri Volunteer Directory which lists many local organisations seeking volunteers, is regularly updated and available online and in printed form. 	<p>People can find volunteering opportunities that suit their skills and interests. This will, in return, reward them with a sense of contribution, social connection and increased wellbeing.</p> <p>Local volunteer involving organisations are better able to attract and retain volunteers. E.g. In the week after the expos there were 16 confirmed new volunteers.</p>
<p>Migrants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated the volunteer work of Global Locals of Waimakariri – GLOW's members to organise and host a multi week Multicultural Cooking Class Series. 	<p>Migrant residents are empowered to showcase their own culture and are connected in teaching locals to cook international cuisine and gain awareness about different cultures represented in the district.</p>
<p>Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connected Volunteering Canterbury with the North Canterbury Youth Futures Career Expo. Supported the Waimakariri Youth Council (WYC) to engage with local environmental volunteering opportunities by bringing in environmental groups to share their volunteering needs. This led to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Youth Council planting day at Silverstream Reserve. an ongoing WYC partnership with the "Repurpose Pals" program, where Youth Council members are helping with program promotion and collection of unwanted soft toys. continued coordination of two annual river clean ups, bringing together over 80 volunteers. 	<p>Young people are connected and empowered to support local environmental actions, while local environmentally centred organizations have some of their volunteering needs met.</p> <p>Our local environment is cleaner and greener.</p>



WYC river clean-up

Informing people about issues and opportunities that affect them

Education workshops and seminars

What did we do?

Facilitated local delivery of family and relationship violence prevention and response education.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<p>Healthy Relationship Education in local high schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnered with Violence Free North Canterbury (VFNC), Police and Oxford Area School and Rangiora High School to successfully deliver the “Loves Me Not” programme. 	<p>Over 100 local youth are better able to recognise the signs of an unhealthy relationship and respond appropriately to support themselves and/or others.</p>
<p>White Ribbon Day Campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnered with VFNC and Oxford Area School, following their “Loves Me Not” programme to host a school BBQ and engage the students in conversations about “What is Love?” Hosted a White Ribbon BBQ on the front lawn of Council in partnership with VFNC and Oxford Lions Club. 	<p>Hundreds of local students and community members have been engaged with the White Ribbon campaign, discussions about signs of healthy versus unhealthy relationships, and the importance of men standing up against violence towards women.</p>
<p>Violence Free Community Quiz Night Fundraiser</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The VFNC network hosted a Quiz Night to raise project funds and engage the community in its work and foster a safe, fun way to raise awareness about violence across the community. 	<p>70 community members learned about the VFNC network and its work, while increasing their understanding of violence across the community. The network raised about \$2000 to help support their work across North Canterbury.</p>
<p>Elder Abuse Awareness Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported VFNC and local violence service organisations to host a professional training day around the prevalence of elder abuse and ways to address it. 	<p>Over 25 local professionals increased their understanding of the prevalence of elder abuse. They learned how to recognise the signs, and how to connect with relevant supports and resources to address incidences of abuse. Additionally local community agencies appreciated the opportunity to connect with one another and share their experience in this area.</p>

Informing - education workshops and seminars

Bringing AI Closer to Violence Prevention

- Partnered with a Swiss-based, non-profit to run an on-line workshop educating violence prevention organisations on an AI chatbot that has been developed to support those experiencing violence by providing them with direct links into supports.

Over 75 experts from across New Zealand have been informed and educated around the use and value AI can play in violence prevention.

What did we do?

Facilitated a local response to alcohol and drug harm.

How well did we do it?

- The Alcohol and Drug Harm Prevention Steering Group continued actioning the priorities addressed in the 2023 Current Condition Report on alcohol and drug harm in the Waimakariri District.
- An Alcohol and other Drugs (AOD) 101 Workshop was organised and facilitated for local social service workers across the Waimakariri District.



Parenting talk on vaping, alcohol and other drugs.

- Ran "A Deeper Dive into Vaping" session for local parents, in partnership with the Steering Group and Vape Free Kids NZ.
- Ran an AOD Action Plan workshop with representatives from key organisations in the sector to review the current action plan and feedback any changes they felt might be necessary.

Is anyone better off?

A Best Practice approach has been applied to the development and delivery of initiatives that address local alcohol and drug harm.

20 local social service providers were trained by qualified and experienced clinicians from Odyssey House Trust in their understanding of:

- Common substances in New Zealand and their risks
- Recognising problematic substance use
- Responding to substance use issues
- Harm reduction for AOD use
- Treatment services available and referral pathways.

The sessions also included engaging Q&A sessions.

Local parents were able to engage with conversations with one another and the experts from Vape Free Kids NZ to better understand vaping and feedback what they have observed in the community.

Local stakeholders had an opportunity to connect and share about their work and provide valuable feedback to the group. The workshop also resulted in increased membership on the steering group. Broader representation will ensure that planned initiatives are evidence-based and appropriately targeted.

Informing - education workshops and seminars

What did we do?

Facilitated local delivery of wellbeing-centred suicide prevention initiatives.

How well did we do it?

Staff continued to facilitate the Wailife Suicide Prevention Steering Group, with the following initiatives achieved:

- Three training sessions for local primary and secondary school teachers, supporting the wellbeing of both teachers and children in the classroom.
- Support for the delivery of a national suicide prevention campaign, in partnership with local pharmacies. This was aimed at reducing access to lethal means.
- Partnership with local businesses to offer a Tradie Breakfast for building personal resilience.
- Support for the development and delivery of the regional suicide prevention "Hospitality Industry" Project.
- Promotion of opportunities for suicide prevention training to community groups.
- Facilitation of the delivery of an evening Suicide Prevention Training for the Oxford Football Club and wider community.
- Facilitation of the delivery of a half day suicide prevention training for the local mental health workforce.
- Development and distribution of resources about local mental health support, as part of a promotion at the Oxford A&P Show.
- Delivery of a Mental Health Awareness Week campaign through local social media and community notices.
- Advocacy for local services as part of the Rural Immediate Access Project for people experiencing a mental health crisis.
- Delivery of a two-day professional development conference for mental health, addiction and family harm professionals alongside community volunteers.

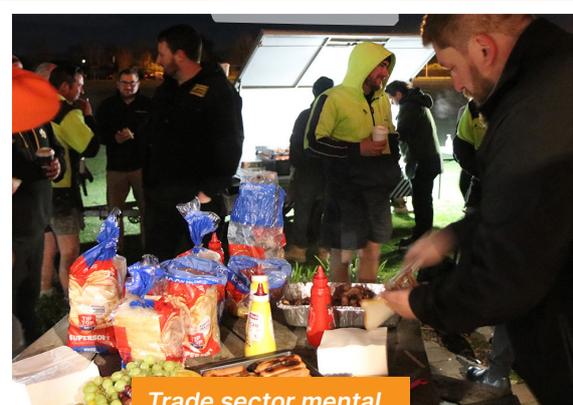
Is anyone better off?

Hundreds of local residents, teachers, community workers and support service providers gained skills and knowledge to support themselves and others toward good mental health and wellbeing.

Over 300 people attended Mental Health Awareness training, offering tools for self-help, promoting help seeking and education on how to support others who are struggling with mental health concerns.



Stronger Communities conference presentation



Trade sector mental health breakfast



Trade sector mental health breakfast

What did we do?

Facilitated local provision of education and activities that enhance the safety and wellbeing of local children and families.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<p>Down the Back Paddock Rural Safety Education in Schools</p> <p>Down the Back Paddock was delivered to two local primary schools.</p> <p><i>Down the Back Paddock has now been operating successfully for over 15 years, with all primary schools in the District now offering it to their students.</i></p>	<p>Over 500 local school children learnt what they can do to reduce the likelihood of injury on our farms and lifestyle blocks. We continue to hear of parents being 'told off' by their kids for unsafe practices because of what they've learnt at Down the Back Paddock.</p> <p><i>With over 15,000 local children (many now adults) learning safe practice and taking these messages home, we are creating a safer future on farms and lifestyle blocks across the Waimakariri District.</i></p>
<p>Raising the Next Generation with Confidence</p> <p>Three parenting workshops were delivered in partnership with Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Trust, Presbyterian Support Upper South Island and the Rangiora Youth Community Trust.</p> <p>Topics covered included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staying Connected in the Teen Years • Vaping • Alcohol and other Drugs • Parenting Neurodivergent Children and Youth. <p>At the end of each evening, local services introduced themselves and described the pathways to accessing their support. Information resources were also provided for parents to take home.</p>	<p>190 parents attended 'Raising the Next Generation' workshops, benefiting from the experience of experts and learning about the support available locally.</p> <p>Feedback from parents showed that they valued the opportunity to gain knowledge, learn new skills and know that they are not alone struggling with the challenges of parenting.</p>



Staying Connected in the Teen Years Parenting Workshop



Teacher training on supporting wellbeing in the classroom.

Informing - printed media

Printed media

What did we do?

Billboards.

How well did we do it?

'InCommon' posters were displayed in community centres, public spaces and Council areas.

Is anyone better off?

Highlighting commonalities between very diverse people helps to foster a more welcoming and inclusive district.



What did we do?

Chatter Community Information Newsletter.

How well did we do it?

- Distribution of over 1,064 per month.
- Continued increase in contributors and readership.

Staff continue to receive regular affirmations regarding the value of this resource.

Is anyone better off?

Groups and organisations have access to free, high audience promotion for their activities.

Local residents and community support agencies have easy access to information about supports, opportunities, and events.



What did we do?

General Community Information Resources.

How well did we do it?

Welcome Bags

As above, 76 personalised 'Welcome to Waimakariri' information bags, or equivalent packs, were given to new residents in their respective communities. These are decorated and packed by school children, intellectually disabled groups and community volunteers.

Of the decorated bags (30) were decorated by the local North Canterbury Indian Cultural Community (NCICC).

Note: Over 6976 Welcome Bags have been distributed to new residents over recent years.

Is anyone better off?

Newcomers have information about local supports, services and opportunities to engage in the life of the District. Local schools are involved with decorating the bags, providing an opportunity for young people to consider being welcoming to newcomers and have a sense of pride in the district.

Involving the NCICC was a way of "closing the loop" where former newcomers from an ethnically diverse group were involved in creating welcome bags for new newcomers.

General Local Information Resources

The Community Team has developed a range of resources detailing local information about services, supports and opportunities related to:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Volunteering
- Waimakariri Sports, Hobbies and Recreation Directory
- Activities for Under 5s
- Family Violence Support
- Alcohol and Drug Harm Help
- Local Transport for Health Appointments
- Getting Advice Shows Strength booklet about local social support
- Suicide Prevention
- North Canterbury Youth Services Network – Online Newsletter with a Distribution of 156
- Global Locals of Waimakariri brochure
- English Language Classes flyers
- Where to find food and support for homeless and rough sleepers
- No Data on your phone?
- 'Next Steps' website resources.

As well as online, these are distributed via Citizens Advice Bureau, and at local libraries, information centres, community facilities, events and gatherings.

Local residents and community support agencies have easy access to information about supports, opportunities, and events.

People are confronted to consider unhealthy behaviours and those in crisis know where to go to get help.



Developed a communications system to better inform migrants and ethnic communities of the opportunities to attend forums, workshops, events and community groups.

Ethnic communities and migrants are better informed of what is happening in the district and encouraged to have a voice in local decision making.



Social and online media

What did we do?

Utilised social and online media to engage and inform the community about issues and options that affect them.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 11,450 interactions with Community Team related pages on the Council website. • Waimakariri Community Team Facebook page has a 'liked' following of 4,517. • Waimakariri Community Team Facebook social media reach – 44,844. • WaiYouth and Youth Council has a following of 2,357 and a reach of 18,639 from Facebook and Instagram. • Global Locals of Waimakariri - GLOW has a following of 490. • Global Locals of Waimakariri - GLOW Facebook social media reach of 3,200. <p>The most popular posts related to events, professional development, community information, youth services and opportunities.</p>	<p>The community has easy access to information about supports, opportunities, and events.</p> <p>Sustained increase in social media following over the past eight years shows a growing audience for our information.</p> <p>Local groups and organisations have access to free, large audience promotion for their activities.</p>

Empower

Supporting and empowering people and organisations

PRIORITY

Assist community groups and organisations to increase their capacity and capability

What did we do?

Facilitated a series of capability building workshops for the volunteer sector.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered Kia Rite Hoha, Introduction to Event planning workshops 	<p>Six local organisations were equipped to run events safely, inclusively and with consideration to sustainability. Specific feedback included a residents' group acknowledging the role that the training played in the success of their family fun event.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered 12 'On Track' workshops. Topics covered included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Governance Marketing 101 Team Dynamics Updates to the Charities Act Funding requests Running effective meetings. 	<p>54 local organisations increased their operational capability and were linked into the services that could further support them (funding advisors, Community Law Canterbury, Community Capacity Accounting and the Council). The workshops also factored in time for networking to provide the opportunity for collaborations to develop.</p>
<p>Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated the North Canterbury Youth Services Network (NCYSN) to grow its membership and provided a range of training opportunities. Training topics included Safeguarding and Child Protection, Neurodiversity, and Effective Youth Engagement/Youth Vaping. Meetings were well attended with an average of 16 at each. Alongside this staff prepared a monthly e-newsletter which was distribute to the 154 members of the NCYSN network. 	<p>The value of this network is evidenced by good meeting attendance and high engagement with the newsletter.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated training opportunities for Youth Council members, including Te Tiriti Training, Festival for the Future Conference, Future of Transport Workshop, Aspiring Leaders Forum, Environmental Action workshop, and accessibility training. 	<p>Youth Council members have gained a range of skills and experiences that have enhanced the collective capability of the group, as well as developing the leadership capability of its individual members.</p>



North Canterbury Youth Services Network meeting

Arts

- Collaborated with local art trusts to introduce new streamlined processes and efficiencies to help manage the public art collection and acquisition of public art sculptures for the district.



Waimakariri Public Arts Trust Trustees with "Salmon Fishing" in Kaiapoi

Local Arts Trusts have improved efficiency and sustainability with less project management and administrative burden imposed on volunteers.

What did we do?

Directly support key organisations to increase their membership and sustainability.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<p>Provided direct advice and assistance with funding, strategic planning, governance, employment processes, people management, event management and promotion to some of our key community organisations and groups that serve local residents, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Development Opportunities Trust (YDOT) ahead of a community adventure race. • Community Patrol Rangiora, with guidance on running meetings. • North Canterbury Indian Cultural Community, providing advice on whether to Incorporate or remain an informal group. • Governance support and advice to North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support. • Charitable status and funding advice for Kaiapoi Menz Shed. • Waimakariri Public Arts Trust, with advice and support around governance and process. • Food Secure North Canterbury partners, with broad advice. 	<p>Seven local community groups have increased their capacity to deliver outcomes through supported strategic planning, improved governance practice and successful funding requests.</p> <p>Food Secure North Canterbury is in a strong position to provide quality, sustainable food systems for residents with limited financial resources.</p> <div data-bbox="861 1254 1396 1657" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="965 1635 1308 1702" data-label="Caption"> <p><i>Community Patrols at the Volunteer Expo</i></p> </div>
<p>Recruited seven new Youth Council members and four new WaiYouth Youth Action Group members.</p>	<p>Waimakariri Youth Council and Youth Action Groups have 'across-district' representation, so that a broader cohort of young people have their voices heard and are equipped to make a difference across the district's communities.</p>

PRIORITY

Support and/or facilitate the acquisition of funding for community initiatives

What did we do?

Supported or prepared funding applications for nine groups or organisations.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
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- Supported community groups and organisations with the preparation of funding plans for their sustainable operation.
- Facilitated links with funding advisors from key funding organisations.
- Provided letters of endorsement and advice on applications to support the acquisition of funding for a range of community groups and organisations.

Endorsed or facilitated successful funding applications to support:

- Food Secure North Canterbury
- Youth related activities
- Waimakariri Access Group – Inclusive Sports Festival
- Social Services Waimakariri
- Hope Community Trust
- North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support
- Waimakariri Bike Project
- Oxford Community Trust
- Citizens Advice Bureau North Canterbury
- Big Brothers Big Sisters North Canterbury
- Oxford Arts Trust
- Global Locals of Waimakariri.

Funding acquired by our community partners has meant that Waimakariri residents have access to a wide range of education, entertainment, health, financial support and recreational opportunities.



Big Brothers Big Sisters at the Volunteer Expo.



Inclusive Sports Festival



Waimakariri Bike Project

PRIORITY

Facilitate groups and individuals to have their voice heard in local consultation

What did we do?

Held community stakeholder forums to inform planning for key community issues.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<p>Welcoming Communities Plan Engagement</p> <p>Ran two focus groups and arranged individual sector meetings to learn more about the experiences of newcomers to the district.</p>	<p>Focus group and sector engagement contributed to the development of the Welcoming Communities Stocktake report that has informed the draft plan.</p>
<p>Civil Defence</p> <p>Facilitated a Civil-Defence-led workshop for social and health sector partners, covering scenarios related to a rupture of the Hikurangi Subjunction Faultline.</p>	<p>Local social and health services are aware of the impact of a Hikurangi Subjunction Fault rupture, and implications for service provision and the wider community.</p>

What did we do?

Promoted and encouraged involvement in community consultations.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked with schools, community groups, the Youth Action Plan Advisory Group and relevant staff to conduct the Youth Action Plan early engagement. This gathered input on a range of topics from 1,112 young people (representing 11.63% of the youth population across the district). Topics included mental health, sport and recreation, natural environment and more. 	<p>A strong youth voice was applied to informing priorities for the Waimakariri Youth Action Plan.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported the Waimakariri Access Group to have input into local Council projects such as older persons housing, playground design and mobility park placement. Supported the Waimakariri Age-friendly Advisory Group to gather feedback from local older persons groups in Waimakariri, to inform planning and the Group's annual report to Council's Community and Recreation Committee. 	<p>The views, needs, experience and ideas of a diverse variety of residents are incorporated into planning for local and regional places, spaces and services.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formed the Welcoming Waimakariri Working Group (WWWG) to provide a community lens to the development of the Welcoming Waimakariri Plan. The group reflects the different sectors identified in conducting the stocktake, as well as individuals that were connected through the relationships established in the Community Team. 	<p>Those most impacted have informed priorities for a Welcoming Waimakariri District.</p>

Empowering people and organisations

PRIORITY

Facilitate an inclusive District, where people are empowered to achieve their aspirations

What did we do?

Supported initiatives that foster growth and development for young people.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<p>Youth Opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported Youth Council to assist Mayor Dan Gordon in the continuation of the Youth Service Award for the third year, as well as the promotion of the award. Supported the promotion and administration of the Waimakariri Youth Grant, which resources young people to deliver activities that can benefit local youth. 	<p>Young people were shown to be valued members of the community, and the awards showcase their volunteering efforts and successes.</p> <p>This year's Youth Grant recipient coordinated and delivered professional-level leadership mentoring and development workshops to 40 local emerging leaders, chosen by our four local high schools. Attendees heard the wisdom and advice of local community and business leaders.</p>
<p>Youth in the Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In response to local opportunities identified at Youth Council's Environmental Action Workshop, staff supported Youth Council to increase their involvement in environmentally focused volunteering, including two river clean ups on the Ashley Rakahuri River. 65 community members and six organisations were involved. The river clean-ups were planned and delivered in partnership with the Ashley-Rakahuri Rivercare Group, Environment Canterbury, Keep Rangiora Beautiful, local 4WD Club, Eco Educate, and Rangiora Tramping Club. The event was a great example of youth-led, intergenerational collaboration. 	<p>Local young people have been linked into opportunities to show leadership in caring for local environments.</p> <p>Just under a tonne of rubbish was removed from a significant section of riverbed.</p>  <p><i>Ashley Rakahuri River clean-up</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Council members also collaborated with Silverstream Reserve on a planting day, and hosted an Environmental Art Competition. 	<p>Local young people have contributed to the greening of the Waimakariri District.</p>
<p>Youth and Recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported Youth Council to continue the Dudley Park Project. A High School Music Night was hosted on the new 'activation platform', which saw roughly 80 attendees. Members also worked with Menz Shed Rangiora to put in a new wheelchair accessible picnic table. 	<p>Local young people have been given more sense of ownership over their projects.</p>

- Supported WaiYouth to continually think objectively about their events and how they operate. This year WaiYouth has delivered a Summer Social event and youth cooking class.

Young leaders were empowered to apply an informed, planned approach to their initiatives. They were able to deliver a mix of life skill learning opportunities and social events that build a more connected youth community.

Festival for the Future

Two of our Youth Councillors attended this national youth leadership hui in Wellington. Learnings have been applied to Youth Council and WaiYouth team development.

Over the years that we have sent local young people to Festival for the Future, we have seen the development of more mature leadership in Youth Council and WaiYouth, as well as some resulting youth-led activities. E.g. Leadership Breakfasts.

What did we do?

Supported initiatives that facilitate a more accessible and inclusive District.

How well did we do it?

Is anyone better off?

Inclusive Sports Festival

Supported a young member of the Waimakariri Access Group and Waimakariri Youth Council to organise and deliver an 'Inclusive Sports Festival', funded and supported by the Halberg Foundation and North Canterbury Sport and Recreation Trust. Six sport providers volunteered their time for the event.

460 participants, and 20 carers and parents enjoyed this inaugural event for North Canterbury, which provided the opportunity for people with disabilities to try multiple sports at one time.

Disability Training Day

Supported the Waimakariri Access Group annual disability training day. This invites staff and elected members to 'walk a mile' in the shoes of a person in a wheelchair, on a walker, mobility scooter or with a visual impairment. Participants also engaged with the Rangiora High School Lighthouse Programme, which supports our local tamariki with intellectual disabilities to have access to education.

Participants cite the disability training day as 'an eye-opening experience' and 'useful for all council departments'. It guides Council planning, with accessibility more likely to be a consideration, ensuring that everyone can access local places and spaces.



Canterbury Rollers wheelchair basketball

Empowering people and organisations

Race Unity Project

- Supported the Baha'i Community with a community-led Race Unity Poster Competition with this year's theme being, 'Small Steps Together for Unity.' The competition involved tamariki aged 5-16 years. 10 schools and individuals submitted a total of 403 entries. The intent is to start a conversation about the growing ethnic diversity in the Waimakariri District and learn about cultural differences. This generated good interest in local media. Some artwork was subsequently displayed in local spaces and places to promote greater awareness to the wider public.
- This year, there was an increase in support from business who donated prizes or food for the prizegiving afternoon tea, or who provided prizes at a discounted price. The Tuahiwi kura kapa haka group performed at the prizegiving ceremony where prizes were presented by the mayor.

The remarkable number of entries in the Race Unity Poster Competition highlighted the level of interest in supporting racial unity. The subject matter and quality of entries will have raised awareness among those who viewed the displays.

What did we do?

Empowered local ethnic migrants with skills and knowledge to help them gain employment and access local services and supports.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<p>English Language Classes</p> <p>English Language Classes were delivered in Rangiora covering a range of abilities including Beginners and Intermediate levels. These are free to adults with English as a second language and new students are welcome to start at any time throughout the year.</p> <p>49 students from 16 nationalities attended the classes, Nationalities included Peru, Uzbekistan, Czech Republic, Turkey, Chile, Vietnam, Germany, Japan, Russia, the Philippines, France, Thailand, China, Indian, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia.</p> <p>Enrolment was consistent throughout the year, with most attending intermediate level classes and a few teenage international students involved this year.</p>	<p>Students can connect and practice their English in a relaxed setting where social connections and friendships are made. As students gain confidence they can converse more easily in day-to-day life.</p> <p>The classes help remove barriers to securing employment, attaining a driver licence, and social interaction.</p> <p>Students have been able to volunteer in organisations and participate in community groups because of their increased confidence.</p> <p>Ethnic migrants gain the skills and grammar to attain the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) qualification necessary to access mainstream education and employment opportunities.</p> <p>Through the teacher's relationship with Citizens Advice Bureau English language class students were supported with writing CVs that are relevant to NZ employers.</p>
<p>Migrant Driver Mentoring Programme</p> <p>The Migrant Driver Mentor Programme continued to help ethnically diverse people practise, to prepare to sit their restricted licence. The programme struggles to achieve the desired number of mentors, despite regular advertising. Following feedback from potential mentors, a review of mentor requirements is necessary to make this volunteering opportunity more appealing.</p>	<p>The driver programme is a means to overcome barriers that migrants face with gaining driving practise and experience. Attaining a drivers licence can help migrants secure employment by providing independence with transport.</p>

What did we do?

Supported initiatives that create employment and work-readiness opportunity for local youth.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<p>North Canterbury Youth Futures (NCYF)</p> <p>NCYF is a collaboration of local agencies whose collective purpose is to promote and facilitate opportunities for young people in their transition into employment, education and/or training.</p> <p>The key project this year was the North Canterbury Youth Futures Employment Expo. This was complemented by a comprehensive social media campaign to engage local youth in considering local employment pathways.</p>	<p>Local young people have a better understanding of career paths and local options and spoke favourably of the event, with over 1200 local young people and their families linked into information from 60 education, employment, and training pathways.</p> <p><i>“Thanks for hosting this valuable event”</i></p> <p><i>“It was really fun and informative”</i></p> <p>90% of those who filled out the evaluation survey ranked the worthwhile, or very worthwhile. 63% said they would attend next year, with another 31% saying they might.</p>
<p>Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ)</p> <p>The MTFJ programme is externally funded through partnership between Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ). Its vision is to have all 16 to 24-year-olds engaged in employment or education within their local communities.</p> <p>The aim is to provide a holistic service tailored to the needs of each young job seeker. Activities include training and support in work readiness, volunteering opportunities, driving licences, pastoral care and financial support to local young people and the employers who have given them opportunities.</p> <p>To raise the profile of the programme, staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> participated in the North Canterbury Youth Futures Expo, promoting what MTFJ had to offer the local youth in the community. maintained regular attendance at local community forums. exhibited at Oxford A&P Show to raise the profile of the programme to both potential clients and local employers. Regularly attended the various North Canterbury Business Networkers groups’ weekly meetings. 	<p>In the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 we were contracted to deliver 14 full-time employment outcomes. We exceed this target and placed 29 people into full-time, permanent roles, and a further 20 into seasonal, part-time or casual employment.</p> <p>11 local young people acquired their Learner’s License and are on their way to addressing a key barrier to employment—access to transport.</p> <p>MSD funding has now been committed out to 30 June 2026, and we look to supporting many more young people in our community into full-time employment.</p> <p>Testimonials</p> <p><i>“I really enjoyed working with MTFJ. They are very passionate about the role, and you could tell how much they invested in the youth that they worked with.”</i></p> <p>Lee-Anne Ellis Manager, Aroundtuit North Canterbury</p> <p><i>“I really do want to thank you for the opportunity and everything you have done for me. I really appreciate getting the interview for the council job and for contacting Dress for Success so I could be given clothes for the interview and for starting work. I loved getting help from you guys. Getting my full licence was a great reward for me so I am very happy and hope other people will enjoy your help.”</i></p> <p>M (Client)</p>

PRIORITY

Empower people to recover and develop resilience to disasters

What did we do?

Civil Defence 'Welfare' response and recovery planning for local and national events.

How well did we do it?

Provided the Mobile Community Hub 38 times to be used by community groups to foster connection and distribute information to vulnerable residents.



Mobile Community Hub

Staff contributed to a "Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery for Older People" best practice review based on the Community Team's experiences with flooding, community groups and older persons.

Staff engaged in three regional workshops that focussed on the welfare-related aspects of AF8 (Alpine Fault) disaster recovery – one in Kaikoura, focussing on North Canterbury and one in Christchurch, focussing on the wider Canterbury Region.

As above, facilitated a Civil-Defence-led workshop for social and health sector partners, covering scenarios related to a rupture of the Hikurangi Subjunction Faultline.

Mobile Community Hub: Funding was secured for a community outreach and support vehicle. This is another resource that will really enable our community to respond to situations that arise by taking people and information to the area of need.

Is anyone better off?

Local residents impacted by emergency events are well supported and given the Community Team's breadth of contacts, linked with appropriate supports and services.

People are empowered to provide initial support for their neighbours in times of emergencies.

People can be directly supported 'in place' in times of crisis.

The specific needs of older residents; particularly those with disabilities, are included in disaster response and recovery planning.

Collective consideration has been given to recovery scenarios for population and service provision capacity, in the event of an Alpine Fault rupture.

Local social and health services are aware of the impact of a Hikurangi Subjunction Fault rupture and implications for service provision and the wider community.

People can be directly supported 'in place' in times of crisis.

Looking Forward

This is the final Year in Review Report on results for the 2015–2025 Waimakariri Community Development Strategy. A highlight for us, this year, has been completion of a review of that strategy, reframing the role that Council plays in facilitating, safer, more connected, inclusive and empowered communities across the Waimakariri District.

As I write this, I am reflecting on how much has changed in the 10 years spanning the life of the previous strategy. At the time, our district was still in recovery from the Canterbury earthquakes. The demographics of our communities were changing, alongside rapid population growth—a result of people, often reluctantly, refugeeing out of red zoned Christchurch communities; and of the influx of workers supporting the rebuild. Alongside this, people were still impacted by the loss of homes and livelihoods and/or gaps in our town centres as unsafe buildings came down. The loss of community facilities meant that people were at risk of losing their regular opportunities to connect with others, through recreation, and fellowship. Consequently the 2015–2025 Strategy centred on four key objectives:

- Increasing provision of neighbourhood and wider community events and activities to enable people to connect.
- Increasing the profile, capacity and capability of community groups and clubs to be more sustainable.
- Improving the provision of easily accessible community information.
- Enhancing and encouraging better use of our Council places and place.

These objectives are now largely achieved.

Emerging priorities in recent years relate to our ageing population, increasing ethnic diversity and the impact of Covid 19 on the financial, mental and social wellbeing of our local population. New opportunities have presented, with a strategic approach applied to:

- Ensuring that local places, spaces, services and information are accessible and inclusive.
- Developing an Age-friendly district.

- Youth development.
- Addressing unemployment, particularly related to young people.
- Ensuring that we have a strong creative sector that can effectively contribute to the local economy.
- Supporting the social and health sectors to ensure adequate and appropriately skilled service provision.
- Establishing a framework for a Waimakariri District that welcomes, celebrates and empowers newcomers; particularly those from cultures outside of New Zealand.
- Ensuring that the community can easily and confidentially access information about local activities, supports and services.

The updated document Waimakariri Community Development Strategy 2025–2035, *Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri*, frames community-led activity to address these and other issues and opportunities, in line with a vision for communities that are safe, caring, inclusive and empower all to thrive. Visit: waimakariri.govt.nz/community-and-recreation/living-in-waimakariri/community-projects/waimakariri-community-development-strategy to view the 2025–2035 strategy.

We look forward to continuing our partnerships across the various sectors that represent and support local residents, so that, together, we can achieve the objectives of the new document.

Again, thank you for the part that each of you has played in working with us toward safer, more connected, inclusive and empowered communities across the Waimakariri District.

*Nā tō rourou, nā taku rourou ka ora ai te iwi.
With your food basket and my food basket the people will thrive.*

Tessa



Inclusive Sports Festival



'InCommon' poster campaign



Waimakariri Bike Project



Trade sector mental health breakfast



Police presentation at Stronger Communities conference

Acknowledgements

Without the support of the many individuals, businesses and organisations that have generously given their skills, talents, time and resources, none of the initiatives detailed in this report would have been possible. We are most grateful to be working with such a passionate and motivated community.

We would particularly like to acknowledge our principle funders, who not only provided financial resourcing for our work, but also lent their advice and expertise as needed:

- Department of Internal Affairs, Community Matters, Office of Ethnic Communities and COGS

- Rātā Foundation
- Ministry of Social Development, including Office for Seniors
- Creative New Zealand
- Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment
- Youthtown
- Aotearoa Gaming Trust.

...and, of course, the many business partners detailed in this report, who provided financial and in-kind support to help make so many community-conceived initiatives happen.



STOP and Taima Korero – Violence Free North Canterbury event



Older Persons Expo



Ashley Rakahuri River clean-up



Mayors Taskforce for Jobs – driving simulator in Oxford



Volunteer Expo



Inclusive Sports Festival



Waimakariri Youth Council meeting



Mobile Community Hub



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