
Minutes

WAIMAKARIRI YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING

held at Ruataniwha (Kaiapoi Library) at 7pm on **Tuesday, 27th January 2026.**

1. Present

Simone Bisschoff, Zack Lappin, Dylan La Valley, Councillor Jason Goldsworthy, Councillor Nicki Mealings, Hannah Wells, Matilda Parish, Emily Belton, Cherry Burgess, Tessa Sturley

2. Icebreaker

Emily led a short activity around connection

3. Opening Karakia

Simone

4. Apologies

- Mayor Dan Gordon (tentative)
- Esha May McHugh

5. Introductions and Overview of Facilitation Support for the Year

- 4.1. Emily introduced Cherry Burgess, who will cover Youth Council and WaiYouth Facilitation, working 20 hours per week out of the Community Team office in Rangiora.
- 4.2. Cherry gave an overview of her experience, working with youth out of Comcol in Rangiora. She expressed that she is very much looking forward to working with Youth Council, getting to know members and supporting them in achieving their collective aspirations for the coming year
- 4.3. Emily will focus on the more strategic and administrative aspects of Youth Development, with input into Youth Council meetings and engagement, as necessary, as part of that focus.

6. Whakatauki

Simone

"Haeie whakamua hoki whakamuri. Moving forward, looking back."

A reminder to grow and move forward, taking lessons from the past

7. Approval of Minutes

Carried over due to lack of quorum. However Zac suggested an amendment with the proper title for Halberg Trust

8. Matters arising

Zac to follow up with Community Boards re. Food vendor list for future reference.

9. Reports for Discussion

Councillors Nick Mealings and Jason Goldsworthy reported on Annual Plan budget deliberations. Complementary to staff for their work on keeping rates burden within expectations. – “A good result.”

10. Dudley Park Project (*Brief recap of 2025 and projects planned for 2026*)

Carried Over

11. Environmental Project (*Brief recap of 2025 and projects planned for 2026*)

Carried Over

12. WaiYouth (*Brief recap of 2025 and projects planned for 2026*)

Carried Over

13. The Year that Was and Looking Ahead

The group workshopped what they had enjoyed in the previous year and potential initiatives and/or ways of working for the coming year.

13.1. Highlights - 2025

- Input into YAP review
- Environment
- Planting days
- River Clean ups
- Good progress on Dudley Park project. – excited to see it all come together
- Youth week events -
- Music Nights
- Bocha Securing getting the only fixed court in the Country
- Anzac Day parade
- Positive work toward inclusion, with
- Movie Nights
- “Front Page” news stories

13.2. Looking toward 2026

- More regional collaboration, including Youth Voice Canterbury
Continuation of collaboration with community
- Movie nights
- Dudley Music Nights
- Increased profile
- Sunrise yoga in Dudley

- Run Club – as leader to set something up (Dudley Dashers)
- More River Clean ups
- Looking forward to playing a role in implementing the YAP, once it is adopted by Council. – With a Youth Action Plan that directly aligns with the Youth Action Plan

14. Youth Action Plan

Hannah gave an overview of yesterday's Youth Action Plan Meeting. Lexie Mealings gave an overview of the Draft Plan, which is intended to be released for community consultation from February 18th to March 18th. Council's Communications staff have been gathering new photo images and reels to promote consultation.

15. Sport Canterbury Fund

Hannah highlighted that Sport Canterbury looking at establishing a new sports panel, which will have a sports-related fund. Advisory group being established. Both Hannah and Zack have expressed interest in involvement. Contact is Grace Ward from Sport Canterbury. – Contact Cherry for further details.

ACTION: Cherry to circulate information

16. WYC Member Report

Carried over

17. General Business:

- 17.1. Zac representing Youth Council in national Halberg Trust Hui
- 17.2. Refresh of WYC Values and Expectations doc – Group exercise highlighting the Code of Conduct and Values and that this will be a regular reminder at meetings
- 17.3. Suggestions for Bi-monthly presentations/ Training and upskilling opportunities:
 - 'Right to Vote' via Youth Voice Canterbury. Potentially Youth Council could act as ambassadors to encourage youth voting
 - Civil Defence are to give a presentation at a Youth Council meeting
 - Training Day to be set. – Likely April School Holidays
 - Events Training
 - ECan Youth Audits
 - "How to Network" / Linked in 101
- 17.4. Recruitment campaign

Recruitment campaign will kick off next week and run through until the first of March. Recruitment pack and information about enrolling will be on Council website. There are six positions available. Looking for district-wide representation. Will be proportionately allocated. Communication and Engagement Plan is being developed. Zack suggested an opportunity to fill gaps in district representation and demographic representation.

Suggestions to reach out to wider cohort. Suggestions included Community Facebook page and digital. Suggestion of a Public Youth Council Meeting as happened last February.

ACTION: Emily and Cherry to send information through to Co-Chairs

17.5. Anything else?

Hannah suggested increased push for Youth Council social media presence this year.

ACTION – Tessa to discuss with Cherry getting Council's Communications and engagement Team representative to work with Youth Council on a communications calendar

18. Closing Karakia

Meeting Closed at 8.15pm, with a photo of the group

Next meeting to be held at 7pm on Tuesday 24 February in the Rakahuri Rooms (Committee Rooms) at Waimakariri District Council, 215 High St, Rangiora