

# CHRISTCHURCH YOUTH COUNCIL: 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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## Co-chairperson's Report

*Kendra Burgess-Naude and Tei Driver*

In 2017, we have carried on the exponential growth CYC has gone through since the successful incorporation in 2014. This year challenged CYC to explore new ways to engage young people, work with decision makers and support the development of youth voice in our city. Each challenge was an opportunity for us to flourish and explore what it means to a youth-led organisation. The commitment of both executive and general members to our kaupapa was exemplified in the projects, events and initiatives we have hosted this year. The privilege of being leaders of CYC as it reaches new milestones cannot be understated. It is a joy to see the impact young people can have in the city. The passion every member has is infectious and we can see the influence it has had in Christchurch as we work to be the most youth friendly city in the world.

Like the years before, this report will highlight some of the fantastic things that CYC has been though but none of it would be most possible without our key supporter. Kate Burgess, our employee joined CYC in August 2016 and has been a backbone in every operation since. Working with young people can be challenging as we have times when capacity is limited it all feels like it is too much, but Kate has taken everything in her stride and supports every member to be connected. The support Kate provides is enhanced by the work of our advisory group members; Hannah Dunlop, Stacey Holborough, Penny Prescott, Alice Ridley, Kaitlyn White and the new addition Hamish Keown. All these people support CYC including Kate ensuring that we are confident within our organisation. The knowledge, care and advice these people have shared with us in times of trial or joy cannot be explained. We continue to advocate for youth voice in our city because of and thanks to all the people listed in the report - funders, youth organisations, friends, colleagues, youth activators and mentors have empowered us to be involved. Youth participation is so important in shaping the future of a place and Christchurch has a strong history of providing such an opportunity that we are so grateful to be a part of us individually and an organisation.

### CYC Highlights

#### **Events:**

**Slice of Youth** continued in 2017. The slice of youth series was back in 2017 with topics Motivated Youth, Embracing Cultural Diversity and a collaboration with Bunce called Slice of Youth - Wellbeing. This series was a highlight in 2016, 2017 and we are happy to say it will be back in 2018 with new ideas.

**Connecting before Electing** was held in August. It was an event focused on the New Zealand General Election 2017. Representatives from different political parties attended to give an

introduction of the party and polices for new voters to get more information, we then held a panel session addressed questions from young people about youth issues and topics.

### **Projects:**

**Youth Community Voices** is an ongoing project. Following the success of the Spreydon-Cashmere Youth Community Board this project was created. The idea is creating more youth community boards in the city under a new brand to promote the voice of young people at the community level. Its development will continue in 2018 with a collaborative project and events in the works.

### **Initiatives:**

In July, we took on the guardianship role of the **Christchurch Youth Action Plan**. Our role is to take the foundation document into its next steps. The input of all young people in the plan's process is valuable and we are equipping ourselves to continue the discussion with young people and decision makers.

A key relationship we have formed in 2017 that is an operational highlight is with GapFiller who partnered with Fletcher Living and Otakaro to develop a youth space in the central city. GapFiller has given us the opportunity to move our office into a portocom on the site, this will be developed into a bookable space for young people which will be managed by us and the Canterbury Youth Workers Collective. This is an exciting development for us and though we have sad to be moving out of Christchurch Community House that has given us so much support as a place to develop, this is not goodbye as we are sure that we will see all your friendly faces around! We are looking forward to the new adventure with close friends at the Canterbury Youth Workers Collective so you will find us in 2018 in the building on the youth space on the corner of Manchester and Lichfield Street.

We have only touched on a couple of the great events, projects or initiatives we hosted, collaborated or attended this year. In this report, you will receive a more in-depth recap on what has happened for CYC in 2017 from many of our exceptional members who we would not function without. Thank you to all young people, stakeholders, decision makers and youth participation groups that have given so much to the city this year we always benefit from working with you and look forward to 2018 when our connections can only get better.

## **Treasury Report**

*Ben O'Connell*

I have thoroughly enjoyed working as the Christchurch Youth Council's 2017 treasurer. Despite only taking up the role mid-year, I am extremely fortunate to have developed so many crucial skills, including accounting and finance skills, as well as those of communication and leadership. For this, I am and will forever be thankful.

2017 has been a successful financial year for CYC. The backing of many generous and supportive groups and organisations has truly helped us fulfil our kaupapa in striving

towards a stronger youth voice for Otautahi youth. It would be near impossible to continue the work we do without them, there aren't enough thanks out there to wholeheartedly express our sincere gratitude towards each and every one of our supporters out there.

We rely on grants from fellow organisations to aid our work, foster and support organisational growth, and to ensure operations run smoothly all year long.

Christchurch City Council	\$5000 - Strengthening Communities; fostering the development of our young people.
Christchurch City Council	\$25,000 – as within our memorandum of understanding's fund, towards our employee's wages. Our employee works daily to conduct administrative work as well as helping support, mentor, and facilitate alongside our young people.
Rata Foundation	\$10,000 – for operations, such as rent for our awesome youth office space, food for our biweekly executive meetings, etc.
The Todd Foundation	\$25,000 - towards our employee's wages.
Ministry of Youth Development Youth Fund	\$7,900 – went towards a series of events throughout the year, including our election event, Slice of Youth speaker series, and city-wide Youth Takeover.

Looking into the future, under the Christchurch City Council's Strengthening Communities, we will be able to employ a second employee under the new Youth Action Plan Coordinator role. The Christchurch City Council also announced a \$50,000 Youth Initiatives Fund, which will greatly impact all Christchurch youth and youth organisations in the upcoming years.

It has been a great honour and privilege to receive such outstanding funding this year, and we are all I'm sure excited for the years ahead. Holding the 2017 position as treasurer has been an absolute blast.



## Staff Report

*Kate Burgess*

This year has been busy and exciting for me, with a large number of new general and executive members, we spent the first few months of the year getting to know one another, and I quickly was blown away by their amazing variety in skills, their ability to work with one another, and their commitment to CYC's kaupapa! It has been such a pleasure to work with all these amazing young people as well as all of the other inspiring people advocating for young people in Christchurch.

I have loved watching the ideas that the young people sketched out at the strategic planning meeting, come into reality throughout the year. A real highlight for me has been seeing the Christchurch Youth Action Plan being developed, it was inspiring seeing the amount of work the young people put into the creation of this document, and how highly they regard other young people's voices. It was also fantastic to see the high level of trust from the Christchurch City Council throughout this process, and I think that we really must recognise the staff members and councillors who allowed this youth-led process to go ahead and continue to be our supporters after the launch of the foundation document.

Another highlight of the year was watching and supporting the young people to develop their skills, I feel like each and every one of them has come out of the end of this year with some development which they should be proud of. I would particularly like to acknowledge the huge amount of leadership Kendra Burgess-Naude has taken on, who tirelessly with the internal chair position to make sure that all of the youth council's employment requirements were upheld.

Reading through this document, I am amazed at the sheer volume of work the young people in the youth council were able to achieve this year, I think that we had a very ambitious year, and the young people should feel really proud about the direction CYC has taken. I would like to thank all of the young people that made this possible, and I am very excited to take on the new challenges that we will no doubt face in 2018!





## Upskilling the Team

*Ben O'Connell*

This year Christchurch Youth Council experienced a significant amount of change. We had a lot of new executive and general members as well as a fairly new employee. This meant that the development of our team was crucial. We started the year with our training weekend, this helped us to bond as a team, while also giving us a general base of knowledge required as youth councillors. We really valued the code of ethics training from the Canterbury Youth Workers Collective, it was really interesting as many of us started in the organisation as friends so understanding the professional element was important. On the second day, we focused on the year plan and goals of the youth council. This was helpful in identifying further training needs and creating objectives for us to achieve. One of the major training needs highlighted was a better understanding of the Christchurch City Council. We felt that as we have an MOU with CCC and often had young people outside the organisation asking us about CCC, we needed to further our own education. Out of this, we worked with Stacey Holborough to identify departments within the city council to meet with our young people and discuss what they do, and share information about ourselves, we used the development fund to provide kai for these meetings.

We identified that many of the trainings that we required were going to be available at the South Island Youth Connect, so encouraged as many of our young people to attend these as possible, instead of duplicating the trainings. 16 of our young people attended this weekend, and were able to pass on their expertise to the other young people in our organisation following this event.

Some of the trainings here included event training, wellbeing training and social media training. Following this the next large focus for CYC was the upcoming general election. CYC identified that the voting system was fairly confusing for many young people, and wanted to run an event to give first time voters more information about the democratic system and a general understanding of the political parties in Aotearoa. This training was beneficial to the young people in CYC, however we thought that it was not necessary to have this as an internal event as many other young people would be interested in the same topic. We recognised the need for some additional team building and development, we asked Rochelle Faimalo (previous coordinator of the Hurunui Youth Council) to facilitate a strengthsfinder coaching session for our young people. We found this really valuable in terms of identifying our strengths and potential weaknesses as well as increasing our awareness of how each other likes to work, what one another's strengths were, and how the way we work might impact others in our team.

## Induction Weekend

*Nick Smith*

The year began with a bang with our two-day induction weekend! Designed to introduce new members to CYC, it was certainly an eye-opening experience for some of us as to the diversity of great things CYC is involved with. The weekend comprised of a number of different workshops, some yummy homemade pizza for lunch and a lot of strategic planning for the year ahead. The Pacific Youth Leadership and Transformation Council (PYLAT) facilitated a great workshop on diversity and engaging Pasifika youth, including some challenging games that got us thinking. The code of ethics training we undertook made us look



at some of the things we do in a new light, and highlighted potential issues that could arise and how best to deal with them. We also had the young people who had attended Bounce's noho marae training lead in weaving some harakeke flowers, this was a chance for some of us to pass on our knowledge, and chill and learn more about each other.

Our strategic planning for the year went well, and many ideas came from it. Plans were formed to make a new focus group, for several events we wanted to run throughout the year and to increase our opportunities to make our voices heard with decision makers. Looking back now it's great to see how much of this we managed to achieve throughout the year. Thanks to all who were involved with planning the day, and in particular the great speakers and groups we had come in to give us their wisdom.

## South Island Youth Connect

*Ben O'Connell*

Youth Voice Canterbury's 'South Island Youth Connect', as the name suggests, encouraged youth networks and organisations from the South Island to come together and participate in a diverse range of engaging trainings and activities. The Christchurch Youth Council was fortunate enough to take part.

The first day had a mix of some icebreakers, which brought out the competitive sides in us all, and a whole lot of interesting trainings and workshops. One of the many highlights of the first day was a





flax weaving task, which introduced themes of multiculturalism and maintaining a “never give up” attitude that constantly popped up in all the other activities we would do. It’s these two concepts that really summed up what was meant by the event’s slogan, #Activate.

The second day had lots of events running at once, in a timetable format. I opted to attend a social media talk which I found incredible. Personally, so much of my time is spent online; this talk has already led me to brush up my social media image, better apply my current skills to a youth context, and overall increase my skill set when it comes to running organisational social media. I also attended an events workshop, and a talk run by Bounce; a youth wellbeing organisation in Christchurch. I would mention the fact that the keen young people of Hurunui Youth Council woke us all up before seven to do an exercise class but the action of just typing this is already bringing back the bad memories. In all honesty though, it was probably for the better since the food was fantastic.

Another highlight for sure was a presentation by the New Zealand National Refugee Youth Council. Firstly, their talk really hit home the underlying points that I took from the event that I mentioned earlier. Secondly, they’re some amazing people! Young people come from all walks of life and no voice should be unheard. Be grateful, respectful, and kind. I could go on, but I’ll leave it at that for lack of word count! Finally, search them up, like their social media accounts! (Their social media game was on point, so I must give them due credit here!)

Thanks to Youth Voice Canterbury, the MC’s, speakers, coordinators, leaders, Kaiapoi’s Blue Skies Youth Camp where the event was held, and all the other youth participation groups that made the event as worth it as it was! #Activate #SIYC17 #CaramelSpace

## **StrengthsFinder**

*Tei Driver*

We wanted to undertake strengthsfinder training as a team for a number of reasons. We felt everyone gets along better when everyone knows their own strengths and the strengths of their teammates. All teams have a better chance of success if their members can increase their engagement or buy-in. If team members are positioned in their greatest area of strength, they will feel more empowered because they have a greater chance of success. We had 22 members of our team undertake the test to find out our top 5 strengths, we then had an amazing external supervisor, Rochelle Faimalo come in to facilitate a group training and team building session for the team. We found the strengthsfinder coaching incredibly valuable to the group, it was an awesome way to highlight everyone's strengths and it made all of us feel more confident about our abilities and what we can bring to the organisation. Personally, it was the best thing I have ever done to find out about myself, I love my strengths and they mean a lot to me! I can see myself using them to my advantage in my academic life, in CYC and in my personal life! As an organisation we compared the strengths of the group, and identified where we are really strong and where we may have gaps. It was really interesting insight into how we work, and how we work together, as well as just a really fun evening bringing the team closer together. This training also opened our eyes to how we can be more strategic when recruiting for Executive and General Members,

we used this training to identify the young people that are needed to make up a well-rounded executive team.

## Wellbeing Symposium

*Kendall Lattin*

In September Ashni and I were really lucky to attend the Co-design for Youth Wellbeing Symposium in Wellington, representing CYC (thanks to YVC and the Tindall Foundation for the opportunity!). The day was all about showcasing a range of perspectives on youth wellbeing, and brought together a variety of people from different sectors from all around the country. There were performances, presentations, and workshops throughout the day, not to mention great food, people, discussions and energy. Some of the “bus stops” and “action stations” included topics like storytelling, youth engagement and participation, and the ethics of co-design. There were also talks by lots of inspiring start-ups in NZ aiming to make a difference about things like youth voice and youth mental health. It was a great experience to connect with so many people passionate about youth wellbeing, and we had an incredible day! Both Ashni and I came away with a lot of new knowledge about co-designing for the wellbeing of our youth, and tons of energy, ideas and inspiration to continue to make our communities better spaces for young people.

## Events

### Youth Takeover

*Azaria Howell*

On February 25th, the Christchurch Youth Council were ready to take over Christchurch. Metaphorically, of course- we have an MOU with the city council, so we weren't trying to dethrone them!

We conducted interviews with young people in our city from various parts of our city to make sure youth voices were being heard. We started off the day bright and early at the New Brighton market. We set up a game and handed out lollies to catch the attention of youth. Sure enough, young people were out and about and eager to provide us feedback on what living in Christchurch is like for young people, and what they want changed. We



provided spot prizes for young people who we engaged with. Unfortunately, we couldn't spend all day soaking in the sunshine of New Brighton beach, so we headed to our next spot to gain a range of new opinions. We took our CYC sports car (a van we hired out) to our next location which was the Fuse youth hub in Sumner. We were distracted by the vintage pinball machine for a while, but after a few minutes of that, we headed out to ask young people what they thought of our city.



I found the "describe Christchurch in one word" question to be the most interesting of all. Youth from Sumner said our city was recovering, artsy, unique, and resilient, to name a few. After asking Sumner their opinion and having a few too many slices of pizza, we headed down to the YMCA to ask young people in the central city what they want to change in the city. The youth takeover was on the same day as the Electric Avenue Music Festival, so the central city was booming with people eager to provide their feedback to us. The music combined with young people having a good time in the city gave us great vibes for the rest of the day. Youth in the central city told us that we should put on more youth focused events, and help young people talk to decision makers like MPs and city council members. We decided to head to the Washington Way skate park after the music from the concert got a little too loud. Young people there were really keen to give their opinions on the city, and we found that there was a range of ages at the skate park. One person said that they wanted city council to build an indoor skate park so they could still do what they love on rainy days. We gave away a skate shop voucher as a prize and found that there was a surprisingly large amount of young people at the skate park, even though the weather turned grey. We made our last stop at the Margaret Mahy Playground in the evening after an eventful day of connecting with young people, and getting 183 responses to our surveys in total. A sausage sizzle on the barbeques saw us to the end of the youth takeover, which was a definite success. We chatted some more to young people hanging out there, who put better public transport as a priority in our city. The sun went down eventually, and we called it a day. The youth takeover was a great way for us to get a diverse range of opinions from young people in our city!

## Slice of Youth

*Alice Bevin*

Slice of Youth (SOY) was an initiative from last year that we continued to run during the first half of 2017. SOY was created by both Executive and General members of CYC who were motivated to create an event which increased youth engagement and allowed them to be exposed to many different ideas and projects in Christchurch. The official SOY committee for 2017 was; Alice Bevin, Aiyana Manson-King, Ashni Kumar, Ben O'Connell, Dom Wilson, Tei

Driver, Jayden Roper, Jess McLennan, Kendall Lattin, Kendra Burgess-Naude, Sasindu Anjula, Sophie Harrison, and Vinura Abeysekera.

SOY was inspired by the Ministry of Awesome weekly event, Coffee and Jam. Coffee and Jam is a fantastic and very popular initiative but as it is run during school hours, youth who were still at school were not able to attend. With the support of the Ministry of Awesome and the amazing Erica from the Ministry of Awesome (who was extremely helpful), we were able to continue running Slice of Youth this year as an event aimed at 12-24 year olds.

We have been running SOY with a very similar structure to Coffee and Jam. Each of our three events has included a small networking session with food at the beginning, two or three speakers/performers, and a shout-out session (this is when people get 20 seconds to stand up and offer their services/let people know if there is something to get involved in). All our events have been held on the fantastic and accessible EPIC Innovation campus.

For our first Slice of Youth event this year, we ran the event with the theme of 'Motivated Youth' - focusing on some of the many amazing youth of Christchurch who volunteer with various organisations. We had

two fantastic speakers; Josiah Tualamali'i from PYLAT and Chelsea Yeoman from World Vision. The second Slice of Youth event was run with the theme of Cultural Diversity and we had Revathi Performing Arts perform a South Indian dance, as well as Tane Keepa from Whakamau Bicultural Services come and Andrea Brewster from Trade Aid as our speakers. Slice of Youth 3.0

was slightly different from our first two events as we ran this event in conjunction with the Red Cross youth organisation Bounce. The event focused on Wellbeing and we had two speakers- Isabela Garbett from Bounce and Emily Arps from All Right? In all three of our events we have had a number of Shout-Outs, with people from various organisations across Christchurch coming to promote their projects and share their ideas.

Slice of Youth this year has been a very positive experience! Each of our three events has gone very well, with 30 to 40 people attending each one. We have had some great feedback on SOY and many people have been keen to attend other Slice of Youth events. Next year we are hoping to develop SOY and continue running it. For a relatively new and small event, SOY has been successful in reaching out to the youth of Christchurch on a wide range of topics. The organisation of each Slice of Youth event has also been relatively stress-free. Jobs such as catering, venue organisation, and creating the run sheet have been delegated





to various members of the organising committee. We have had some great catering, with pizza, sushi and fresh fruit being main features! Slice of Youth has been a great event for CYC to have run this year and we are looking forward to continuing to run this event next year!

## Connecting Before Electing

*Sarah Cameron*

On the 10<sup>th</sup> July, this year we held an event to equip new voters (and anyone else interested) with the information they need around the upcoming 2017 General Election. We had two amazing MC's for this event, our own Sophie Harrison as well as PYLAT's Bhavna Prasad, both of whom worked hard to ensure a safe environment for young people to meet and discuss their thoughts with



politicians. The first part of the evening was a presentation and discussion around how the voting system in New Zealand works and why it is important for young people to vote. This was a non-partisan presentation from Professor Bronwyn Hayward is the Head of Department of Political Science and International Relations at Canterbury University.

Following this each party will be provided an opportunity for two representatives to speak about their parties' general vision and introduce themselves. We were pleased with the party turn out having; The New Zealand National Party, ACT New Zealand, New Zealand Labour Party, The New Zealand Democratic Party for Social Credit, The Green Party of Aotearoa/New Zealand, Conservative Party of New Zealand and The Opportunities Party (TOP) in attendance (we invited every registered political parties to come along and participate).

Following this we had a series of prepared questions for the candidates to respond to which had been outlined as important by young people in Ōtautahi via an online survey. The topics which were hit on were mental health and youth suicide, the environment and climate change and education – focusing on specifically Maori and Pasifika young people. Finally, we opened the floor for questions, and young people got the chance to ask some or all of the candidates their own questions.

We allowed plenty of down time so that young people and political representatives had a chance to mingle and hear what one another had to say, MP Megan Woods said that this was one of the best events in the lead up to the election that she attended which we were incredibly honoured to hear. Following the event, we thanked the candidates for attending, and each of them provided personal contacts and hoped that the young people of Christchurch felt they could reach out to them, this was an impressive response from all six parties. We hope that through this event we gave young people more confidence to learn



about political parties, go into a voting booth and make an educated vote for whoever they deemed the best fit for them.

## Submissions

### Youth Friendly Space Audit

*Emily Hamilton*

The Youth Friendly Audit is designed to help young people consider some important factors for youth friendly space. This year with the support of the Canterbury Youth Workers Collective we were able to facilitate a couple of youth audit events on plans for our city. This allows decision makers to get insight into how young people feel about the plans or a place or space, what they love and what ideas they have to make it more safe, appealing, youth friendly, resourced and accessible.

#### The New Brighton Mall

CYC worked with the Canterbury Youth Workers Collective and Youth Alive Trust to bring a group of young people together to audit the space. We met the young people at Youth Alive Trust in New Brighton, gave them pizza and explained the audit tool and that CCC were interested in their feedback, and intended to return to them in the near future and explain how they had used their feedback in their plan. We broke the group into three teams, each was supported to run the audit process, to return and collate their findings, and then to collate all of these as a group.

We had lots of ideas about how this space could be better used year-round! We thought it would be cool if the mall area was like Re-Start, so more open plan with trailers and stuff. An indie/hipster feel would be cool. Lots of us thought that having more clean drinking fountains available would really help. We'd like to see more toilets with regular cleaning – maybe ExoLoos or something similar that could be locked at 10/10.30pm. We think the empty shops and gravel areas should be filled. We'd love to see a bus lounge, upgraded bus stops and an all-night bus service. It would also be good to have more carparks and ones that allow you to stay for more than 60 minutes. We'd like to see a playground for teenagers and a disability swing. We think that the hot water pools should be developed with consultation from young people.

We need more indoor facilities for winter, and so having places such as a cinema, places with PlayStation, an arcade and an indoor skate park would really help. Having free Wi-Fi in the mall area is important to us, and it'd be great to have some food shops that are open for longer at night. We'd really like to see more lights and for them to be brighter. It'd be cool to have speakers playing music throughout the mall, and for there to be better rubbish management in the form of better bins and having them sorted into recycling/organics. We thought that Thompson's Park could be improved by painting the bowl, adding cameras, upgrading equipment and adding lights. The amphitheatre could be used for a dance-o-mat, Vodafone outdoor gaming, or a basketball hoop with a chain net. We'd also like to see better information about buildings and spaces, informing people about

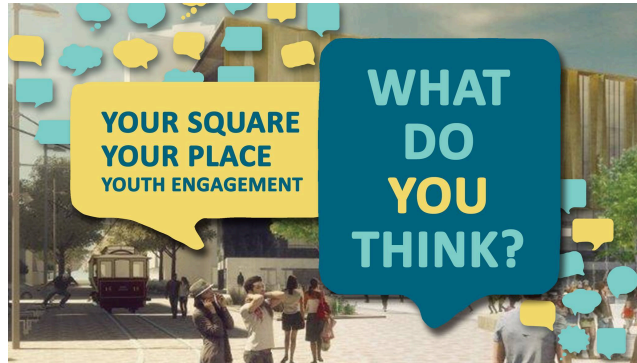
what's happening in that space. In general, we think that new things are exciting but they're not happening fast enough – for New Brighton to be a cool place to hang out there need to be big attractions nearby like Jellie Park, so that young people want to come here.

I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to collate the information and produce a report for the people involved and the Christchurch City Council. The staff members from the council involved in the process gave great feedback about the quality of information and feedback that the young people provided.

Emily Hamilton

### Cathedral Square and Surrounding Area Draft Plans

This year we also reached out to Regenerate Christchurch to strengthen our relationship and ensure that young people were still able to have their say in the rebuild and restoration of our city. We worked with Daisy Lavea-Timo from Regenerate Christchurch with the support of the Canterbury Youth Workers Collective to provide a youth audit event for young people to check out the plans for the area, as well as have an opportunity to ask the experts and then go into the area to enable us better visualise the plans!



This was an awesome experience for the young people involved and Regenerate Christchurch, both the decision makers and the young people gave us feedback that this way of engage with plans, and conducting a youth audit was helpful and valuable. Regenerate Christchurch included our submission in their final engagement document which was published through their networks. We are really interested to stay in the loop with this and ensure that the young people that attended know what happened with their voice, and the feedback loop is closed.

## Christchurch City Council Draft Annual Plan 2017 / 2018

*Aiyana Manson-King*

The Christchurch Youth Council proposed a number of recommendations in relation to the Christchurch City Council Draft Annual Plan 2017 / 2018. The submission was prepared based on the opinions that were expressed at the Korero kia a Ōtautahi - Speaking with Christchurch event, which focused on the annual plan, held and organised by the Christchurch



Youth Council and supported by Christchurch City Council staff members. We were lucky enough to have the Mayor and some of the Councillors attend this event to listen to the young people at the event, as well as provide some context to the discussions. For this submission, we also used our data collected during Youth Takeover Ōtautahi held in February, where we travelled around Christchurch city to hear the views of young people.

The three main sections in which the submission focused on were Transport, Arts and Culture and Sports and Swimming facilities. In each section CYC made recommendations for what we felt should be carried out based on the discussions we had with the young people who attended.



We also spent time at the Korero kia a Ōtautahi - Speaking with Christchurch event discussing the upcoming 2018 long term plan, we identified that there needs to be a greater emphasis on engaging with youth around the long-term plan. The

Christchurch Youth Council recommended that this was considered as soon as possible to ensure that young people understand the importance of the Long-Term Plan, what it means and how they are able to contribute to it.

We believe that it is the responsibility of the Christchurch City Council to ensure that the recommendations we made were considered, and suggested that we support the Council to make these happen.

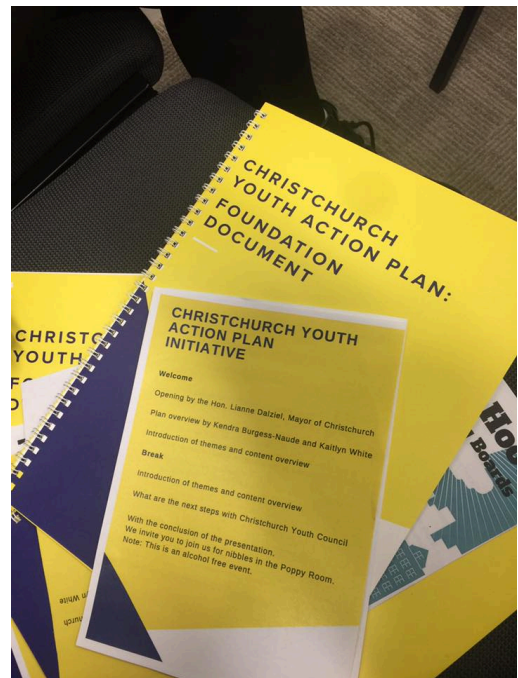


## Initiatives

### Youth Action Plan

*Kendra Burgess-Naude*

The Christchurch Youth Action Plan is an initiative that was created from a conversation between the Christchurch City Council and the Canterbury Youth Workers Collective. The Christchurch City Council elected members were entering a new term of governance and wanted to find out what the young people of the city thought should happen in the future. Key leaders in the city youth participation groups joined together to plan and host a hui in December 2016. At the hui, young people and decision-makers could come together and talk about ideas for future project, events or initiatives that could benefit the city's youth people. All these ideas were collected together in a draft Christchurch Youth Action Plan that had seven sections. The original group of young people working on the plan decided that there should be more young people engaged in the process and the draft plan needed a supported



consultation period to inform the creation of the final document. This decision led to a one month consultation period during April - May 2017 when two young people were employed to contact youth programmes, schools or youth groups to run consultations, the two young people employed to consult visited the young people and ran a workshop using the draft plan seeking feedback on the ideas in the draft and expanding the qualities of the ideas. The initial hui had engaged 60 young people in the creation of the plan and after the consultation period there were 350 young people consulted through workshops or online engagement. The ideas of young people then need to be organised into a final document which happened over the next two months. The process of organising ideas into final

points took time as the importance of retaining the voices of the young people was always in the back of everyone's mind. It was a challenge creating a final document when 350 young people's ideas were informing it. The idea that the final document would be the action plan until someone decide to do the process again was something that did not sit right for those involved so the initiative approach developed. It was decided that the Christchurch Youth Action Plan would not end with the release of the document but that a young participation group would take guardianship of it. The final document released would become an active document to be used in consultation period by young people and decision makers to start conversation. It would be a document used to find start discussion about the future of Christchurch. The role of the guardians in this would be to collaborate with providers and young people in any process that the plan's ideas are used so it is not forgotten. The Christchurch Youth Council were approached with the opportunity and voted as a membership to take the role on. This was a great outcome for those involved in the development phrase to know that this document would live with an organisation and would be used as a tool for engagement in the future of Christchurch. The work of the employed workers for this initiative ended on Thursday the 20th of July when the Christchurch Youth Action Plan: Foundation document was released. This initiative and it foundation document know sit with the Christchurch Youth Council and they work on its next steps.

The hui was documented in a video which can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/YouthVoiceCanterbury/videos/1335267823204474/>

The Christchurch Youth Action Plan can be found here:

<http://www.chchyouthactionplan.co.nz/>

## Youth Space in the CBD

*Sasindu Anjula and Amy Knudson*



Another ongoing project of Christchurch Youth Council (CYC) is the Youth Space development project. CYC is collaborating with Gap Filler and Canterbury Youth Workers Collective (CYWC) to develop a youth Space in CBD. It's a great achievement to be able to have a youth friendly space in CBD. CYC and Christchurch Youth Workers Collective are moving the offices to the new building on the proposed site.



The two of us got the opportunity represent CYC in the project from the beginning. At the beginning, we had weekly meetings with Gap Filler and CYWC to discuss the progress about the project. Since the beginning, CYC ensured the project is youth lead and co-created. During our weekly meeting, we organised a fit-out event for the Youth Space to get feedback from Youth groups in Christchurch other than CYC regarding their opinions and ideas about the project. Regenerate Christchurch facilitated the fit out event. The main objectives of the fit out event were to finalise the wants and needs for the space, co-create a code of conduct document, naming process, develop a booking system, do a site visit and create final design plan combining all the ideas from youth groups. Different youth groups attended the fit out event. For the youth groups that could not able to attend the event, CYC created an online survey to comment on it. The fit out event was a success and got positive feedback from young people.

After the fit out event, we continued our weekly meetings with Gap Filer and CYWC to discuss about purchasing things stated in the final design created by young people.

As well as the indoor bookable youth space, there is also a basketball court, the climbing rocks, ping pong table and carpark for the entire site. The basketball court will provide a place for all to show off their talents or to meet new people. The climbing rocks will provide a place to sit and talk. With the Kakano café moving in next door it the public will have access to toilets and healthy food options.



In conclusion, the youth space project is an important project, which provides long-term benefits for young people in Christchurch. CYC is providing a stepping-stone for young people to share their voice and build positive relationships through the youth space. We believe the youth space is a better investment for future Christchurch and hope young people will use it wisely for their development in many more years to come. We are so grateful for the opportunity CYC had given us to be a part of this amazing and rewarding project.



## Ongoing Projects

### Youth Community Voices

*Jayden Roper*

On Monday 31st July, we held a 2 hour workshop 'Rep Your Hood' to further develop the idea of Christchurch Youth Community Boards. This event entailed;

- Hearing from Council around what a Community Board is, how they work and what they do.
- Hearing about current Youth Community Board in Christchurch.
- Working with other young people to determine what they love about their community and could be improved.
- Hearing about different trainings and programmes that could assist young people wanting to be a part of this.
- Starting the conversation about a youth community board in more communities

One of the big things that came out of this workshop was that a 'youth community boards' was not an appropriate name for the groups, neither the young people nor the community reps liked it very much and thus 'Youth Community Voices' was born. This is an ongoing project, which we hope to re-launch with the CYC developments in the youth initiatives fund. Watch this space as we will be bringing more to you with this next year!

### Youth Initiatives Fund

*Kendra Burgess-Naude*

At the July launch, Mayor Lianne Dalziel announced a \$50,000 Youth Initiative Fund to support actions that align with recommendations identified in the Youth Action Plan. This opportunity is the first of its kind in New Zealand where the fund will be administered by young people themselves.

The Fund enables young people to decide themselves where funding is best allocated and to empower them to determine their own priorities and desired outcomes. This approach ensures decision-making is made as close to the relevant community as possible, increases the likelihood of the funding being used in a way that results in benefits for young people, and provides a platform for greater engagement in local democracy.

The Christchurch Youth Council as well as a number of other youth participation groups has been involved in the steering of these funds, this is an exciting opportunity for us, and we are looking forward to being able to support a broad range of young people to be able to launch cool initiatives in Christchurch next year!

## Looking Ahead

2018 will be another exciting time of growth and development in CYC's timeline. This year had so many beginnings that will continue in 2018 as we build the work of the Christchurch Youth Action Plan with the appointment of a coordinator thanks to the Christchurch City Council. We worked hard this year to identify what we are missing in the city for youth people and next year we are going to start connecting ideas with opportunities for all young people. The learnings we made these year will inform our next steps to make CYC more visible in the Christchurch. The move to a new building creates new opportunities and we are excited to work with all new and existing members in 2018 do great things. Keep watch on all our social media, we are coming back with a bang!



