



Annual Report 2014

*A summary of the activities, learnings and progress made in 2014
by Christchurch's independent Youth Council.*

Christchurch Youth Council | Rūnaka Taiohi o Ōtautahi

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*“...to make
Christchurch the
most youth
friendly and
inclusive city in
the world.”*

2014 Summary

2014 has been a year of growth and development of CYC and its members. This year we have made a multitude of changes that have allowed us to flourish in the ever changing city that we live in. It has been an absolute privilege to lead CYC into a new stage of its life, and it really is just the start of making Christchurch the most youth friendly city in the world.

Strategic Highlights

It has to be WESPEAK 2014! This is the flagship event of the CYC calendar each and every year. With over 240 young people, 5 workshops, 6 speakers and over 100 pizzas the day was amazing! The sheer amount of energy surrounding the workshops from New Zealand Sign Language right through to visions for A Brave New City was inspiring to see and is exactly what CYC is about, providing young people with the tools to be a catalyst for change.

Part of CYC's mission to canvas youth opinion has taken the shape of the successful *Face2Face* series. Branching out to all corners of the Christchurch, this series has created some great information to inform the direction that CYC moves in, and what we prioritise as key issues in the city.

Financial Highlights

There are so many agencies out there that have supported CYC in 2014, I would like to make special mention to a few as key supporters:

- The Christchurch City Council
- The Ministry of Youth Development
- The Todd Foundation
- The Wayne Francis Charitable Trust

Without their help CYC would not be where we are today and we are ever-grateful. To see a full list of CYC supporters please refer to the list at the end of this report.

Operating Highlights

Successful incorporation, hiring a fulltime Co-ordinator, moving into Christchurch Community House and the development of the CYC Advisory Group have all been huge in making 2014 CYC's biggest year yet! The challenges we have faced have been met head on by the committed young people involved in the organisation, supported by the fantastic youth sector in Christchurch.

It is empowering to know that there are so many people out there that hold youth participation in such high regard, and nobody more so than our new Co-ordinator. Laura came onboard in early August and has dramatically increased our output and connection through the youth sector and with young people. Her background in media, marketing, and education has aided CYC in forging ahead to make real change for young people in Christchurch.

The move into our new office space in Christchurch Community House marked a milestone for the Youth Council; having the ability to operate with a base and a place to call our own continued with the empowerment of the CYC. Throughout the year we have been supported by some of the wonderful people in the youth sector, and in October officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding with these supporters to form an advisory group. This group will provide connection, guidance and knowledge to support CYC into the future.

Lastly it all comes down to the amazing Youth Councillors of 2014! Each and everyone did their bit to ensure the growth and prosperity of the CYC. This awesome group of young Christchurch people all stood up amongst their peers to talk about the need for a voice in the decision-making process, the role young people have in the community and the huge benefits to all if we listen.

Looking Ahead

2015, the next stage in CYC timeline. This chapter is all about the continuation of the momentum created in 2014, bouncing off the opportunities and learnings

to make CYC bigger, stronger and more visible in the Christchurch space. The new Youth Council is a strongly equipped team that is sure to do great things. Watch this space!

It has been a real pleasure to lead CYC in this transformative year, and I know that the Youth Council is destined for big things in the future! Enjoy the report.

Hamish Keown

Chairperson

December 2, 2014

“All of this year’s efforts have gone towards forming an organisation that is genuinely capable of achieving this vision...”

Actions towards growth in 2014

This year has been a massive year of transition for the organisation. In a sense, this tangent has led to a great gain in structural progress for CYC, but has left us little time to work towards our ‘5-year goals’, as stated in the previous report. We have worked towards the vision, but it is only upon reflection that we can see that all of this year’s efforts have gone towards forming an organisation that is genuinely capable of achieving this vision by 2018.

It would be prudent, however, to examine our progress towards our 5-year goals and quite rightly cast a critical eye upon our activities in order to assess where we can go now, as an incorporated society with its own office space and dedicated full-time employee.

Progress towards the 5-year goals

By 2018, the CYC aims to be recognised and mandated by the youth of Christchurch, recognised and mandated by decision-makers and the public, and be creating a youth voice. To reach this vision, annual goals were put in place as steps towards the following targets for 2018:

Being Recognised and Mandated by the Youth of Christchurch:

- Increase reach of each Facebook post to six thousand people;
- Twenty young people to approach the Christchurch Youth Council, without being prompted, every year;
- Over half of people to say they have heard of us before when answering our surveys.

Create an Effective Youth Voice:

- Establish connections with all high schools and tertiary organisations in Christchurch;
- Establish connections with other youth organisations.

Being Recognised and Mandated by Decision-Makers and the Public:

- Have at least twelve articles in the media every year;
- The Christchurch City Council involves the Christchurch Youth Council in all policy decisions that directly affect youth;
- An established relationship with media in Christchurch who ask the Christchurch Youth Council to comment on youth related issues.

Although in 2014 we have had a busy and productive year, it would be fair to say that we failed to reach several of our targets, possibly because they were too ambitious considering the vast amount of organisational changes that happened, or because we did not monitor our progress effectively. Essentially, our activities in the first half of the year were reactive rather than proactive, and thus our progress here was hampered.

Our online presence

We didn't do as much surveying of young people as in previous years, opting to instead hold Face to Face meetings from late September, which were advertised on Facebook and on posters throughout the city. As such, everyone attending these knew about the Youth Council, but we suspect the majority of young people in Christchurch do not, which is something we are now actively working towards changing. Our social media presence did not grow as much as we would have liked but we have made inroads on this now that we have an employee who is able to track our Facebook insights more carefully. With a background in social media marketing, we have used our employee to increase our audience on Facebook and recently opened an Instagram account. The number of Facebook 'likes' is nearing 2000 as we approach the end of the year. In order to assess how an external expert sees our social media activity, we have commissioned a social media strategy from social media expert Laura Dickie, from which we hope to implement most, if not all, of the actions next year.

Developing key contacts with members of the media is something that we need to improve on, as we were unable to succeed in gaining major press

coverage on our activities. We have, however, reached out to CTV and Radio NZ and we hope to secure a half-hour radio documentary slot with them sometime early in the New Year.

Connecting with the youth sector

In terms of connecting to decision-makers and the public, we have had considerably more success, as this became the main business of CYC post-incorporation. Through the efforts of our Chairperson and later, employee, we now have strong working relationships with many youth organisations, especially those who have been active in Youth Voice Canterbury. Youth Voice Canterbury is a collaboration between all of the Canterbury Youth Councils and some other youth-focussed organisations which aims to help young people to have their say in their community or council. Youth Voice Canterbury is the re-named Youth Participation workstream of the Strengthening the Youth Sector project, an inter-agency group of organisations with an interest in ensuring the sustainability of the youth sector in Christchurch. This group has held many meetings and events, so we are now well connected to the wider youth sector. As part of this project, we're now able to broaden our reach with decision-makers even further, including with CERA.

Connecting with decision-makers

Our relationship with the Christchurch City Council has been strengthened by the process of agreeing on a Memorandum of Understanding, which is currently at the final stages of approval. Whilst it is our intent to provide more detail on this further in this report, it would be fair to say that the signing of this agreement would be a massive boon to CYC, as it represents a working agreement with decision-makers. It would seem that from our start with CCC, to our journey under the many organisations that took on CYC over the years, we have come full circle to achieve a fresh and strong starting

point for 2015: we are now actively involved with all Council-level policy changes and initiatives that involve youth in Christchurch.

James Adams

Deputy Chairperson

Christchurch Youth Council

“CYC aims to be inclusive and represent all those in our mandate.”

Looking ahead to 2015

The Christchurch Youth Council has three guiding visions as part of our 5-Year Goals which lead us in representing the youth of Christchurch

- To be recognised and mandated by the youth of Christchurch
- Creating an effective voice for youth
- To be recognised and mandated by decision makers and the general public

In order to achieve our vision, we have developed key actions for our direction in 2015. We hope that these actions, or ‘goals’ will enable us to grow the Christchurch Youth Council to reach its potential. This is in addition to the ‘sub- goals’ below, which we have determined are things we can do to achieve our three 5-Year Goals:

- **Diversity**

In order to be an effective voice for youth, CYC will aim to be inclusive and represent all those in our mandate, by pushing our geographic and age boundaries, and also having different personality types. We will better be able to represent youth with different people on board. In terms of being diverse to meet the needs of all youth we represent, we will look to develop strategies for how to meet those at the extremes of our audience, those aged 12-13 and those aged 23-24. We feel that these age groups have often been left out of our events, and we aim to cater more appropriately for them, by running more inclusive events, workshops catered to young professionals and

more. We also recognise that many of those we represent are from a different background than our own, and thus we plan to treasure all diversity and incorporate all cultures into our events, perhaps by focusing on events such as Maori Language week, embracing Chinese New Year as a start.

We are also attempting to reach the geographic boundaries that we represent, by having Youth Councillors from areas such as Diamond Harbour, an area which we have not yet had representation in. This will allow us to fill the gaps that we have missed in past year. Finally, no single event will be appealing to all of our members, and we need to acknowledge this difference when planning our events for 2015. Rather than focusing on holding events which foster giving youth an opportunity to speak up, we will also look to have a broad range of events such as professional skills workshops, funding opportunities, art exhibitions and anything that our members will enjoy. We want our events to be as appealing and useful as possible.

- **Recognition**

As per our 5 Year Goals, recognition and mandate by both youth and decision makers is crucial to the success of CYC. This is one of the leading lights for our direction, and thus we must make operational plans for 2015 to achieve these goals. Visiting schools, tertiary institutions and other youth organisations will allow us to be recognised more publicly, as more youth will hear of CYC and how our setup allows for direct access to decision makers. Currently, we have had limited exposure to these institutions, and we can follow on the great work of our Co-ordinator, who visited many schools during our recruitment drive. A simple venture such as booking slots at school assemblies will dramatically increase the number of youth who recognise us, thus fulfilling our goal.

In terms of being recognised and mandated by decision makers and the public, increasingly building bonds with organisations will help, as more will

become aware of the work we do. Our Memorandum of Understanding with the Christchurch City Council is one example of this, and we will aim to undertake similar ventures in 2015. This is a valuable working agreement that is cherished by CYC.

As we gain more new members from around Christchurch, we are increasingly becoming recognised by more groups and people of Christchurch. Last year we established KPIs such as to have at least twelve multimedia articles every year in order to be recognised. In 2015, we will aim to create a promotional strategy so we can be seen by the wider public. If work goes into our promotional plan, then this will be easily achieved and also strengthen our mandate. Ideas such as stickers, personalised pens, merchandise, increased social media presence will all be a part of this plan. This will be possibly one of the first challenges for a hypothetical 'promotions' subcommittee.

- **Connect**

Of all things that CYC undertakes, connecting with youth is the most important and by far the most rewarding. We have excelled in this area, but there is still room to grow. As mentioned before, school visits and establishing relationships via MoUs is a fantastic way for us to connect with the community, but there are many avenues we can undertake. First of all, we can connect with various organisations such as CERA through anchor projects, which will lead to us have direct involvement in the Christchurch rebuild. Our strengthened relationship with the Christchurch City Council allows us to connect with youth and decision makers on an unprecedented level, and we will continue to ensure that we can meet the needs of Christchurch youth. We have also become more connected to other youth organisations and youth councils, through Youth Voice Canterbury.

In order to improve our practices, 2015 will hopefully see us continue to be highly involved in YVC and also connect with more youth councils from around New Zealand. Most importantly, we can connect with youth by being ever-present in the community. Face2Face was one example of how we connected with those we represent, which saw us talk to youth from different areas of Christchurch about what they think and what they want to see. By creating different events and opportunities, we will connect with different youth as each event will cater to different personalities and interests of various youth. For example, a poetry slam will be of interest to some members, whilst a professional skills workshop may be of more interest to our older members. Again, this reiterates the remark about diversity, as it will see us connect with more youth around Christchurch. Finally, social media is a tool which is increasingly used by youth and its impact to connect is not to be underestimated. This year, we have increased our number of Facebook likes, created a video for recruitment and also introduced an Instagram account to connect with more youth. However, with a promotional strategy in place, we can certainly harness social media better to connect with more people, through YouTube, Twitter, a blog and numerous other forums.

- **Growth**

As CYC continues to grow, we need to establish a plan to foster this growth in various directions. On a micro level, we aim to continue personal growth for our executive members and also our various other members. We cannot have an effective Youth Council without trained executive members, as they are the ones who lead the organisation. Taking time to invest in training, development workshops and other leadership experiences, the force leading CYC will become increasingly stronger and not be bogged down by menial tasks. When trained, all members will be highly efficient and fully capable in their jobs. This can cross over into how to foster personal growth for our

other members, as one idea is holding professional skill workshops for free in the community. Many young people have stated they would like to attend workshops on how to write a CV, how to undertake event management and various other skills. CYC can fill a gap in our community by connecting young people to existing services and perhaps bringing all of these services into one space for an event.

Another idea for our direction next year is to introduce scholarships to young people, to reduce the financial burden involved in attending activities which allow for personal growth. In 2014, we offered two scholarships to Youth Declaration, a conference based around civics education, and 2015 will hopefully see scholarships extended to cover a variety of opportunities. If we can offer financial aid to Christchurch youth to grow, we will be doing a great deed by our members in fostering personal development.

Since CYC's inception, we have continued to grow and therefore have developed different levels of membership to the council. More news will come around this in the late summer, but this is a solution to address the growing number of excellent individuals that want to be executive members of the Christchurch Youth Council. 2015 aims to be a year where we get into the swing of things, having continuous momentum and always being present. We feel that more events and opportunities will also meet our other key actions, such as connect and recognition.

- **Efficiency**

All things aside, CYC cannot reach its full potential without being efficient. In 2014, we have done very well in running all over our events, but have identified a few key areas that need work and would like to bring a few ideas to life to counter this. One immediate aspect we have discussed is holding more regular meetings fortnightly, so we don't have a long lull in meetings and no longer have to organise meetings outside of our usual time. As already

mentioned, we have introduced new levels of membership to reach out to more youth in Christchurch. 2015 will see this idea solidified and make this organisation more efficient.

One idea we have floated is introducing sub committees for our events, which will allow non-executive members to organise our key events. This will also see youth being upskilled, and take workload off our executive members. We have also discussed reshuffling some roles, such as having members who primarily focus on submissions, or events, or connection with youth organisations. We feel that set roles will show a clear expectation of what work goes to which member, and will reduce confusion over who is responsible for each portfolio.

In 2015, we would also like to see our members only take on jobs if they can give 110%, as capacity has been a slight issue at times. Dedicated, committed, motivated council members is what allows the Christchurch Youth Council to be such a success, and if we continue this expectation of excellence then we will achieve great things. Finally, as already mentioned, work such as promotions can become more efficient through strategies developed which will monitor how we connect with youth.

From all of this, we see the need to organise a strategic planning day to see what has worked and what hasn't, so we can build on the great work of 2014 and make 2015 an even better year. Diversity, recognition, connect, growth and efficiency are five key points that the Christchurch Youth Council will be focusing on when determining our direction for 2015. These five key actions, although broad, will define our year as a council and have identified what we can do to best serve our audience. All in all, 2015 will be a fantastic year for this organisation and we are looking forward to what we can bring to the table.

Kaitlyn White

Christchurch Youth Council

2014 Activity Reports

In this section of the report, the activities of Christchurch Youth Council in 2014 will be detailed. As this year has been such a transitional period for the organisation, it was felt that the most appropriate method of explaining the multitude of activities was under three separate headings: **Events**, **Connections and Submissions**. These activities formed the core outreach business of CYC in 2014, and all contributed to the one end result which we value the most: we are now firmly embedded as a legitimately structured, professionally staffed presence in the youth sector, both in Christchurch and beyond.



Events

WEspeak 2014

By James Adams



Introduction

For the sixth year in a row, the Christchurch Youth council organised the annual 'WEspeak', a one-day gathering that allows over 250 young people to be inspired, gain skills and share their thoughts. This year's theme was 'local legends,' and so many of the keynote speakers were from Christchurch but had achieved great things, such as Hadleigh Frost, a University of Canterbury student who won the 2012 Eureka Science Communication Competition, and Jason Gunn, the popular television and radio personality. The first half of the day was taken up mostly with listening to presenters and asking them questions, while later attendees had the opportunity to learn some new skills and discuss issues in greater depth in the two workshop sessions. Finally, we

once again ran a 'marketplace' of organisations that have an interest in young people, which was just as much of a success as last year.

Format

TIME	ACTION	
920am	Welcome and introductions (icebreaker)	MC's and Chair to introduce/welcome event
925am	Brilliant Bursts - Presenter 1	Albie Whale
930am	Inspire and invigorate	Jason Gunn
1015am	Morning tea	Original Foods, Fruit Music
1035am	Open space for ideas (open floor)	
1050am	Brilliant Bursts - Presenter 2	Hadleigh Frost
1057am	Brilliant Bursts - Presenter 3	Toya Woodgate - Rotorac
1105am Options		
OPTION 1: Hannah Dunlop - Leadership, Decision-making and Social Media		
OPTION 2: The Suffra-Jests		
OPTION 3: Learning Sign Language		
OPTION 4: Healthy Lifestyles and the All Right Campaign - Community and Public Health		
1200pm Lunch		
1235pm	Brilliant Bursts - Presenter 4	Drip Clothing - Cam Gallie
12.40am Options		
OPTION 1: Hannah Dunlop - Leadership, Decision-making and Social Media		
OPTION 2: Healthy Lifestyles and Smokefree Aotearoa/New Zealand-Community and Public Health		

OPTION 3: Project Management and event running - Ella Soryl
OPTION 4:A Brave New City - Michael Reynolds
1.30 Reporting back / Survey
1:50 Closing
2.00 Marketplace of organisations relevant to young people

Keynotes

Albie Whale is a young entrepreneur, and we chose him to speak first because he embodies the 'get up and go' attitude that the event hoped to kindle in attendees. He came across as very likeable and well-prepared, and the audience was totally engaged with what he had to say. This was the first of the 'brilliant bursts' - short, inspiring presentations. The idea was borrowed from the NZ Association of Environmental Educators Conference which two CYC members attended earlier this year, and the brief but strong presentations worked well at both events.

However, for some speakers, more time was needed, and keynote Jason Gunn was certainly one of those people. Despite being a famous television personality (Dancing with the Stars, Son of a Gunn show) and currently hosting a radio show, Jason Gunn was friendly, relaxed and humble. He had lots of stories about his career in the entertainment industry, many of which elicited laughter, and a huge amount of wisdom. He challenged the audience to believe in something, and to go for it, and said that he felt privileged to speak to so much young talent. Evidently, the audience thought he was great, as when asked in a survey about the best part of the day, his talk was the second most mentioned highlight (just less than the sign-language workshops). The Youth Council were certainly privileged to have him speak.

Soon after morning tea, Hadleigh Frost, the UC student who won the Eureka Science Communication Competition in 2012, spoke. He told us about his interest in astronomy and inspired in everyone a sense of wonder and awe - not just for the beauty and vastness of the universe, which was his topic, but

for his slick presentation skill including a PowerPoint far removed from the dull presentations common elsewhere and a strong, clear, confident voice. As far as local legends go, Hadleigh was an inspiring presence, and we were grateful for his decision to stay after his talk so that his enthralled audience could speak with him in person.

Local legends need support and a team around them to help them grow, which is what Rotorac does. Ably presented by ex-Christchurch Youth Councillor Toya Woodgate, the audience learnt a lot, especially given that Toya was both very knowledgeable and very friendly. Like many in the audience, she's balanced study, work and community activities for years, and now gives a significant amount of time to supporting up and coming young leaders, and so her expertise and support in making this event possible was most appreciated.

The final speaker was Cam Gallie from Drip Clothing, a New Zealand clothing company. As another knowledgeable presenter, Cam once again showed that awesome things are possible if you work to make them be. He had a great passion and lots of expertise, and brought some necessary 'cool' to the event. He had the hardest task, re-motivating people after a long lunch break, but his stories of getting a business off the ground jolted everyone back into the reality, but also the opportunity, of the real world.

Workshops

There were many workshops, so this report will discuss them more generally than with the speakers. Despite struggling to find people or organisations to fill these roles, those that we could get were received well - in the survey taken afterwards, only 1% (two people) were not satisfied with the workshops, and 96% were. In fact, people wanted more workshops, which we will look at in 2015.

The most popular workshop was on learning to communicate in sign language. New Zealand Sign Language is one of New Zealand's three official languages, and we had gone out of our way to ensure interpreters were present throughout the day. These interpreters then generously offered to teach other attendees some basic sign, which was very well received. It was fun, it was kinaesthetic and it was new. The most touching moment of the day was when we came to present the Interpreters with a koha for their time and effort: no one in the audience clapped, but as one raised their hands in the air and shook them gently - clapping in sign language. Young people are more than tolerant of our deaf community - many of whom are between 12 and 24 themselves - but actively interested and eager to show support.

The Suffra-Jests (a pun on 'suffragette', a woman seeking the right to vote in organised protest) are a group of actors who increase awareness and provoke conversation through comedy. They had been to WESpeak before, and were once again popular, as their contribution to post-Earthquake Christchurch continues to be seen. Similarly, Ella Soryl has clearly taught many people to run events before, as her workshop was both useful and fun. Both of these workshops got people talking, designing, planning and creating. Michael Reynolds also provoked a lot of discussion, as people gathered in circles around large sheets of paper and talked, wrote and drew designs for the oft-repeated (in Christchurch) question: what should the central city look like? The creativity and opinions voiced by young people at that workshop is a reminder of why it is so important for young people to have a say in the rebuild of our city.

Lastly, but not least of all, were the team from Community and Public Health (CPH). The first workshop focussed on the All Right? Campaign, which got participants to discuss mental health issues in a recovery situation. Young people have been significantly affected by the earthquakes in a number of ways, so some of the discussions in this workshop were eye-opening and attention-grabbing. In the second time slot, discussion was around the long-term goal for New Zealand to be smoke-free by 2025, a target that many attendees were unaware of. Nevertheless, it was recognised that young

people have a significant part to play in supporting this culture change in a way that is both tactful and has the best outcomes for the health of our population. Again, to see youth stepping up to discuss a serious issue like smoking shows that young people do want to have their say on issues that affect them, and should be listened to.

Budget

Expenses	Cost (\$NZD)
Koha	450
Food (pizza, morning tea, fruit)	1200
Hired buses to bring attendees from suburbs*	800
Venue	400
Marketing	400
Printing (mostly more advertising materials)	250
Banner [†] and other signage	600
Sign Interpreters	1300
	\$5400

*This was a new idea in 2014, and worked well

[†] the banner will be used many times other than for this event, but was bought with the intention of advertising the CYC at WESpeak 2014, and therefore is considered as a cost.

Conclusion

On the 21st of May 2014, The Christchurch Youth Council presented the annual WESpeak event, which aimed to inspire and inform young people with motivational and interesting speakers, interactive workshops and a chance to meet lots of awesome young people.

60% of attendees signalled their interest in returning next year. WE Speak certainly had a positive impact - over 200 young people came away feeling inspired and having learnt new skills. Youth Councillors had hundreds of conversations throughout the day, allowing us to engage with the people whose voices we seek to amplify. Results from a survey at the gathering were presented to the City Council, and the event has motivated and driven Youth Council activities since. And yet, we're already thinking about how we can make WE Speak 2015 even better. We've learnt the importance of securing workshop facilitators early, of working with these people to ensure that the workshops are more organised and more hands-on (to better distinguish them from the speakers) and also the benefit of good speakers (like Jason Gunn), and good food (like the Hell's Pizza). Given that 60% of attendees heard about the event from their schools, but only 8% saw it on Facebook (despite significant expenditure of Facebook advertising and endless posting of the event page), a rethink of how we advertise will be needed.

Nevertheless, WE Speak remains the signature event for the Christchurch Youth Council, and one that we are rightly proud of. The sixth edition of this event was a great success, with a positive response from attendees and contributing to making Christchurch a better place.

Broods Under-18 Concert



In what felt like a very swift process, CYC was involved bringing possibly the most promising new music act in New Zealand to a youth audience for what was an incredibly memorable concert. The idea for offering an under-18 concert before the adult gig was discussed by the Waimakariri Youth Council, and representatives of the Winter Chill Fund. CYC was invited to collaborate in bringing this event to fruition, and provided part-funding to allow the event to take place. At the event, CYC provided a watchful presence over the crowd and really enjoyed seeing a world-class band play for a young audience. In the future, we would really like to see these events happening more often, with CYC taking a key part in proceedings.

Election Debate

By Kaitlyn White



On the 3rd September, we held an Election Debate and Q & A Night, due to the upcoming general election. This was a one of a kind event, which was very different to the other events we have held in the past. However, I think this was extremely rewarding and something I would like to replicate more often, as it gave youth an opportunity to hear from Christchurch candidates on a variety of topics, mostly focused around youth. Overall, we had eight candidates from five different parties attend, and approximately 40-50 audience members. I was absolutely ecstatic with how the event ran, and cannot wait to offer more opportunities such as this.

Idea concept:

The fledgling of an idea of an event centred around the election came from Hamish Keown, which we then developed into the idea of an election debate. I initially volunteered to help run the event, but was empowered by the Youth Council to take ownership of proceedings. I enjoyed being able to put my own spin on it.

Venue:

We held the debate in DL Lecture Theatre at CPIT. Although an old lecture theatre, it was a great venue as it had more than enough room for audience members and for food to be set out. A big thanks to Alison for sorting out the venue beforehand and having it booked! The staff were an absolute delight, helping us get extra chairs, table cloths, microphones, you name it, they helped. The only issue I saw was that the venue was a bit hidden, but we easily solved this issue by having our members out the front to help guide people in. I believe the venue cost just over \$300 for the evening, which was fairly good. I also dropped into the venue a couple of days earlier to ensure it was adequate and to organise furniture to be dropped off. In the future, I would suggest investigating venues more thoroughly and contacting schools where our members have ties, such as St Margaret's College, to utilise their auditorium at a subsidised rate or for free.

Catering:

For catering, we used the service offered by New World. Although this took a while to finalise, we received a huge amount of food which was absolutely delicious. They didn't require much notice for the order, which was great. The only problem was the lack of signage to point out dietary requirements, which was a fault of mine for not labeling the platters myself. We purchased some drinks and cups from the Countdown across the road, as refreshments for all. I think this was quite a good method of catering, as it was quick and

easy to do. One thing to remember is that New World needs to be paid cash on the day, unless we set up an account with them previously. I also received good reviews on the food, with a candidate from the Conservative Party asking me where we got it from so they could look into it for their own functions!

Contacting parties and candidates:

In regards to contacting political parties, I sent invitations to the email addresses of each Christchurch division of political parties, and then did my own research to email some big name MPs, such as Gerry Brownlee, Nicky Wagner and Eugenie Sage. In the end, we had eight candidates attend: Richard Wesley (Greens candidate for Wigram), John Kelcher (Greens candidate for Ilam), Leighton Baker (Conservative candidate for Christchurch East), Ben Price (Conservative candidate for Waimakariri), Tony Milne (Labour Candidate for Christchurch Central), Megan Woods (Labour MP for Wigram), Nicky Wagner (National MP for Christchurch Central) and Beverley Ballantine (Internet Party candidate for Ilam). We were glad to have such a large number of candidates in attendance, with a wide variety of parties. I do wish I had been able to get a wider representation from parties, but this was out of our control. The candidates were absolutely lovely to deal with, and I gave them a heads up of what the questions would be. It is EXTREMELY important to be highly professional when dealing with public figures. I ensured they were comfortable and more than aware of what would be happening in the evening, and also let them know which of CYC's representatives would be meeting them out the front. All of the candidates seemed to enjoy themselves, and I had positive comments left with me about the event and CYC at the conclusion of the debate.

Promotions:

This was an area which we tried to focus on, but I feel as though we could have done a lot more and increased the audience numbers. We primarily used Facebook to spread the word about this event, by creating a Facebook event where we posted profiles about the candidates, a poll for questions to be asked and a variety of other information. We also sent out an email to those who had attended WEspeak. I also contacted a few news outlets, with one replying saying that they would attend the event but I am unaware of any coverage to date. In hindsight, I think one of our biggest failures was not promoting the event within schools, universities or other youth-friendly places. I was happy with the amount of coverage and people attending for the promotions that we did, but do wish that we had made an extra effort. Post-event, we uploaded photos from the event which saw our Facebook reach increase slightly.

Questions:

We chose a unique way of deciding on the six set questions that the MC (me) would run the debate. On our Facebook event, we created a poll with options of questions to vote on, and allowed for people to add their own ideas. It was great to see how far and wide this spread, with lots of different options being added and votes rolling in.

In the end, we went for the topics with the highest amount of votes that were substantially different, which meant that I incorporated a couple of topics into one question. We asked questions about student loans, youth wage, child poverty, climate change, how to engage youth in the Christchurch rebuild, and the idea of youth voting for the first time. I felt this was a good format, where I allowed each party two minutes to speak per question, and then moved on to questions from the audience.

I was glad we took this course of action, and it definitely stemmed some great debate. Many members of the audience stuck around to talk to the candidates about one-to-one about issues close to their heart, which was absolutely fantastic to see.

CYC Involvement:

Initially, I was extremely overwhelmed to take on the job but found that it actually worked quite well to have one co-ordinator then outsource tasks to other members, like a sub-committee. I had help from members in booking the venue, deciding on catering, confirming the wording of questions, organising koha for the candidates and picking up the catering prior to the event.

One of the single most useful things I did was create the runsheet for the night, which was a great way to ensure we were going to schedule and we all knew where we needed to be. It was unfortunate to see that we only had six or so members show up to the event, but we were still able to pull off the debate effectively. We did have a slight hiccup with one extra candidate arriving, but we ensured this was not noticed and we believe that the audience did not notice.

Those who attended were absolutely fantastic, and I am extremely grateful for their help in making the night a success. Overall, I believe the Election Debate and Q & A night was a great success, and has opened my eyes to events we could hold in the future for youth. A speaker series or public meetings with key figures is a great way to engage those we represent, and I believe we should keep the ball rolling!

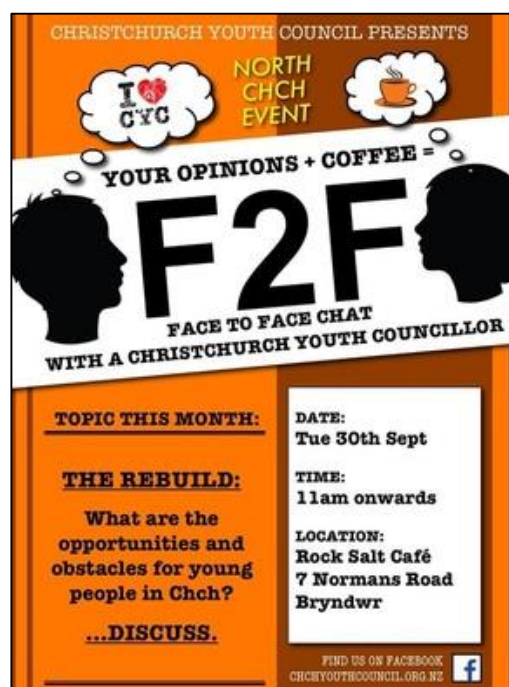
Face2Face

Face2Face is an exciting series of events we initiated in late 2014. This concept was raised at one of our council meetings, and all Youth Councillors were unanimously in support. This event was established in order for CYC to directly connect with young people and find out their opinions on a variety of important issues. With new youth-related topics announced for each event, as we develop this event series, we aim to create tangible snapshots of youth opinion in the city. Read on to find out how we intend to increase the power of these events using technology!



F2F@Rocksalt Café

By Michael Chim



Christchurch Youth Council launched its new series of events, F2F, on 30 September 2014 at Rocksalt Cafe, Strowan. Michael and Wil were the two CYC representatives at the event. With a small but passionate group, Michael

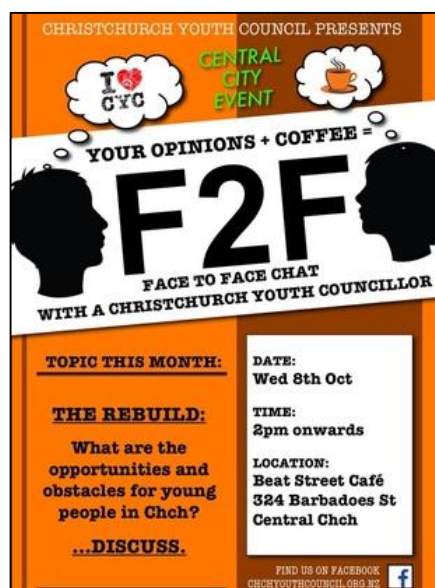
and Wil were able to gather opinions on the progress of the Christchurch rebuilt, where the attendees would like to see Christchurch in the future and what they enjoy and dislike about the city.

Feedback was also gathered from past CYC events, where some comments from people were that they thought WEspeak was a fantastic event that was eye-opening and inspiring them to get out into the community to play a role in active citizenship.

The BROODS U18 concert also came up in conversation and that they thought events along that line is a fantastic opportunity for young people to be able to go to age-appropriate events. There was an enormous amount of constructive feedback which Kaitlyn and Alice could take onboard before the second F2F event. The progress on how our small F2F events are going is an uphill trend. Based on this early start Christchurch Youth Council are very happy with to be able to go out into the community to gather opinions from young people and connect on a more casual level than previous events.

F2F@Beat Street Café

By Kaitlyn White and Alice Ridley



The second F2F held at Beat Street Cafe went very well, with those in attendance having lots of input on a multitude of youth-related topics. Firstly, we asked what the main boundaries for youth disengagement, and received some great feedback on this.

We hope to use this feedback and work out how CYC could create more opportunities for youth in Christchurch through youth-friendly places and opportunities for growth. We then discussed how the rebuild has actually made Christchurch more youth-focused, through the new plans for the city, but discussed that it is hard to have voices of all youth heard as some find it hard to speak up.

A huge amount of discussion took place on all these topics, and we can't wait to get stuck into all of the cool ideas and new initiatives that have been suggested:



F2F@Merivale Mackers

By Rose Oakley



Our third Face2Face meeting hosted by Liam and Rose was a success! We held it at Merivale Maccas and everyone that came along got some free fries, which certainly helped!

We had six people attend and had an awesome conversation about various youth affairs that lasted for two hours. Many important issues were raised and creative ideas discussed for the future of our city.

One of the biggest points of interest was the disappointment that university fees are rising - one of the biggest agreements was that the government should support those going to university instead of making students pay more, especially in other countries where students are actually paid to attend university! This doesn't encourage tertiary study and can hold students down.

In terms of the '5-year plan' for Christchurch some points made about this was that there is a lack of youth thinking and voices being heard in the plan

for our city's future. Fortunately, we were able to explain our work on the MOU with Christchurch City Council, alongside the Youth Voice Canterbury project as it sits within the Strengthening the Youth Sector project. People also agreed there was lack of future planning about the huge problem of climate change and this needs to be addressed.

In regards to public transport, everyone agreed it is currently poor, although we had to push to find out in what sense that was meant. One of the main concerns is that people feel unsafe on the buses, especially at the bus exchange and during the evening. People also thought that buses are due for revamps and the schedules need to be revised to be more convenient. Fortunately we were able to explain that in early December, this was going to be the case. Many students that use the buses also said that there are poor bus connections. Perhaps this will be solved by the new timetabling plans.



People thought that the precinct plan is okay, but divides up the community. One idea everyone thought would be great is to have a green space where young entrepreneurs can sell goods to the public in a communal area - a bit like our Winterz End Market in 2013. People could set up stalls and it would be a vibrant way to join the community together and create awareness. People also thought implementing communal gardens would be a great

environmentally positive idea and also rooftop gardens. People were excited about the street art and wanted to see this more of these types of innovative initiatives.

These are some of the main areas of concern that arose but also some new ideas that came out of our meeting such as the entrepreneur green park, communal gardens and rooftop gardens. Also using education as a tool to raise people's awareness of homelessness.

What a lot of awesome information we drew out of some passionate members of our society, but let's think: what are we going to do about these issues? How are we going to make our voices heard?

F2F Christmas in the Park



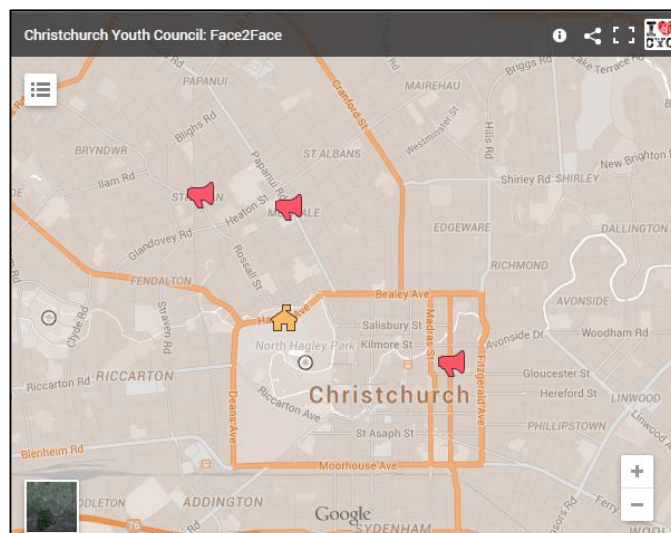
CYC's Hamish and Alison, accompanied by Laura, headed to Hagley Park for the 2014 Christmas in the Park event on Saturday November 29th. With the initial intentions of using the event as a Face2Face opportunity, and the first place to premiere our 'pop-up living room' idea, hopes were high that we'd get a good result here.

Sadly, due to transport issues we were unable to bring the dream of the living room to life on this occasion, and instead chose to seize it as a chance to get out amongst the crowds and spread the word about CYC.

Armed with leaflets, stickers and some Instagram frames (that got rapidly put away due to the wind!), we improvised a competition on the spot: tag yourself in our event photo album and go into the draw to win a \$40 Westfield voucher! Straight away, we received interest from young people, and the stickers were swiped from our hands and eagerly worn by young people across the site. In the week post-event, young people engaged with our Facebook page to tag themselves and their friends and we noticed a distinct improvement in our reach.

Upon reflection, this event was an opportunity offered to us by John Searle, the organiser and I feel proud that we were able to make use of this kindness, despite the initial disappointment that our amazing living room idea was not going to happen this time around. I feel sure that we will be back in the future, having acted on these key learnings: don't be afraid to change the plan, be prepared with what to say, remember the Canterbury weather and stick with what works!

F2F: The Map



The key aim of F2F is to provide a safe space for youth voice to be heard, captured and connected to decision-makers and others who need to hear it. One of the ways this has been possible is through the use of technology to bring the outcomes of each F2F event together consistently across all of our social media channels.

Using Google Maps, a record of all past, present and future F2F events can be tracked, with a direct link to the event report/findings, in whatever form that may take, be it blog post, video, poster etc. It is our eventual aim next year to create an app which brings this information even closer to those that need to read it.

In the smartphone era, nothing is more powerful than the power of the thumb, and it is our desire to make it as easy as possible to provide a snapshot of youth opinion in the city, and expanding this project will be a key strategic aim in 2014.

Connections

Memorandum of Understanding: Christchurch City Council

From the incorporation of the CYC this organisation has had a great relationship with the city council in many aspects. We have strong lines of communications with a number of staff and councilors that enables a strong relationship. In order to progress into the future the CYC felt it was necessary and in our best interest to approach the city council to formalise this relationship and processes between the two organisations.

Working with Councilors Lonsdale, Cotter, Gough and Johanson and council staff this document was written with an open and transparent arrangement in mind, and we believe the final document sets out a clear way forward to how we engage and relate going forward. It also sets our match funding for the next three years for the Co-ordinator's salary

On December 13 2014, it was motioned by the Mayor of Christchurch, Lianne Dalziel that this MoU be passed by the Council. It was passed unanimously and will be signed in the New Year by the incoming executive.

This MoU is a huge step in creating a youth voice that is listened to in our city.

Strengthening the Youth Sector Project



From the blog:

CYC's Chairperson, Hamish Keown, signed a very important document last month on behalf of the rest of the Youth Council. We've agreed to operate under a Memorandum of Understanding for the 'Strengthening the Youth Sector' project, along with heaps of other agencies involved with Christchurch youth. In signing it, we all agree to do this:

"Work in a collaborative and co-ordinated way to inform, support and build capacity of the wider youth sector to meet the needs of young people across the Christchurch, Waimakariri, and Selwyn districts."

It means that all the agencies who sign up to this agree to respect each other, be non-judgmental of each other's opinion, commit to the vision and act in honesty and good faith in their work towards making things better for young people in and around the city. Which is excellent!

The whole point of the project was to provide an opportunity for the youth sector of Greater Christchurch to come together and reflect on the sector post-Earthquakes. It basically means things are going to happen for young people a lot faster in the city, with dedicated workstreams looking into youth wellbeing, a Youth Charter, participation, employment and youth-friendly places.

Agencies that have signed up to the MoU so far are:

Ministry of Education, CERA, Ministry of Youth Development, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, Careers New Zealand, Canterbury District Health Board, Environment Canterbury, Christchurch, Selwyn and Waimakariri Councils, Ngai Tahu, Sport Canterbury, Canterbury Youth Workers Collective, Te Ora Hou, Youth and Cultural Development Society, Papanui Youth Development, Wayne Francis Charitable Trust, New Zealand Red Cross, Department of Corrections, Canterbury Community Trust,

The Collaborative for Research and Training and the Christchurch Youth Council!

Youth Voice Canterbury



Youth Voice Canterbury was created as a part of youth participation workstream of the strengthening youth sector. This collaborative group is made up of a network of youth participation organisations (such as youth councils, youth advisory groups and many more) from the wider Canterbury district. YVC aims to enhance the connections between all youth related groups across Canterbury, allowing many people to connect with decision makers, organisations and communities. Many hands make light work, and the idea of connecting inspiring youth and groups together to work towards a common goal of giving youth a voice was thus born. The YVC group engages through their Facebook page, website and by holding quarterly youth connect events around Canterbury.

CYC first heard about Youth Voice Canterbury through our chairperson, Hamish Keown, who was involved in the creation of YVC in order to link together youth organisations within the wider Canterbury region to establish a united front and voice. The entire council was hugely excited about the prospect of working alongside other youth participation groups to achieve our

common goals, thus leading to a handful of our members attending the first YVC hui at the Lincoln Events Centre. At the beginning of that fateful day in May, we had no idea what we were in store for, but had huge amounts of enthusiasm. Numerous activities, speakers and workshops surrounding topics such as barriers to youth participation filled the day, which was incredibly thought-provoking. Towards the end of the day, we determined what we wanted YVC to be, what we wanted to achieve and how we would do so. Thus the idea of the quarterly meetings were born, for Canterbury youth organisations to come together to discuss and work together.

Youth Connect

To ensure that the great work of the initial YVC hui was not lost, all youth groups involved began to attend quarterly meetings, known as 'Youth Connect'. In 2014, we have held three meetings - At Addington Coffee Co-op in July, at a cafe in Kaiapoi in October and at Christchurch Community House/CYC offices in December. Each meeting focused around what each group was up to, what they had achieved and what they have struggled with. This was a great way to bounce ideas off other engaged youth, learn from the mistakes of other groups and also see the potential that we can achieve. Each youth group serves a different purpose, which sees all of us taking a different approach to the work we do. Above all else, YVC has allowed us to learn from others in the youth sector about what we can achieve, and also be encouraged to strive for our goals.

Youth Guide participation

One idea which was aired at the initial YVC hui was that certain people from individual youth organisations could put their name forward to be a youth guide for the YVC website. Youth guides would be the face of the website and also have an individual Facebook page in which they could be safely contacted about a certain issue which is of interest to them, such as LGBT rights, environmental concerns, Maori and Pasifika opportunities and many more. By December 2014, approximately 2-3 CYC members have been involved in becoming youth guides. We were first met by hesitation from the council, who loved the idea but were hesitant to plaster their face around

the internet as the 'Know-how' person about a certain issue, when we are still learning ourselves. However, we are slowly overcoming this barrier to engagement and more of our members are looking to be involved in 2015.

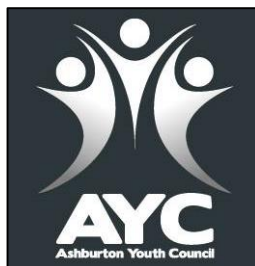
As one of the organisations which is a founding member of YVC, CYC continues to be highly involved in contributing to the work of YVC. Currently, we hold all YVC funds in our bank account until it is fully established and able to designate its own treasurer to look after its finances. We have been engaged in all of YVC's activities, such as attending the Youth Connects, promoting their work through our Facebook page and to key organisations, and providing members to be youth guides on the website. As part of CYC's contribution, our co-ordinator Laura has worked alongside Hamish and Alice's work to make a website consultation package that is to be delivered to youth councils and youth-focussed organisations in early 2015. It's designed to get the best feedback out of young people on how the website can be optimised for user experience. Many of our contributions to YVC may seem minimal from an outsider's perspective, but having engaged members who offer ideas and strategic planning has been crucial to the success of YVC and its work in the wider Canterbury region. In terms of benefits to CYC, the list is endless. First of all, our members learn from the work of our youth organisations of how we can best give youth a voice, offer opportunities and be engaged with our audience. Our relationships with fellow Canterbury youth groups have become increasingly stronger, through having similar goals, ideals and attending events together. Our support network has grown, so we can bounce ideas and chat to other members of the youth sector about our future plans. Finally, we are involved from the very beginning of something special - and that is exactly what Youth Voice Canterbury will be. 2014 has seen the creation of this fantastic organisation, but 2015 and beyond will see it spread its wings and reach new heights, which will benefit CYC hugely.

As outlined, Youth Voice Canterbury is still only a fledgling organisation in the scheme of the youth sector. However, with continued involvement and collaboration from CYC and other youth groups, YVC will grow and unite all Canterbury youth organisations to reach their common goal of giving youth a

voice in our community. We are hugely excited about everything YVC has achieved this year and what we have gained from this relationship, and cannot wait to see its progress in 2015 and beyond.

<http://www.youthvoicecanterbury.org.nz/>

Visits to/from other Youth Councils



In August 2014 youth Councilors Hamish and James visited the Ashburton Youth Council as part of our mission to connect young people in Canterbury. This meeting was a great opportunity for CYC to see how other groups in the region operate, gather ideas and build relationships.

From this meeting the CYC learnt about the AYC's collaboration Café that was a success in gathering opinion, in a simple and effective manner. This learning has informed the development of the Face2Face Series in Christchurch, and recently was used by the AYC. This is a great example of the connected nature of the youth sector in Canterbury. Other opportunities from this visit was to invite the AYC members to the Youth Voice Canterbury Hui and continuing to support the relationship with this group.

Other exciting opportunities that came out of this trip is the development of a combined, two stage leadership day. Aiming to happen in January and April 2015 this is an exciting opportunity to strengthen this relationship with the two groups.



Recently, we were also lucky to be visited by Tayla and Lexi from Waimakariri Youth Council, who came to a meeting late in the year to discuss their recent Youth Council visit to Wellington. The primary focus of this meeting was to establish how easy it is to transport an entire Youth Council upcountry and what the main learnings were. It gave the entire Executive food for thought, and coupled with an upcoming visit by Hamish and Laura to Auckland, definitely paves the way for future visits to our colleagues in other Youth Councils.

Visit to Auckland Youth Advisory Panel



In the very week before relinquishing his position as Chairperson of Christchurch Youth Council, Hamish Keown, accompanied by the Co-ordinator, flew to Auckland in a visit to their Youth Advisory Group. The visit was arranged through the wonderful Christchurch City Council as a result of a chance meeting with Auckland City Mayor Len Brown in an MOU-drafting session at the Council's top floor mayoral offices. It was designed to be a first contact between the two youth councils, as an information sharing mission. The trip was a great chance to see how the Youth Advisory Panel operated over such a huge area and still manage to be efficient and effective.

Relationships have been formed through this trip and we will be sure to continue developing and growing our connecting with this group.

Local NZ

By Alison Faulls



From the 16th - 19th of November, Alison Faulls and Hamish Keown attended the LocalNZ Workshop as representatives of the Christchurch Youth Council. The four day conference brought together youth from all over New Zealand, many of whom were also on youth councils. The group also included policy advisors and those generally interested in youth affairs and local government which made for a diverse group of passionate emerging leaders.

The first day saw us travelling by bus to Whanganui, where “A Place to Live” was held - a conference closely connected to LocalNZ which discussed how the environment and economy of smaller regions could be improved in the face of increasing urbanisation. The conference recognised the late Sir Paul Callaghan, who held the dream that New Zealand would become “the place where talent wants to live”. On arriving, we met other participants and were briefed on the purpose of the conference. Our keynote speaker Richard Louv gave a fantastic presentation on what he referred to as “nature deficit disorder” in children, and its possible health effects.

That night we attended the annual Rutherford Lecture, where Dame Anne Salmond gave a stirring speech on how we could encompass several cultural views in environmental management, with the Whanganui River and the recent move to consider it as a legal person serving as an example. The talks following this urged us to consider some of the issues facing smaller regions

and we began to understand the concept of one size not fitting all when it comes to our regions, the need for strong leadership at a local level and greater support of local councils.

The next day we boarded a steam boat for an early trip up the river. Morning tea was held in the marae at Jerusalem and we explored the church above before heading to a local school to meet the students. Lunch that day was held at the Koriniti marae where we received a warm welcome and began to plan our presentation. On returning to Whanganui, there was a final debate amongst several mayors (and as we later found, one who was not in fact Mayor Lynne of Tawa, but a comedian). This concluded our time in Whanganui and that night we travelled to our accommodation in Wellington.

The third day consisted of a series of workshops held at the Treasury on the topics of water, creating a talent-based economy and community infrastructure. We had the opportunity to question the speakers individually following each session and from this developed our ideas on how local communities could grow. That night we stayed up well into the early hours of the morning at the McGuinness Institute working on our presentation to Parliament the next day. It was fantastic to see the knowledge we had gained over the last three days come together with our resulting recommendations including a Mokopuna clause where policies enacted should consider the effect on future generations.

On the final day, the conference culminated in our presentation at the Beehive and a Skype call to those who had remained at the A Place to Live Conference to discuss our experience. We left with a fresh perspective, new ideas and above all a network of incredible people dedicated to improving New Zealand. It was an event that well exceeded any expectations we had held and with similar conferences planned in the future, something I would recommend others get involved in.

Submissions

This year, we have completed a few submissions on issues such as the Riccarton Super Bus Stop. For these submissions, we asked our Facebook audience for their opinions and incorporated their views into our submission. Although we received some feedback through this avenue, 2015 will see us investigating other avenues we can utilise to hear more opinions from youth that we represent on issues that affect us all in Christchurch.

Due to many changes in the way that CYC functions and capacity issues, we did not complete submissions at all opportunities due to it not being one of our main foci. In 2015, we plan to be on top of this aspect of our work as it sees us directly engage with the Christchurch City Council and other organisations by providing a youth opinion on draft plans. We have also floated the idea of having one or two designated executive members in charge of organising submissions, who will seek input from our wider audience and put together the formal documents.

Riccarton Super Stop Proposal



In general, the Christchurch Youth Council supports the proposed Riccarton Super Stop and Passenger Waiting Lounge.

As a result of many informal conversations with young people around Christchurch, the overwhelming message is that there is a desperate need for

improved bus facilities in the Riccarton Road area. Many young people board or disembark various buses at Riccarton, and the current situation is commonly described as inadequate, with specific concerns being that the space provided for those waiting for a bus is “very cramped” and that it is “hard to cross the road.”

Thus everyone we spoke to was keen for something better, and the proposed solution was positively received. Having a warm, pleasant and safe place to wait in the Passenger Waiting Lounge will benefit those waiting a significant amount of time for a bus, especially in bad weather. It will also reduce congestion on the footpaths and next to the bus stop. In addition, the proximity of the Passenger Waiting Lounge to a controlled pedestrian crossing will make it much easier, and safer, to cross the road.

There were a few concerns, however. The question was raised about how often the crossing allowed pedestrians to cross the road, as some people commented that they had had to wait there for a long time. If people are going to catch a bus, they will tend to be in a rush, and so the time period for this crossing might like to be checked, as would provision for those with a sight impediment. There was also a concern that people coming out of the mall have a longer walk to get to the bus stop, but that concern were generally allayed by the fact that there is another exit.

In summary, the Christchurch Youth Council believes that the proposed Super Stop and Passenger Waiting Lounge is a major improvement on the current situation, and we believe that it will be of great benefit to many young people in Christchurch.

Child-Friendly Cities Christchurch

Our involvement with the Child-Friendly Cities initiative occurred mid-way through the preparations to launch, when our Co-ordinator was invited to take part in a pitch critique session. We were then invited to the official launch at the Christchurch City Council, where sadly only one Councillor was present to watch a fantastic music show from Starjam, and a polished presentation from the team behind Child-Friendly Christchurch. The working group for this project intend to gain local support at government and commercial level, and CYC looks forward to being a part of the process as this project develops. A number of exciting groups are working on it, and it's very much a case of 'watch this space' with this one. It is our intention to be of as much use as possible in the process, and we are eager to see this idea be investigated much more deeply.

*“...an
organisation that
seeks to be a
legitimate player
within the
Christchurch
youth sector.”*

Independent Audit

This year marked the first year when CYC maintained properly audited accounts. As part of our responsibility as an Incorporated Society, the audit, conducted by Christchurch Community Accounting without issue, offers us the chance to apply for more funding, and enhances our reputation as an organisation that seeks to be a legitimate player within the Christchurch youth sector.

Full access to this report can be obtained by contacting our office.

CYC Executive Members 2014

Hamish Keown | Chairperson

James Adams | Deputy Chairperson

Wil Undy | Secretary

Alice Ridley | Treasurer

Kaitlyn White | Deputy Treasurer

Alison Faulls | Deputy Secretary

Liam Stretch

Michael Chim

Rose Oakley

Alex Cheesebrough

Madicyn Leckey-Hinde

Melissa Leafa

Erin Gough

Isla Reeves Martin

Nathan Brown

Laura | Co-ordinator

Funders and Supporters

Ara Taiohi	Ministry of Youth Development
ASB	Mortlock McCormack Law
Auckland City Council	Selwyn District Council
Canterbury Youth Workers Collective	Strengthening the Youth Sector
Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority	Thank You Payroll
	The Todd Foundation
Christchurch City Council	The Wayne Francis Charitable Trust
Christchurch Community House	The White Elephant Charitable Trust
Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology	Ultimo Clothing
Christchurch Secondary Schools	Waimakariri District Council
Get Results Ltd	Waimakariri Youth Council
Hells Pizza	Youthtown
Local NZ	Youth Voice Canterbury
Ministry of Social Development	298 Youth Health

All members of the CYC Advisory Group and their respective organisations for allowing them to donate their time.

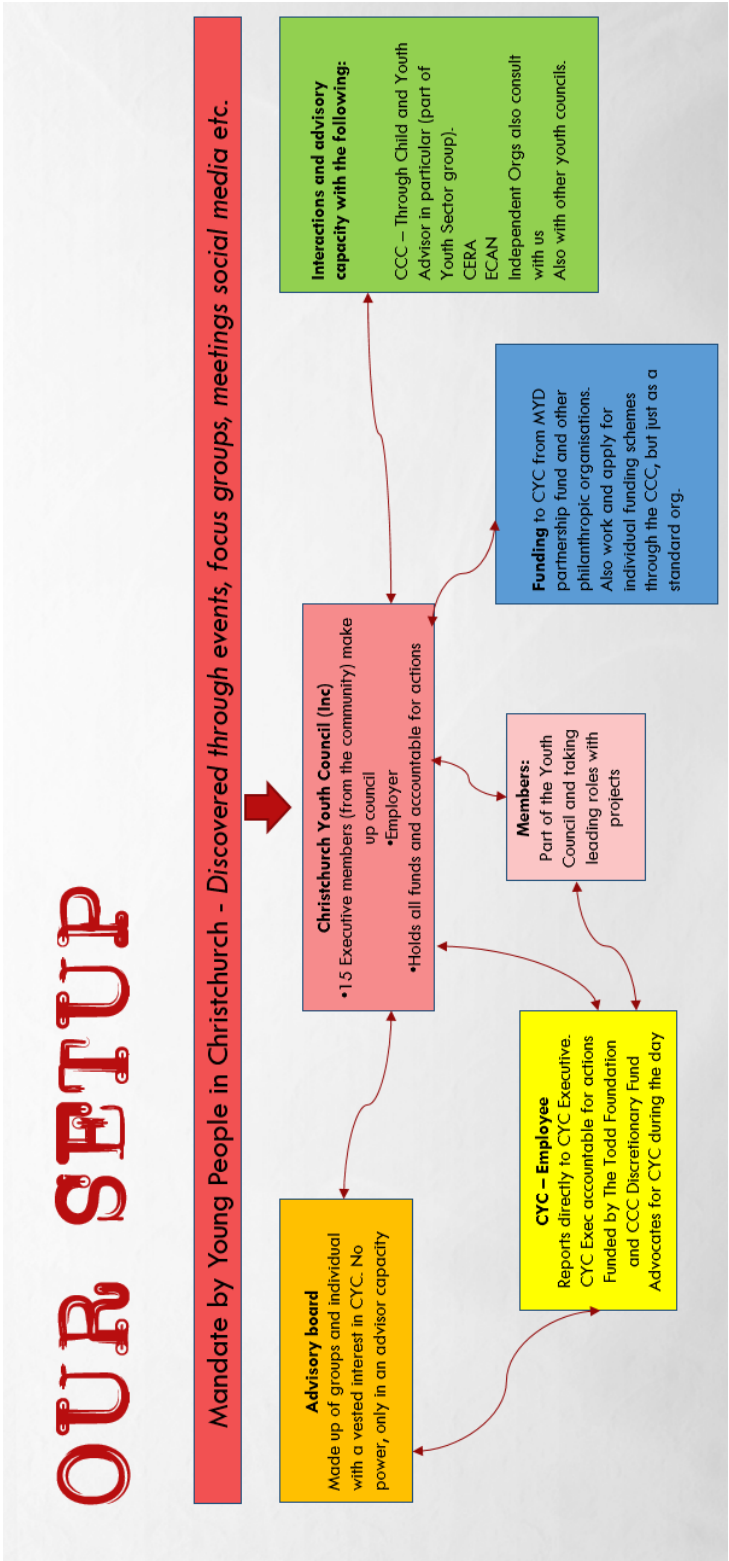
Christchurch Youth Council would like to extend their most sincere thanks to the above organisations and to the many more people untold who have helped us in continuing our journey in 2014. With your assistance, we are moving faster towards our goal of bringing the youth voice to the table of every important conversation about the future of our city.

We have attached 2 Appendices to this report:

Appendix A: CYC structure diagram

Appendix B: Memorandum of Understanding between Christchurch Youth Council and Christchurch City Council

Appendix A: CYC structure diagram



Appendix B: Memorandum of Understanding between Christchurch Youth Council and Christchurch City Council

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

DATED: 11 December 2014

PARTICIPANTS

Christchurch City Council

Christchurch Youth Council Inc.

SCOPE

This memorandum of understanding is entered into to guide and develop a partnership and strategic 'project-based' relationship between the Christchurch Youth Council Inc. ("CYC") and the Christchurch City Council ("the Council").

It reflects the principles relating to local authorities under sections 14 (1) (b) and (e) of the Local Government Act 2002 collaborating and co-operating with other bodies as it considers appropriate to promote or achieve its priorities and desired outcomes, and make efficient use of resources; and making itself aware of, and having regard to, the views of all of its communities. It reflects the Council's commitment to build closer links with the communities it serves and contribute to the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being of Christchurch City. It further reflects the need to make the most efficient use of resources. The memorandum also reflects the desire of the CYC to forge closer relationships with the Council and a cooperative and supportive approach to arts, culture, the natural environment and active democracy in particular.

This memorandum recognises an ability to promote joint projects and operational forums and aims to provide greater focus and co-ordination on issues of mutual interest and concern. It also recognises the need for communication and consultation between CYC and the Council.

PURPOSE

The Council and the CYC commit to working for the good of the communities that make up Christchurch City. It is intended that this agreement will ensure that appropriate levels of consultation, information sharing, co-ordination and collaboration are maintained between the Council and the CYC. The process of arriving at this agreement,

and its ongoing operation should contribute to the strengthening of the relationship in order to provide a strong voice for young people in democracy decision making in Christchurch.

PRINCIPLES

The Council and the CYC will:

- Agree to act co-operatively and in good faith on issues of information and disclosure relevant to this agreement;
- Agree to work collaboratively in an open and transparent manner;
- Endeavour to work together on all issues where it is agreed that the people of Christchurch City will benefit from a collaborative approach;
- Agree to build on work currently being undertaken within the City and the CYC and to continue to address issues of effective co-ordination, and the clarification of respective roles and responsibilities;
- Make every effort to accommodate, acknowledge or at least fairly represent any dissenting view between the Council and the CYC;
- Both parties will operate on a no surprises bases, and respects each others right to their own opinion;
- Acknowledge each organisation's unique accountability and responsibilities; In the case of disagreement and following consultation in good faith, nothing in this memorandum shall prevent the Council or the CYC from making decisions in their own interests.

COMMUNICATION AND CO-OPERATION

The Council and the CYC will endeavour to provide where possible:

- Early notification to each other of major policy discussions that may have implications for the other party;
- Early notification to each other of issues and projects that will impact significantly on the other party;
- Identification of any projects that could be undertaken jointly that provide mutual benefit to each party;
- Opportunities for each other, to be involved in early consultation on the development of significant policies and proposals, including draft strategic plans, draft long-term plans and business plans;
- Respect for confidential and sensitive information that each party may hold;

- That the open, transparent and collaborative approaches to communication and cooperation in this agreement are reflected, where relevant, in each organisation's own policies and service delivery;
- Where possible, resources will be used to support a collaborative response to issues of mutual concern.

Communication and co-operation between the Council and the CYC will include, but is not limited to:

- Approximately quarterly presentations by the CYC to Christchurch City Council and vice versa as required to further mutual understanding.
- Regular meetings, approximately every six weeks, between nominated representatives of Christchurch City Council and the CYC.
- Meetings between Council staff and Youth Council representatives as necessary to achieve communication and co-ordination on issues identified in the agreement or arising out of any of the activities referred to above.
- Liaison meetings between the Council and the CYC and relevant groups in the community.

The organisations will meet together to develop common and co-operative approaches to new and existing projects. Projects are detailed in Schedule One. This will be amended from time to time as projects are added or completed. The Council will strive for an inclusive relationship with CYC, where appropriate, and extend invitations to Council events, trainings and relevant projects. The Council will provide match funding for three years to the CYC Coordinator role.

REVIEW

This memorandum continues in force from the date it is signed by both parties until terminated by either party giving not less than 30 days notice in writing to the other. Council and the CYC will review this agreement and its Schedule at least one month before its anniversary. It will be the responsibility of the Office of the Chief Executive and the CYC Chairperson to ensure that the Memorandum of Understanding is executed.

AUTHORITY

This memorandum of understanding is signed on this day, 11 December 2014, by the following on behalf of the Council and the CYC:

The Christchurch City Council

Lianne Dalziel

Karleen Edwards

Mayor Chief

Executive

The Christchurch Youth Council Inc.

Chairperson

Member