

Annual Report of the Christchurch Youth Council (Inc.)

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Introduction

Alice Ridley - Chairperson

2015 has been another year of growth and new doors opened for CYC. As our second year as an incorporated society, we have continued to find our feet as an independent Youth Council -trying new projects and building our skills.

The year began welcoming our new executive members after the new revised recruitment process. This process included applying through any means that they felt most represented them as a person (Video, PowerPoint presentation, CV, poem ... the list went on!). After the applications were shortlisted, they were then invited to a recruitment day that involved activities and a small group interview. This day was lots of fun and a great way to get to know the possible new Youth Councillors. The new executives were officially elected through the AGM (our first as a society!), as well as the officers' positions.

The executive dived into the year with organizing We Speak, which happened in May during Youth Week. We Speak is an all-day event for young people to learn more about being active within their own communities and speak up about issues affecting them. Shortly after we held our leadership hui, called Brick by Brick, where youth councillors across the region came and engaged in leadership workshops. Not to mention the very amusing treasure hunt which left tram conductors very confused as to why so many young people wanted to high-five them! Although it feels like we have run fewer events this year due to a focus on upskilling, as I write this, I am just back from another of our events - the final YVC *Youth Connect* hosted by CYC. It included a tram ride about the CBD courtesy of CERA then workshops about 'life after youth council,' which I don't want to imagine!

We've launched several new initiatives this year, including more *Face2Faces*, which are the bread and butter of what CYC is about. These easy-to-organise events are where youth councillors go out into various communities and have discussion about all sorts of topics. This has allowed us to build up a more detailed picture of what young people want, and what their biggest issues are.

Another exciting set of projects this year were the *Passion Projects*. Each youth councillor chose something they were really passionate about and ran a project with it, which could have been anything from organising an event to publishing an EBook or joining a board of Trustees! There were no boundaries, and as a result, each of the executive team have developed new skills, making them even more fantastic to work with. Best wishes to outgoing members, and to all our supporters, funders, members and staff, have a happy holiday season and see you next year!

Highlights:

- Signing the MOU with the Christchurch City Council on the 27th of February.
- Awarded Youth Week Youth Group Award 2015 -selected as one of five youth groups nationally.
- After completing over 1800 volunteer hours CYC was awarded the VolCan volunteer recognition award, being the youngest group to receive this!
- Being employers for a year and a half to our amazing employee who we couldn't do what we do without her -thanks, Laura!



Alice Ridley - Chairperson 2015

New Member's Perspective

Sophie Mills

As a new member on the Christchurch Youth Council this year, I can whole-heartedly say I am very thankful I applied. Being a part of such a diverse, vibrant and motivated group has opened so many doors for me this year. Although every member is unique and passionate about different things, we share common thoughts regarding the youth in Christchurch and all believe in making a change to our city.

This year as an independent Youth Council, we have achieved so much. The level of professionalism CYC maintains continually surprises me and I learn new skills every time we are together. Everyone holds a level of open-mindedness that allows us to see others' perspectives, a skill I have personally grown on this year. As a new member this year I felt thoroughly welcomed into CYC at the start of this year. Everything was explained to me as we went along, and I never felt left out on practices that I hadn't heard of before. Before long I felt as if I fit in and was no longer nervous to speak out in meetings. I was also encouraged to participate and take on tasks, thanks to the support and help I received along the way. Being a part of CYC either through the members or executive is something I would highly recommend as you take away so many new skills while connecting with amazing people.



Chairs set out for WeSpeak

WeSpeak Report

Kaitlyn White and James Adams

Running each year in Youth Week since 2009, WeSpeak 2015 was held on Friday, 29th May at the Canterbury Horticultural Centre. As the first major event for our new youth councillors, organising WeSpeak presented a unique opportunity to grow our skill-sets and connect with youth that we represent for a daylong event. The day was focused around one central theme: having our say now for the future of our city. By the end of the day, we are confident that all participants left knowing that their voices mattered. Although disappointing in attendance, WeSpeak itself was one of our most well-executed events for logistics, planning and quality of speakers and CYC is proud of what we achieved.

Speakers included:

Chris Gallivan, Dean of Law at UC;
Sela Faletolu, who works with Pasifika youth;
...and several young people, who spoke about everything from growing up in post-EQ Christchurch to experiencing Nepal or winning awards for reducing their environmental footprint.

Workshops included future scenarios imagining with *Rebuild this City (RTC)*, drama with *Attitude*, unbridled creativity with a gnomologist and even "speed dating."

In addition, a significant amount of information was collected off the participants, including these statistics:

- More than 50% of attendees gave the event 5 out of 5 in a satisfaction survey.
- The majority heard about the event through school or friends, despite us spending significantly on Facebook ads.
- Youth spaces, housing and public transport (in that order) were the top three issues for young people identified by participants.

Turning the Tables

On Wednesday the 23rd of September 2015 a collaboration between Christchurch Youth Council (CYC) and Pacific Youth Leadership And Transformation (PYLAT) organised the very first Turning The Tables event. This was supported by Youth Voice Canterbury (YVC) and was hosted with The Christchurch City Council (CCC).

Turning the Tables involved young people from these organisations and some other networks. The Christchurch City Councillors and other notables swapped roles with the young people, so the decision-makers sat in the public gallery and listened to what the young people in Christchurch had to say about the top 5 voted topics, from a survey of 250 young people.

The organisations represented:

- Cashmere High School
- Christchurch YMCA Youth Council
- Christchurch Youth Council
- Hurunui Youth Council
- Korean Society
- Ministry Youth Development Regional Advisory Group
- Pacific Youth Leadership And Transformation
- Refugee Youth Council
- Selwyn Youth Council
- Youth Voice Canterbury

5 surveyed topics

- Mental Health
- Having a say and being listened to
- The rebuild
- Youth friendly places and spaces
- Cultural diversity

With each topic 7-8 young people spoke for a minute each on their thoughts and recommendations that could be done to support the young people of Christchurch.

The event was a huge success with many amazing ideas, such as: producing success stories and positive role models around mental health; involving young people in decisions from the start; making sure CERA and the Christchurch City Council make sure rebuild information is readily available and easy to understand; and paying a team of young people to do youth friendly audits on Christchurch places and events.

The end result was a unanimous vote for Turning the Tables to be an annual event and to make the "CYC's Memorandum Of Understanding more than paper". Mayor Lianne Dalziel stated that they would also like to send at least two councillors and herself to Christchurch

We're ready to take over the chambers

@ Cameron Russell

Stoked to see the young people of Christchurch taking over Ch'ch City Council chambers talking about what matters to them

@ Hannah Dunlop

Officially allowed to use the word awesome tonight as I hand over debating chamber to Mayor Cameron

@ Lianne Dalziel

Lower rent buildings needed in rebuild to provide a more interesting city for youth

#chchyouthvoice

We have a moral obligation to say something about racism and try and actively do something about it

#chchyouthvoice

The more that youth mental health is talked about, the more comfortable others will be in going for help

#chchyouthvoice

Youth Councils fortnightly meetings. The next day CYC's councillor Sofie and YVC's Tayla attended the Council meeting to present the findings of Turning The Tables to the councillors who couldn't attend the event.

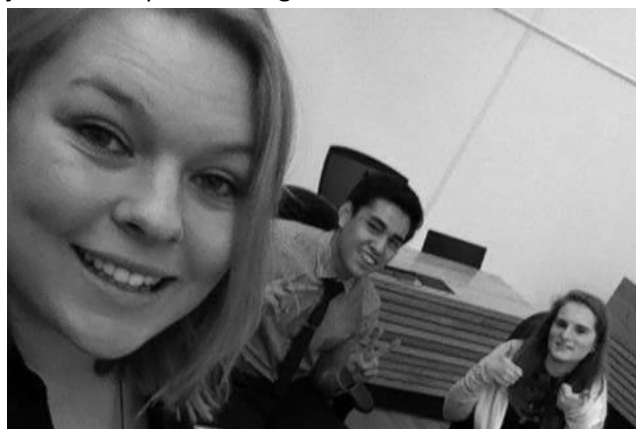
<http://councillive.ccc.govt.nz/video/5958>

Events like this are essential in getting a youth voice and their participation. In growing skills such as leadership, communication, citizenship and improving cognitive development. Events like Turning the Tables gets young people's feet in the door, in regard to making a difference and learning about how Councils and Government officials make decisions for Christchurch and globally.

Events like this are vitally important in letting youth know that they have a voice and setting good habits to increase voting numbers and the number of young people interested in politics and their futures, and the ones after them. It also allows young people to focus on the community and not just themselves.

Turning the Tables created an awareness for the Mayor and the councillors about what organisations are out there for youth and the level of knowledge and insight that the young people had on Christchurch and what they needed and wanted. Mayor Dalziel highlighted that the debate was of substance on all the topics grappled with, and asked about ways to engage the network all the groups represent.

It goes to show that young people are powerful contributors to social change around the world and in their own homes. Without events like this, Christchurch would not be a place that youth want to grow up in. If decisions continue to be made by disinterested adults, youth will continue to be disengaged in political and community decisions. But most importantly youth will give up trying to make a difference because no one is listening and nothing is changing. Turning the Tables was just one step on turning this trend around.



Youth Mental Health is the no.1 biggest issue that we're talking about tonight, according to Ch'ch young people
#chchyouthvoice

Youth voice is pointless if no-one is actually listening. Partnership is key.
#chchyouthvoice

Good intentions with the rebuild, but soooo slow...
#chchyouthvoice

We're the ones that will be living with the results of today's decisions -why can't we have our say?
#chchyouthvoice

We need places that youth can go that aren't completely commercialised
#chchyouthvoice

Let's make some noise about the positive!
#chchyouthvoice

Right on! Involve young people at the beginning of democratic process not at the end
@ Jocelyn Papprell



Face 2 Faces

Charlotte Ross and Liam Stretch

In 2015 Face to Face or 'F2F' events took on the role of being the Christchurch Youth Council's primary source of public consultation. These were undertaken throughout the city and greater Christchurch area in order to garner a diverse range of perspectives and opinions. Included here are details from just two of the many of these events that we have run:

"The Downtown Farmers Market: The Downtown Farmer's Market Face to Face was held on Sunday the thirteenth of September at the Commons in central Christchurch. A stand was erected with promotional material available and a question of the hour was asked to passersby. The questions centred the topics related to the Christchurch rebuild, what heritage meant to people and the role of youth. Alongside this, the youth councillors were able to mingle with the crowd and talk about topics of interest and those of concern to the members of the public. Information gathered concluded the need for more youth involvement, higher transparency in the rebuild, and the developments of communities. There was plenty of interest in the work of CYC."

"On the 21st of March, the Face to Face at Polyfest was held. The event was the perfect place to hold a face to face with plenty of youth being involved in the festival. There was also interaction with the Christchurch Youth Council from parents of the students involved. Surveys were used to collect feedback. These highlighted the challenges people face in their communities. These included – cycle lanes, safe places to hang out and a desire for clean rivers."

Other Face to Face events were held at Polyfest, Stage Challenge, the Diamond Harbour Fair, Summerz End festival, Lyttelton Farmers' Market and at the Downtown Market.

Brick x Brick

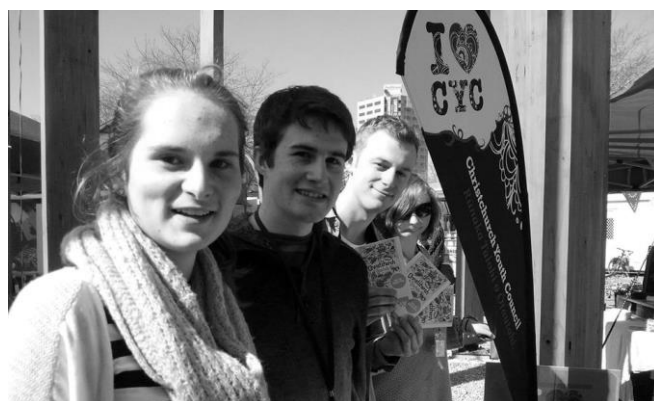
Sophie Mills

Brick by Brick ("BxB") was a successful event - the continuation of an earlier Youth Leaders' Hui held in January by the Ashburton Youth Council. For BxB we received funding from the Ministry of Youth Development to create a fun event for young people involved in youth councils or similar activities from across Canterbury. The main aim was to learn new skills and work together with one another to devise ideas on how to improve the running of their Youth Councils.

BxB was held in the Gloucester Room at the Isaac Theatre Royal and our busy program for the day included a tour of the Theatre Royal, *The Leader Workshop* run by Laura (CYC), a Youth Charter Workshop run by Josiah (PYLAT) and Tayla (Youth Voice Canterbury), a Digital Scavenger Hunt in the CBD, Events Planning Workshop with Catarina Gutierrez (Ministry of Awesome) and much more! It was a very rewarding day where all attendees took away many new skills. We gained insight after learning of the experiences of others and how each Youth Council runs differently.



above - BxB workshop **below - a Face2Face**



Financial Matters

Charlotte Ross

2015 strong year for the finances at CYC. Many generous supporters have continued to help the Youth Council grow, while new groups have established connections for further development. It was my privilege to be appointed treasurer of CYC for the first time and I have learnt invaluable skills along the way. As CYC is an independent organisation, we rely on long and short-term grants throughout the year to sustain the activities we undertake and the events we run. We have grown much more confident in seeking and obtaining funding, as well as budgeting effectively. Cost-efficiency was a key focus for this year and much progress has been made in using funding opportunities strategically.

We have a healthy amount of supporters who provide such grants and CYC would like to acknowledge and give special thanks to:

- The Canterbury Community Trust/Rātā Foundation
- The Christchurch City Council
- The Ministry of Youth Development
- The Todd Foundation
- The Wayne Francis Charitable Trust
- CERA Winter Chill Fund
- Thankyou Payroll

These were just a collection of our tagged funds for operational costs, our employee's wages and specific events - amongst other spending. Their assistance was incredible and helped us achieve what it is we do best. More information on the financial year and spending is

available through viewing the 2015 audit.

*"In my opinion
the Financial
Statements
provide a true
and fair view of
the assets and*



Harald Breiding-Buss, CPA Aust (Ass), MSc, NZDipBus (AT)
Christchurch Community Accounting
harald@commaccounting.co.nz

Statement of Cash Flows

For the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

	2015 \$NZ	2014 \$NZ
Operating Funds Received		
Grants (note 5)	\$ 69,984	\$ 10,641
Interest	\$ 500	\$ 267
Total Operating Funds Received	\$ 70,484	\$ 10,908
Operating Funds Applied		
Bank Fees	\$ 36	\$ 12
Stationery	\$ 785	\$ 252
Conference	\$ 6,130	\$ 110
Communication	\$ 589	\$ 80
Website	\$ 646	\$ 521
Catering	\$ 2,950	\$ 2,577
UN Youth Scholarship	\$ -	\$ 900
Advertising	\$ 499	\$ 1,699
Koha	\$ 222	\$ 961
Projector Hire	\$ -	\$ 420
Venue Hire	\$ 3,126	\$ 552
Transport	\$ 344	\$ 330
Interpreter Services	\$ -	\$ 978
Contractor - Facilitator	\$ 1,333	\$ 460
Creative Leadership	\$ 445	\$ 500
Audit	\$ 150	\$ -
Clothing	\$ 507	\$ -
Professional Fees	\$ 934	\$ -
Rent	\$ 3,305	\$ -
Wages	\$ 34,820	\$ -
Sundry	\$ 2,083	\$ 291
Total Operating Funds Applied	\$ 58,904	\$ 10,643
Operating Cash Flow	\$ 11,581	\$ 265
Investing/Financing Funds Applied		
Fixed Assets - Electronics	(\$ 2,391)	\$ -
Total Investing/Financing Funds Applied	(\$ 2,391)	\$ -
Net Cash Flow	\$ 9,190	\$ -
Add Opening Cash Balance	\$ 36,545	\$ -
Closing Cash Balance	\$ 45,735	\$ -

Media

Sophie Mills

The way we use media at CYC ensures we can get tasks done effectively, and allows us to communicate with people outside the organisation.

The use of media allows us to connect to each other within the Youth Council to enable fast, efficient completion of tasks. Email, Skype, texting and phone calls are an immediate way to contact someone throughout the day on Youth Council related matters. This particularly comes into use around the planning of an event as we find that we need to contact each other to confirm plans etc. The use of our private Facebook group becomes daily practice as we share what is going on for CYC and is especially helpful for sharing minutes and agendas. This is also a great way for our Co-ordinator, Laura, to update us on her day and what has been achieved for CYC. We have found that Facebook is better than emails for many things, as comments are easy to keep track of and documents, photos and videos can easily be shared. 2015 has been the year where CYC discovered and trialled new software, some perfectly integrating into our lives, and some being hit and miss. Screencast-o-Matic, Google docs and Weebly have been great for us, while Basecamp fell short.

Along with using media within CYC, it is also a large part of our advertising and reaching out to others. Our Facebook page has over 2000 likes and we use this to inform the public of our upcoming events along with promoting other pages/councils. This year we appeared on the Daily Fix twice. The Daily Fix is an online airing live every weekday from 5pm-7pm. James, Kaitlyn and Sophie went first and chatted to the presenters of the online TV show, EJ and Aaron, about their passion projects. George and Alice followed to talk about TEDxYouth and got the word out to young people who otherwise wouldn't have heard of the event by doing so. Social meeting

is a perfect way for CYC to reach out to the public and this usually happens through our Facebook page.

Upskilling Our Team

Charlotte Ross and Liam Stretch

Throughout the year of 2015, there were various ways in which councillors were able to extend their individual and collective skills.

The standout reason CYC works so effectively is because of the talented people involved; everyone has something to bring to the table individually and it is how we develop and collaborate those skills that makes us a cohesive team. Team-building activities throughout the year enabled the team to develop strong foundations. This foundation building ensured a sense of security in the council – people were able to freely share ideas in a safe and comfortable environment. In July, we combined the Strategic Planning meeting with a trip to Laser Strike, followed by a team dinner at Burgers and Beers. An initiative was also set-up whereby each executive member has \$100 put towards their up- skilling activity of choice - the only requirements being it positively impacts CYC. Such trainings encouraged by this incentive include, attaining a full-licence, a first aid course, Maori competence and Treaty of Waitangi education course (which several of us did this year). Training has not been limited to the executive members in 2015, the co-ordinator Laura was allowed several training opportunities, being both personal and professional development - these include university courses and other workshops offered to all of CYC throughout the year.

below -CYC executive "strategic planning"



Passion Projects

The following section includes reports from several of this year's Passion Projects. Each councillor took the lead on one project, but we've included here only a selection, as many haven't yet come to fruition or are more on-going.

TEDxYouth @Avon River

George Mander

TEDxYouth@AvonRiver's story began in January 2015, when Laura (the Christchurch Youth Council Co-ordinator) suggested that we run a TEDxYouth event as a Youth Council. Needless to say, we were all hugely excited by the idea, so we arranged to meet with Kaila, the curator of TEDxChristchurch to investigate its feasibility. It quickly became clear that it would be possible, and having been encouraged by Kaila's enthusiasm for the idea, I began to complete the licensing application on behalf of CYC, although we later learnt that it was not possible to hold a license as an organisation, so I volunteered to apply as an individual and take the project on as a passion project. Some weeks later, we received the news that our licence had been granted!

Laura then designed a website for us, and we opened applications for the organising team and volunteer roles. We received over 30 applications for these positions, and whittled them down to a core organising team consisting of Kate Idiens, Yong Noh, Sarah Kelleher, Rich Humphreys, Michael van de Water, Laura (CYC Co-ordinator), Alice Ridley (CYC Chairperson) and myself. With this team, we embarked on the journey of bringing TEDxYouth@AvonRiver to life.

By hosting a TEDxYouth event within Christchurch, I hoped to (at least partially) fill the gap for events like this for young people within our city, and furthermore to connect youth with ideas that will allow them to shape themselves and the world around them.

These aims fit well with CYC's mission to connect the dots, open doors, and make some noise on a number of levels. Events like TEDxYouth@AvonRiver connect young people with each other, but also with the ideas that provide the spark for youth engagement on a personal level and at the level of the wider community. By exposing youth to these ideas and creating a space in which they are able to engage with them and with others, events like this also open doors for young people and inspire them to make some noise, thereby fulfilling the Youth Council's aims.

TEDxYouth@AvonRiver took place on Sunday 6th of December and it was an awesome day all around, with excellent performances by the speakers, which were well received by the audience.

The next step is to work out how to make TEDxYouth@AvonRiver even bigger and better than it was this year. I'm not yet exactly sure how to do that given the various licensing requirements, but at the start of this year I wasn't sure how we were going to run a TEDx event at all, so I'm sure we'll find a way to do it!



Speaker rehearsals

The main highlights for me personally were working with the speakers for the first time (because that's when I first saw the full potential of the event), and of course watching the show, because that's when that

potential was exceeded, and all the hard work from the speakers, team, volunteers and sponsors shone through!

There were no major low points throughout the project, however if I had to choose one, the lowest point would be the times immediately before exams when everything was piling up and there seemed to be too little time to get everything done.

For me the whole project was a massive learning curve - I've gained a lot of confidence in a number of areas, from managing people, to finding sponsors, to bringing out the best in speakers. The most valuable skills that this project has allowed my team and I to hone are the general teamwork and problem-solving skills that can only come from practical experience.

The benefits of projects like this are huge, not only for the audience that are able to witness the final product, but also for those that are involved in bringing it all together. As I mentioned above, I've learnt a lot personally from this project, and I have no doubt that the rest of my team, and the speakers have as well. We've also provided opportunities for young people to take part in the AV side of the event, which further demonstrates the capacity for projects like this to allow young people to hone the skills that they do have and to gain the skills that they don't. Perhaps most importantly, however, these projects allow young people to connect with one another and their communities, and as Brando (one of our speakers) said in his talk, this positive human connection is invaluable.

Te Punanga Haumaru

Sofie Hampton

I have always been passionate about mental health and wellbeing and anything that connects to being the best you can be. So when Savannah, another Youth Councillor, had to step down from the first meeting as youth representative on Te Punanga Haumaru, I thought this would be the perfect

opportunity for me as a passion project. I already knew a few of the design team members: Vicki Edwards-Brown, who I helped pilot *Be the Change* with, and Tayla Reece from Youth Voice Canterbury. I had had experience with Anti-Bullying work with Google Web Rangers and Peer Mentoring when I was in high school, so taking the role to represent youth in Christchurch in a government implicated anti bullying project seemed to be perfect for this year's passion project.

The outcome will be a pro-social project, to our targeted audience of 'The Bystander'. We plan to do this through a set of resources, a campaign and/or a "role model". This will help empower bystanders to become "up standers." This means promoting bystanders to stand up, be brave and take action in defence of others. This project fits in with CYC's kaupapa of connecting the dots with organisations including the Ministry of Youth Development, Te Ora Hou, Youth Voice Canterbury and Department of Internal Affairs. Opening doors with those groups and with The Ministry of Education and making some noise by putting our project out on a Christchurch School level.

I have been involved in this project for about 6 months. We have grown as a team, we have interviewed young bystanders, bullies, victims, parents, youth workers and teachers. We have analysed and reviewed the stories and lives of these young people (between the ages of 11-15), their internal coping strategies and their individual levels of well being to create a picture of the 'ideal strong, coping, bullied adolescent'. We have now come up with three possible strategies with either a resource website/info sheet, role models or create a campaign. This will be based on the guideline of "*I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand.*" We have just written our project plan and have now passed the lead role to the Founder of *Be The Change* Vicki Edwards-Brown.

We have a year to finalize the ideas, put them into action and make a huge impact for the young adolescents in our Christchurch schools. This will be a forever continuing project and must be sustainable. The team of representatives from different government and non government organisations will make sure that this project is effective and that it successfully teaches everyone to stand up to bullies but in particular our intermediate and junior high school students.

Taking part in projects like these teaches you to give back to your community, and teaches so many life skill, communication, sense of community, leadership but most importantly for my project, selflessness. You learn that life does not revolve around you and that many others are seriously struggling too. It gives you a sense of importance makes you realize that if you really want something you can do it! It makes you a better person -a more caring person and a more purposeful person.

Post-EQ Politics

James Adams

The following is an excerpt from a booklet that I have written about local politics in Christchurch since the earthquakes, with tips for how young people can have their say:

When the very first earthquake struck, in the middle of the night on September the 4th 2010, I was old enough to have some understanding of the magnitude of the upheaval, but still young enough to be thankful for my mother's arms around my scared little body. My family and I were lucky that night, and were lucky again on February the 22nd, but between the two big ones and the millions of aftershocks, 185 people lost their lives, buildings were damaged and crucial infrastructure was broken.

Five years on, and as I look towards the next stage in my life, I'm writing this as something between a memoir and a guide to what has happened since the quakes. The "recovery" has come to characterise my high school

years, for better and for worse. It has been a nuisance at times -repairs, roadworks, the awareness that some people are under a vast amount of stress- but it has been an opportunity, too. For the last three years, I've been on the Christchurch Youth Council, and taken a particular interest in what goes on in the halls of power. I can't pretend to know what goes on behind closed doors, but I have been watching the doors pretty closely, and this is what I've learnt.

The completed project includes chapters on Share an Idea, what the various acronyms (ECAN, CCDU...) mean, and which entities are responsible for which services. It is my hope that this will be a resource for the youth council is the short term, as well as something interesting to look back on and remember the earthquake years.

Canteen Art Auction

Brittany Kremers

When I heard we each had to do a Passion Project, I thought for ages what I was passionate about. Then it came to me...CanTeen. CanTeen is a huge part of my life and I really want to give back to them. And then the next question was how. I'm really passionate about arts and crafts, so I decided to do an art auction, with some paintings done by members of CanTeen and some done by local artists.

This fits with CYC's kaupapa as I've *connected the dots* with CYC and CanTeen, and I'm also starting to build connections with businesses. I've *opened doors* to new things that I've never done before, but I haven't *made some noise* yet, as I'm still in the process of completing this project -I haven't made as much progress as I would have liked, but I've been held up by my sickness. However, I have got people supporting and businesses who will donate stuff.

The next step is to get more people and companies involved, to find a venue and do the art work! I've realised how many people

are keen to support something like this and it will be worthwhile, because it's an opportunity to learn, to gain new skills and to get young people busy and thinking!

Event Kit

Charmaine Cameron

As a group, we identified a need for a Face 2 Face kit so that we could be identified easier, have somewhere to go in all weathers and have a place that young people can come up and chat to us. This would allow us to promote the Christchurch Youth Council, what it is and how to get involved, giving youth the opportunity to have their say, or just have someone to talk to.

The intended outcome is an events kit, which we can use at Face2faces to *connect the dots, open the doors and make some noise!* It's meant to be a friendly environment where youth can come and chat about matters that involve youth, so I've researched, co-ordinated the design and purchased a marquee and several beanbags.

The marquee had its first showing at TEDx recently, and is looking great. Also, the whole project has fitted the budget perfectly, and is complete ready for use in 2016. I did learn the importance of planning, asking for help and realised that not everyone will be happy with everything, but on the plus side, I got to help design a marquee and am now looking forward to using it.



YOPER.org

Kim Dewe

I wanted to make it easier for young people to find empowering opportunities available for them globally. YOPER, a website, lets young people discover and share extraordinary experiences that empower self and global awareness.

This has involved, and will continue to involve, lots of late nights testing "UX" and connecting with global 'experience' companies that have something worth sharing. This website will be awesome once it becomes functional, but finding sustainable motivation to work on it has been hard. I have learnt that people are the most useful tool to solving problems and setting up something like this.

Room:Maker Trustee

Alice Ridley

Room:Maker creates educational opportunities for young people not currently in school or tertiary education. The young people will take part in an intensive 10 week long program in which they will design and build 10m x 10m sleep outs that will be given to families to house young people in that space -a space that is safe and secure, to tackle the issue of homelessness. The advantage of this size of building is that no resource consent is needed for buildings of this size or under. The program teaches practical, transferable, employment-related skills, as well as 'softer' skills like personal development and teamwork.

Initially set up by three alumni of Vodafone's World of Difference programme, this project aims to bring relief to the challenging social conditions in Christchurch. The first step of the project was Jordana, the project explorer, creating a scoping document which included the goals of the project, potential roadblocks, opportunities and the landscape of potential partners and financing possibilities. The Board of Trustees was then formed from a group of people across New Zealand from a wide range

of backgrounds and experiences to support the start-up of the Room:Maker Trust.

To date we have employed our CEO, Ross, and are just completing our interviewing for our youth worker position, who will start at the beginning of 2016. We also have a retreat planned with our CEO and all of the Trustees, with the intention of launching the pilot project in March 2016!

However, we've had both highs and lows with this initiative -one of the lows would have been going through a recruitment process and not finding the right sort of person for the position. After changing the job description and title for a second round of recruitment, we found the right person. I've learnt a huge amount about setting up an organisation from scratch and employment related matters.

E-Book

Sophie Mills

Over the summer, I will be interviewing and photographing people around Christchurch, and these will be published in an e-book, hopefully during next year.

The aim of this project was to create something accessible to everyone and that allows people's voices to be heard. I want my project to be a way that people can reflect on their views and extend their minds to the views of other.

Bounce

Isla Evison

Bounce is an organisation devoted to improving the wellbeing of youth in New Zealand, by organising and supporting young people at events year-round.

Unlike many other youth councillors I struggled to find a Passion Project this year, but I found one through a fellow student at my school who was involved in Bounce. I was interested in their project, and so went along to one of their meetings, and have been attending ever since!

Recently, a fellow CYC member and I attended the *Summer Starter* race, wearing mascot heads for Bounce/the All Right? Campaign. People at the race loved the fact we were getting involved, which taught me that sometimes small gestures can make a big difference in the community.

Next year I look forward to continuing to work with Bounce. I hope, as a team, we can continue to put valuable content on the website to increase the wellbeing of young people. 2016 will bring new Bounce events, hopefully as successful (if not more so) that the events this year.

I believe it is important to "stay busy, be happy" and I'm grateful for the opportunity to be involved with projects like Bounce.

Membership

Kaitlyn White

With an increasing number of young people wanting to be a part of what we do, the membership platform was created, and will continue to grow next year. Making this a reality has been my passion project, which will continue in 2016. Currently, we envisage that membership will have quarterly intakes, to allow more young people to become involved in the organisation more regularly, after sparking their interest at various events.

As being on the executive requires a large time commitment, the membership platform will allow busy individuals to become a part of our organisation, and also give an insight into what it's like to be on the executive, eventually leading to some members stepping up to be executive members in the future. As this project is still a fledgling, 2016 will see it come to life and members involved in every aspect of what we do. I hope this new opportunity will enable CYC to be present and active in more sectors, and ensure we are representing youth in a variety of arenas.

Connecting with Decision-Makers

James Adams

The humble submission has not entirely been forgotten in the flood of new ways to promulgate youth voice. Indeed, youth councillors have formally contributed to the consultation process surrounding the City Council's Annual Plan, ECAN's Annual Plan, CERA's Transition Plan, Victoria Sq Reference Group, and CCC's Representation Review.

Submission-writing is widely perceived as an archaic and thankless task, and this perception is not far from the truth. As always, submissions are most successful when they allow a human relationship to develop. For example, the below (*next page*) photo shows Kaitlyn and myself after a successful meeting at ECAN, where we were well received.



And similarly, signing the Memorandum of Understanding with the Christchurch City Council:



Looking to 2016

Kaitlyn White

2015 has been a year of many achievements and challenges alike. As we recruit new youth councillors for 2016, we plan to build on our work and create more opportunities for youth. CYC would not exist without the young people we represent, and also those who are a part of the organisation. Therefore, we need to be more inclusive and also ensure we are equipping our people with skills which will benefit them in the future.

Within the executive itself, 2016 brings a new challenge. In order to differentiate between the members and the executive, each executive member will now have a specific role, and so the group will operate more as a leadership team. Which aspect of CYC that each individual takes a lead on will be up to the incoming executive. Passion projects will still be continued alongside these roles, enabling our people to create something they're interested in and make a difference. However, we look forward to this change leading us to become more efficient and productive with our work, and also create a clear definition of what exactly we do. Ultimately, this initiative will aid personal development in our executive members as they learn leadership, accountability and various management skills from being in charge of their own area.

Personal development and training is a core goal of ours, and luckily CYC recently received a generous grant from the Strengthening Communities Fund from CCC to enable us to train our executive youth councillors and members alike. With this money, we have set aside certain amounts for group events, such as code of ethics training, strategic planning, Treaty training, but have also allocated money for each youth councillor to undertake training in various areas, such as first aid training, budgeting etc. We hope this grant will see our people gain skills and experiences

which will be of use not only in CYC, but in their future careers.

2016 also looks to be the year of increased engagement for CYC. With our flagship event (WeSpeak) being revamped thanks to a significant increase in funding from the Ministry of Youth Development, we're excited to engage with more young people than ever. The ideas for this event are still in their infancy, but we hope to be present across Christchurch, engaging with youth, during Youth Week in May.

The membership platform will also enable us to be present in more places, and we hope to work with our members to run workshops, present or collect views in their places of education or work. School visits is particularly one area we look to establish, but we are adamant that such visits must be meaningful and beneficial to youth. Our ideas thus far look to set up Face2Face stalls at schools, create polling booths in lunch areas and much, much more, so watch this space!

Finally, our relationships with various stakeholders have grown in 2015, but 2016 will see us involved more often with partners. Having signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Christchurch City Council in February, such events as Turning the Tables and having City Councillors attend our meetings has helped us form a closer bond. In 2016, we hope that we can increase our presence at CCC meetings and vice versa, and perhaps look to establish working groups on any arising issues. This opportunity also allows our members to learn from those in the seats of power, and inspire them to work hard to achieve their dreams. In 2016, we also intend to have a stronger relationship with Environment Canterbury (ECAN), and have started to do so by being involved in planning their Youth Hui for 2016. James Adams has been particularly involved with local government and the public transport network in particular, and we hope to carry on his good work in 2016.

Finally, we hope to be in the organising team for more initiatives through Youth Voice Canterbury (YVC) in 2016, as this network has been invaluable to us over the past 18 months and we are incredibly grateful for the opportunities we have had. Members who have attended Youth Connects, taking part in Turning the Tables and other events have absolutely loved connecting with other motivated young people from across our region, and we hope to become more involved, particularly in their submission writing team where we can join together.

All in all, 2016 is looking to be another big year for the Christchurch Youth Council. With significant growth over the past two years and having found our feet as an independent organisation, 2016 will see us set practices in place and establish certain roles and practices which will enable us to be engaging and working in the community more.