



Te pūrongo ā-tau Annual report

For the period 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2021

**Te Rūnanga Taiohi o
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke**
Wellington City Youth Council

Kōrero whakataki nā te kaiwhakahaere

Introduction from the chair

2020 can only be described as a year of building resilience and overcoming adversity for the Wellington City Youth Council. With meetings being moved online due to lockdowns and timelines being shifted, our Youth Councillors demonstrated their ability to adapt to the ever-changing environment whilst still providing high quality guidance and advice to the Council.

Over the past 18 months, Youth Council has focused on strengthening the quality of the advice that we give Council and other external organisations, ensuring that our time is best spent contributing to projects where a youth voice is a crucial perspective. Notably, Youth Council were very vocal about our concerns and aspirations for the Draft Spatial Plan 2020 and the Long Term Plan 2021-2031, seeking to ensure that the voices of young people in Wellington were at the forefront of the conversations, seeking to achieve the best outcomes in housing going forward.



Throughout 2020-2021, Youth Council submitted on a number of high-profile policies and proposals, including being able to directly contribute to the formation of the Child and Young Person Strategy and Aho Tini 2030. Our work on these policies marked a shift in Youth Council's desired approach in how we engage with the Council, aiming to be able to provide our perspective early on in the process of creating a policy which would affect young people, rather than simply providing feedback through a submission at the final stages. This allowed Youth Councillors to demonstrate their creativity by being part of the initial brainstorming stages of these projects, meaning that by the time a final policy was released for consultation, we were confident and proud of what was being released to the wider community for young Wellingtonians to share their thoughts.

In the past year and a half, Youth Council has had to farewell some incredibly influential members of our team. In February 2020, we farewelled Freja Cook as she stepped down from her position as Chair as she moved to Dunedin to begin her studies at Otago University. I would like to thank Freja for her commitment to Youth Council over the past 3 years and wish her the best. Following this, Ella Flavell stepped up into the position as Chair, later continuing her leadership on the leadership team whilst focusing on other projects as she transitioned to Deputy Chair in March 2021.

In June 2021, we farewelled Brad Olsen following 5 years of service. During this time, Brad has served as both Deputy Chair and Chair, and has led Youth Council through some rocky times and made us stronger as a result of it. Brad has been incremental to the success of leadership, and I would particularly like to thank him for his ongoing support of both Ella and I as we have stepped into our leadership roles, but also Youth Council more broadly as he continues to support the team. We wish you the best and look forward to seeing your successes.

Cover image credit: James Coleman via Unsplash

As we were operating through a period of uncertainty with lockdowns and other restrictions in place as well as other circumstances changing, Youth Council was unable to undertake a recruitment period during 2020. As many of our members progressed to new opportunities, this left us with a small group. However, reduced numbers did not prevent Youth Council from being able to submit on a wide variety of important topics in early 2020. Anastasia, Brad, Ella, Jackson, John, Tony and Tim - I would like to thank you for all your hard work and perseverance over the last 18 months. Your hard work has certainly paid off.

Youth Council are ending this period in an extremely strong position, both in terms of the relationships we have formed with Council staff, and the reputation we have gained, shown through the high number of applications we received in the 2021 recruitment process. From this foundation, Youth Council will continue to be able to be a strong voice for young Wellingtonians and ensure that their voices are heard for years to come.

Laura Jackson

Youth Council Chair
October 2021

Ngā take Purposes

The purposes of Youth Council are to:

Assist and advise

Assist and advise the Wellington City Council on how to help grow a great City where young people thrive and contribute to the City Council's priorities.

Bring insight

Bring extra insight to Council (a youth perspective) to solve problems facing a changing world.

Develop capability

Develop the capabilities of its members (including leadership and engaging wider youth).

Ngā mema Members

Leadership

Freja Cook (Chair August 2019 - February 2020)

Ella Flavell (Chair February 2020 - March 2021, Deputy Chair March 2021 - present)

Laura Jackson (Deputy Chair March 2020 - March 2021, Chair March 2021 - present)

Members

Raihaan Dalwai
Jackson Lacy

Ella Flavell
Shelly Liang

Tony Huang
Anastasia Reid

Laura Jackson
John Sibanda

Freja Cook (term ended February 2020)

Carl Bennett (term ended August 2020)

Bethany Kaye-Blake (term ended December 2020)

Liam Davies (term ended March 2020)

Neesha Dixon (term ended December 2020)

Members (continued)

Grace Day (term ended February 2021)

Brad Olsen (term ended July 2021)

Watene Campbell (term ended July 2021)

Tim Rutherford (term ended 2021)



Back row (L-R): Brad Olsen, John Sibanda, Tim Rutherford, Anastasia Reid, Tony Huang, Jackson Lacy

Front row (L-R): Ella Flavell, Laura Jackson

Tauanga Statistics

14

written submissions
produced

15

oral submissions given

8

presentations received
from external parties

25

presentations received from WCC officers

25

engagements/events with the wider
community

Te pāhekohekotanga ki te whakamahere ā-tāone

City planning engagement

Planning for Growth

Youth Council has had ongoing involvement with Planning for Growth. In 2019, we aided the pre-consultation by engaging other rangatahi at conferences such as Climate Challenge. In 2020 we built on the work of the year before with our submission. This was a challenging piece of work for Youth Council, as it was a broad-ranging and technical piece of policy, but it is critical for the future of the city and this engaged many of our members. Our submission supported intensification in the central city and inner suburbs. With housing and climate change being such pressing issues, ensuring that our city is walkable, accessible, and affordable is imperative. Transitioning to medium and high-density housing is an essential step towards this goal. Youth Council advocated for suburban hubs, with mixed-use retail and residential areas within walking distance to transport hubs.



Youth Councillors Shelly, Tim, Ella, Raihaan, and Tony at the Southern Landfill.

He Mahere Mokowā mō Pōneke

A Spatial Plan for Wellington City

The Spatial Plan was a large and complex piece of work for the Wellington City Youth Council. Our submission had three key points of special importance to rangatahi in the city. The first was a thriving central city, the second was working towards a zero-carbon future, and the third was building a city that reflects diverse communities and their needs. Building on Planning for Growth, we emphasised the importance of building up not out whilst still retaining options for different needs. High-quality housing was another focus, with a clear choice being for warm, healthy housing over retaining extensive character protection. This garnered some media attention, with Laura and Brad interviewed by Radio New Zealand: <https://bit.ly/3Ds7wvj>

Te mahere ngahuru tau 2021-2031

Long-term Plan 2021-2031

Youth Council's Long Term Plan submission focussed on a few main points; accessible, warm, dry housing; investing in three waters infrastructure; the development of a youth hub in the central city; and the redevelopment of Te Ngākau Civic Square and the Central Library. We also emphasised our support for the full funding of the Te Atakura action plan, and the Council's preferred option for minimising waste and managing sewage sludge. In the lead-up to our submission, Youth Council paid the Southern Landfill a visit, learning a lot about how our city manages its waste. We also participated in interactive workshops about how best to allocate Council funding to different projects and goals.

Te pāhekohekotanga ki ngā hāpori

Community-based engagement

Te Matapihi o Pōneke

Wellington Central Library

The Central Library was a hot topic for Youth Council, with its history of being a hub for rangatahi in the city to hang out and study in. Youth Council had some robust debates about the preferred option for the future of the Central Library. Our submission focussed on our preferred option, Option D - to rebuild the Central Library. Youth Council preferred this option as it allowed for greater opportunities for the site, including creating a modern youth-focussed space. Our submission also named the future-proofing of the building, and revitalisation of Te Ngākau as reasons why we supported a rebuild. The opportunity to submit on the Central Library allowed Youth Council to think about the potential for public spaces to reflect the needs and potential of the diverse communities within the city. Amenities ranging from quiet seating and Wi-Fi to AV equipment and 3D printers were brought up as examples of Youth Council's vision of what a well-resourced, community-centric library would look like.



Youth Councillors Ella, Tony, Shelly, Laura, Raihaan, Jackson, and Brad submitting to Council.

Rautaki mō ngā Tamariki me te Rangatahi

Strategy for Children and Young People

Youth Council was appreciative of the opportunity to engage with and be consulted in the creation of the Children and Young People Strategy, and was subsequently highly supportive of both it and its implementation. In particular, the Youth Council felt that the policy encompassed and addressed many issues critical to Wellington youth such as the development of libraries, increasing accessibility to housing and the creation of a safe space for youth in the city. The development of the Taranaki Street Youth Hub shows that work has already begun and the council is urged to continue working towards the goals and outcomes of the strategy.

Social Wellbeing Framework

In the Social Wellbeing Framework, Youth Council identified safety in the city as well as social inequity and cohesion as key issues. In addressing safety in the city, the Youth Council disagreed with sentiments that Wellington was an overall safe city. This was a result of the Youth Council's hesitancy in the use of present statistics in judging Wellington's safety. Towards social inequity, Youth Council was frustrated in the rising inequality evident amongst various communities and in particular, noted the vast wealth disparity seen between Maori and European households. Finally, the Youth Council also acknowledged the importance of making citizens feel safe, without fear of discrimination or bullying. The Youth Council highlighted both the need in increasing support for affected groups and the need to target discrimination at its roots.

Aho Tini 2030

Arts, Culture & Creativity Strategy

Youth Council was highly appreciative that we were given multiple opportunities to consult, from the early stages before a draft was produced to later on submitting on a draft strategy, on the Aho Tini 2030 - Arts, Culture & Creativity Strategy (Aho Tini) for Wellington City. This framework looked to include all creative people within our city as well as promote different cultures by supporting smaller communities of peoples. The Youth Council felt that it was important to create sustainable opportunities for creative people in order to make sure that Wellington can foster creative projects within our own city. We can see potential for opportunities to rise in our city but also acknowledge the benefits and losses of current opportunities such as CubaDupa. We look forward to seeing this framework being put in action in the future.



Youth Councillors Ella and Tony meeting with Councillors Paul & Day alongside other community leaders to discuss civic engagement at Wellington High School.

Youth Hub

One of the biggest tangible achievements that Youth Council made over the 2020-2021 period would be securing funding for a Youth Hub in Wellington. Arising from our discussions and submission on the Central Library, we identified that a gap had been left in the city following the closing of Reading Cinemas due to earthquake strengthening, meaning that there was no longer a safe, public space for young people to hang out. Following engagement with other youth organisations such as Te Ahi o Ngā Rangatahi, this saw the Youth Hub project being included in the Child and Young Person Strategy, with funding being secured through the Long Term Plan 2021-2031. We would like to thank the Council for their ongoing support of this project, and look forward to continuing to collaborate on this as the space comes to life.

Ngā pāhekoheko ētahi atu

Other engagements

Beyond the major engagements and submissions on the plans, policies and reviews discussed above, Youth Council engaged with a variety of internal and external stakeholders through our meetings and submissions.

Tūtohu ki Te Kaunihera o Pōneke

Submissions to the Wellington City Council

- WCC Draft Annual Plan 2020/21
- City Housing Policy - Fairer Rents for Council Tenants 2020
- Parking Policy Review 2020
- Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2020
- Gambling Venues Policy 2020
- Central Library Submission 2020

Ngā pāhekoheko ki Te Kaunihera o Pōneke

Engagements with the Wellington City Council

- E-Scooters trial feedback
- Proposed Public Health Bylaw
- Safe and Sustainable Transport Forum
- Advisory Groups Review
- Lets Get Wellington Moving - Golden Mile (joint advisory groups workshop)
- Cemeteries Management Plan Review
- Planning for Growth engagement
- Trading in Public Places Policy 2020
- Digital Plan
- Wellington at Night
- WCC Engagement Team - engagement channels and opportunities with young people
- Updating/combining Advisory Groups Terms of Reference
- WCC Inclusion Strategy
- WCC Southern Landfill visit

Tūtohu ki ngā rōpu ētahi atu

Submissions to other groups

- Climate Change Commission - Climate Change in Aotearoa Report 2021
- Justice Select Committee - Harmful Digital Communications (Unauthorised Posting of Intimate Visual Recording) Amendment Bill 2021

Ngā pāhekoheko ki ngā rōpu ētahi atu

Engagements with other groups

- Electoral Commission
- State Services Commission
- Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency (Accessible Streets Consultation)
- Evolve - Measles Vaccination campaign

Whanaketanga a-mema

Member development

Youth Council has embraced opportunities to develop our members and the wider community through engagement opportunities beyond regular submissions and meetings, including:

- Brad spoke to youth development students at WelTec in March 2020
- Ella participating in a Facebook live-stream panel discussing the WCC Draft Annual Plan
- Grace, Shelly and Laura presenting to the Tawa Community Board in a meeting in August 2020 to discuss how the Board could improve engagement with young people
- Tony, Ella & Jackson working with Wellington High School to assist with their Local Government education unit
- Youth Councillors assisted in running an engagement session at Tawa College on the Long Term Plan 2021-2031
- Youth Councillors attended the 2021 ANZAC Day ceremony at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park

Another project that our members have been working on outside of meetings is increasing Youth Council's presence in the city through our social media channels. As we believe the best way to engage young people in both Youth Council and WCC more generally is through social media, we have been creating content to promote both our work and WCC policies. Much of this has been focused on sharing content of our members, as well as breaking down Council policies and sharing graphics that are easy to understand. This has been largely successful, as seen in the 2021 recruitment round where many applicants referenced our social media channels as being the way they found out about Youth Council.

There has also been ongoing work to try to make Youth Council a more accessible space, both for rangatahi Māori and young people generally. This is a work in progress as we strive to continue making changes in this space. Early steps in this process have included working with our members to identify what aspects of the space may be able to be changed, with issues such as meeting formalities being taken on board and changed. For example, many of the formal agenda items and procedures have been stripped back to those which are strictly necessary. We will continue evaluating the Youth Council space and our ability to engage with young Wellingtonians in a broader sense on an ongoing basis as we continue to grow.







Brad & Laura present to the Justice Select Committee on the Harmful Digital Communications (Unauthorised Posting of Intimate Visual Recording) Amendment Bill.



Anastasia, Brad, John and Ella with Mayor Foster at the 2021 ANZAC Day ceremony at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park.

**Te Rūnanga Taiohi o
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke**
Wellington City Youth Council

 /WLGYouthCouncil
 @WLGYouthCouncil
 @WLGYouthCouncil
 Youth.Council@wcc.govt.nz