
Wellington City Youth Council Annual Report

For the year ended 31 December 2017



Wellington City Youth Council

Te Rūnanga Taiohi o te Kaunihera o Pōneke

**Mā tō rourou,
Mā tōku rourou,
ka ora ai te iwi.**

With your foodbasket,
and my foodbasket,
the people will thrive.

Whakatauki

Introduction

Mihimihi

Youth Council underwent a transformational year in 2017, with significant changes in personnel, a large quantity of advice provided to a raft of organisations, and the development of the Youth Engagement Framework.

This annual report provides an overview of the work undertaken by Youth Council in 2017, and is the second of our joint Annual Reports submitted for 2016 and 2017.

Over the year Youth Council saw eight members depart - nearly half of our group - and underwent a shift in Council staff that we operate with. We also took the time to reshape how Youth Council operates and strengthen our connections back into the Wellington community, and our ties with various organisations that we work with or provide advice to.

Youth Council tackled a larger workload than in previous years, with numerous submissions to Wellington City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council, the Ministry of Health, Studylink, Let's Get Wellington Moving, and Parliament.

We also embarked on one of our most detailed projects to date in our development of the Youth Engagement Framework. This was a project that we believe will provide Council with a strong foundation through which it can best engage with young people - building on the stellar work it already does in this area. Our Learning Tour to Auckland provided a host of ideas that jump-started our thinking, with our EngageWGTN hui allowing us to connect to a range of young people in Wellington and establish not only the topics that they are interested in, but also how to engage with them directly to elicit their views. I pay tribute to the incredibly hard work of the EngageWGTN team, and in particular to Jack Marshall, who spearheaded this work.

Finally, Youth Council established better integration with Council - learning our way round the various procedures, and forging a closer connection with staff and elected members. I am proud to lead such an incredible team of Wellington's most passionate young people, and we remain committed to injecting a youth perspective into the debate whenever we can. Youth Council is excited for the opportunities that await Wellington, and is keen to work with others to keep this the world's most liveable city.



Brad Olsen

Queen's Young Leader - 2016

Youth Council Chair

July 2018



Purpose

Ngā take

The Wellington City Youth Council's purpose is 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 members

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

Membership

Mematanga

The following people were members of the Wellington City Youth Council during 2017:

Brad Olsen	Deputy Chair (March 2017-October 2017) Chair (from October 2017)
Ollie Michie	Deputy Chair (from October 2017)
Anya Bukholt-Payne	Dexter Smith
Jack Marshall	Jackson Lacy
Laura Somerset	Niamh Hyde
Sean Johnson	Shine Wu
Teri O'Neill	Tim Rutherford
Siobhan Davies	Chair (until March 2017) Term ended August 2017
Melissa Gibson	Deputy Chair (until March 2017) Chair (March 2017-October 2017) Term ended October 2017
Jack Comer-Hudson	Term ended August 2017
Petelo Leaupepe	Term ended August 2017
Cameron Wright	Term ended December 2017
Sophie Reedy-Young	Term ended December 2017
Bethany Kaye-Blake	Term started August 2017
Freja Cook	Term started August 2017
Meredith Ross-James	Term started August 2017
Raihaan Dalwai	Term started August 2017
Watene Campbell	Term started August 2017
Ivana Emer	Term started August 2017



Youth Councillors and Councillors at Youth Council's annual Christmas function in Civic Square.

Policies and plans

Kaupapa here

Youth Council welcomed the opportunity to provide feedback to a number of organisations in 2017, including Wellington City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council, the Ministry of Health, Studylink, Let's Get Wellington Moving, and Parliament.

The full list of submissions and consultations Youth Council participated in throughout 2017 is set out below:

- Submission on the 2016 Local Authority Elections (to Parliament)
- Public Places Bylaw Review (to WCC)
- Submission on Kiwi Point Quarry (to WCC)
- Submission on Let's Get Wellington Moving (to Joint Committee)
- Submission on GWRC Better Metlink Fares 2017 (to GWRC)
- Feedback provided on the Digital Health Strategy (to the Ministry of Health)
- Submission on the Oriental Bay Shared Pathway (to WCC)
- Submission on North Kumutoto Site 9 (to WCC)
- Submission on the GWRC Annual Plan 2017/18
- Submission on the WCC Annual Plan 2017/18
- Submission on the Wellington Waste Management and Minimisation Plan
- Consultation on the implementation of the Triennial Plan
- Feedback on Wellington library operations

Youth Council highlights the following submissions and our feedback:

Submission on the 2016 Local Authority Elections

Following on from our work to improve younger voter turnout in Wellington's local body elections in 2016, Youth Council welcomed the opportunity to submit on the inquiry into 2016 local authority elections, which was being conducted by Parliament's Justice and Electoral Select Committee. Our work in 2016 to ensure information around the election was passed on to young people in Wellington, and our general interest in advancing good local government, meant we took a keen interest in developments and evaluation of the 2016 local government elections.

Submission on the WCC Annual Plan 2017/18

Youth Council was supportive of Council's Annual Plan.

In particular, we noted Council's goal to increase resilience, with a focus on safer housing, infrastructure, and youth input into transport planning links. We also put forward our support for economic assistance for young people who are entering businesses or entrepreneurial pursuits. Youth Council noted the lack of youth connectivity in neighbourhoods across Wellington and urged action to be taken on this, and noted our endorsement of Council's intention to take action on climate change.

With regard to economic and job growth, Youth Council strongly supported the development of a 'One Stop Shop' for establishing a business in Wellington, to remove barriers for young people seeking to navigate the regulatory processes.

Noting the importance of housing to young people, Youth Council was supportive of the \$5000 rates remission for new home builds, alongside the Rental Warrant of Fitness Scheme. We noted our ongoing concern around housing and rental affordability, and supported Council's actions to tackle these issues.

On the cultural front, we noted our support and excitement for a Matariki Festival, and the proposal for a Youth Summit, as ways to further enhance Wellington's cultural offerings and include young people in the decision-making process.

Finally, Youth Council endorsed Council's work on environmental issues, including with Predator Free Wellington and moves to reduce Council's carbon footprint.

Submission on the GWRC Better Metlink Fares

Youth Council welcomed the opportunity to submit on the Better Metlink Fares consultation, with specific provisions for a fare discount for full-time tertiary students. We strongly supported the implementation of a 25% discount for full time tertiary students, the common-sense approach to transfers between buses, the 25% discount to be applied to off-peak fares, and the discount for blind or disabled customers. At the same time, we acknowledged the proposal to increase fares by 3.0% generally, with an implication that half of patrons would see an increased fare under this proposal.

EngageWGTN and Youth Engagement Strategy

Te Tūāpapa Whakawhanake Rangatahi

The Youth Engagement Framework, and related Auckland Learning Tour and EngageWGTN hui, were a large part of Youth Council's work throughout 2017. Although the Youth Engagement Framework itself provides details about the development of the Framework, we have included an overview of the process that Youth Council undertook in 2017 to engage with young people in Wellington, hear what they viewed as important topics and how they wanted to be engaged with, and finally how we crafted the document itself.

Application

In late 2016, Youth Council applied for funding from the Local Government Youth Projects Fund, administered by the Ministry of Youth Development. Our application was supported by Wellington City Council officers, and Councillor Jill Day (having the Children and Young People portfolio).

Our application detailed that funding would be used by Youth Council to develop a Youth Engagement Framework, in partnership with Council. This Framework would provide a foundational guide for Council to refer to when engaging with the public on issues that impact them. Upon hearing the application for funding was successful, Youth Council formed a steering group to undertake planning of all aspects of the project, with Jack Marshall as the leader of this steering group.

Auckland Learning Tour

In order to better understand how other large urban areas interact with



Youth Councillors met with independent Auckland mayoral candidate Chlöe Swarbrick in researching the Youth Engagement Framework.

young people and provide engagement opportunities, a small group of Youth Councillors travelled to Auckland for the Auckland Learning Tour. Here, Youth Councillors spoke to various organisations and individuals involved with youth engagement in Auckland. This included: Councillor Richard Hills, Auckland Council officers, Kaipātiki Local Board Youth Representatives, and Chlöe Swarbrick - then a young candidate for Mayor in the 2016 Local Authority Elections. Youth Council gained good insights from this trip into what had, and hadn't, worked for the new amalgamated Council structure in engaging a diverse and broad range of youth in Auckland.

EngageWGTN hui

Having established some key engagement themes, the next stage of the process was to undertake consultations with young people in Wellington City to test our understanding of how young people want to be interacted with and what proposed methods of engagement were best, alongside collecting the views of young people in Wellington.

Although Youth Council originally proposed to undertake one central hui, the Ministry of Youth Development provided funding for five hui to be undertaken (one in each Council Ward). In addition to this, Youth Council ran a hui for youth workers, who we viewed as having valuable insights into youth development and engagement in the local Wellington context. These hui provided a great opportunity for Youth Council to talk to young people in Wellington at length about issues in their area, and how Council could engage with them on these and other matters. It showed the willingness of young people in the city to be involved with Council and consultations.

Development of the Framework

After the Auckland Learning Tour and our various hui, the Steering Group began to consider how to develop the Framework based upon all that was learnt from the two stages of consultation. The Steering Group broke into pairs and wrote drafts of each section of the document, which were then comprehensively reviewed by the Steering Group as a whole. This was then formally ratified by Youth Council, and then worked on with Council officers to ensure what resulted included current best practice and allowed for guidance rather than strict policy.

What resulted is a comprehensive document, that outlines the issues that young people in Wellington City have described as important to them, coupled with proposed methods that Council could use to consult with young people on these issues. Youth Council is extremely proud of this document, and excited to see its future uses, once presented to Council.

In the process of developing the document, Youth Council held detailed consultations with over 100 young people from around Wellington City, with a wider number of informal views also included. Youth Council was also careful to deliver this project under-budget, due to careful planning between Council officers and the Steering Group.

Overall, Youth Council learned a great deal from the process of developing the Framework, and is keen to undertake more large-scale projects similar to this one in the future. The capacity of Youth Council to undertake such projects has been proved by the successful development of the Framework. Youth Council is grateful to Council for their support in undertaking this large project. The willingness of Council officers to lend their time and expertise in the process has been greatly appreciated.

Member development

Whakahiato mema

One of the purposes of Youth Council is to develop the capabilities of its members (including leadership and engaging wider youth).

State Opening of Parliament

In 2017, members of Youth Council were invited by the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, to attend the State Opening of the 52nd Parliament. Members attended as part of a select cohort of young people representing New Zealand's youth. Members who attended engaged with other young people and politicians, including the Minister for Youth, Hon Peeni Henare, as well as other dignitaries such as the Governor-General, Her Excellency The Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy, the Chief Justice, Rt Hon Dame Sian Elias, and members of the diplomatic corps including United States Ambassador to New Zealand, His Excellency Scott Brown.



Youth Councillors with the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Jacinda Ardern, at the State Opening of the 52nd Parliament.

Tawa Community Board deputation

Youth Council also provided a deputation to the Tawa Community Board, detailing the work that Youth Council does, and also answering the Community Board's questions about life in Tawa. This also presented the members present with an opportunity to further their presentation skills.

Youth Week 2017 Councillor Breakfast

As part of Youth Week 2017, Youth Council organised a breakfast with Wellington City Councillors to better understand the work both groups do, and where our mutual interests and projects may lie. This was a highly successful event with an acknowledgement of the importance of Youth Council continuing to work closely with Council to express the ideas and viewpoints of young people to decision-makers.

Acknowledgements

Ngā aumihi

Youth Council thanks our various supporters and those that enable us to do the work we do, including parents, friends, colleagues, and in particular Council officers and elected members.

Our sincere thanks are given to Dominic Tay for his incredible work in his role as a Democracy Advisor and Youth Council's direct Council liaison. We additionally extend our gratitude to Youth Councillor Jackson Lacy for his incredible design skills across the year, including his work formatting this Annual Report.

Youth Council looks forward to presenting this report to the City Strategy Committee in August 2018.







Brad Olsen
Chair
Wellington City Youth Council



Ollie Michie
Deputy Chair
Wellington City Youth Council

Wellington City Youth Council

Te Rūnanga Taiohi o te Kaunihera o Pōneke

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