



About the Wanganui District Council Youth Committee



Representing our young people

Approximately 8000 people aged 12 – 24 years old live in Wanganui. Our youth community is a diverse group, with a variety of strengths and with a wealth of youth experience and knowledge.

The Youth Committee was established to provide an understanding of the needs and issues facing all young people, so that this could inform Council decisions and projects. The Youth Committee gathers information through individual peer networks, youth specific organisations and general consultation procedures.

The Youth Committee takes an empowering and enabling approach to youth development, setting the scene for young people to take the lead and be the best they can be. Since it was established in 2006 a number of 'youth for youth' initiatives have been implemented and supported... some examples are:

- Bus to the Big Day Out
- Make It. Take It. Projects and events
- Underground Fashion Show
- Skate Park Mural Project at Kowhai Park
- Ake Ake Youth Centre development
- Emvee Night Safety Project
- \$300ships funding scheme

There's been high participation in consultation and forums such as:

- Youth in Local Government Conferences
- Regional Youth Committee/Council Forums
- National Forum on Cultural Diversity
- Submissions to Council on policy/annual plans
- Workshops for training, advising Council/community activities and more...

Asset Based Community Development is key to ensuring young people are empowered to pursue the direction that is right for them, in a positive and encouraging environment.

The success of the Committee's development is demonstrated by the successful election of a (then) current Youth Councillor, Jack Bullock, to mainstream Council in the 2010 local body elections; the success of their annual, community event, 'Picnic in the Park,' designed by long-standing Youth Councillor Whitney Tangaroa; the

adoption of their brand “DUB.DEE.SEE.” in 2008; and their on-going partnerships with the Ministry of Youth Development.

Membership as at 1 September 2011

Chairman – Cr Jack Bullock

- Frances Wood-Bodley (Co-deputy Chair)
- Raphael Solomon (Co-deputy Chair)
- Renee Harrison
- Dan Steer
- Caleb Perry
- Jacob Ruru-Canterbury (resigned)
- Jonathon Greenwell
- Priyanka Bangia
- Olivia O’Neil
- Amaan Merchant
- Shannon Jury
- Marie Webb
- Theresa Verhoek (resigned)
- Aysha Collinson
- Grace Kennedy
- Monique Mulholland
- Jessie Zhou
- Naomi Poludore
- Cr Nicki Higgie

Find out more about the Youth Committee

- www.wanganui.govt.nz/youthcommittee
- Facebook: Wanganui District Council Youth Committee
- Attend a formal meeting held every 6 weeks in the Council Chambers
- DUB.DEE.SEE.Connect 2022 Strategic Plan

Becoming a Youth Councillor

The Youth Committee is made up of 18 young people selected to ‘speak up and be heard’ on all issues, on behalf of youth in the Wanganui district. This role is recognised by the Wanganui District Council’s (WDC) official committee structure, which ensures the voice of the Youth Committee is heard and is able to influence Council’s decision making.

Taking part in the Youth Committee is a rewarding experience but it's also a big commitment. You must be available to attend formal meetings every 6 weeks (Monday's 4 – 6.30pm); and also take part in regular meetings and working parties held at the Council or out and about... this can include anything from speaking up at a workshop, representing youth at forums, to turning sausages at a youth event.

Why do it?

You will ensure more informed decisions are made for young people and....

- Be involved in organising or taking part in major events in and around the district
- Have your opinions heard and help make a difference
- Great experience and addition to your CV
- Meet a variety of new people and make contact with other ambitious youth locally and nationally.
- Be paid \$50 for each formal meeting as well as gaining a variety of new skills
- Contribute to services and exciting projects and initiatives at Council and in the community.