

VISION: Youth-friendly Wanganui, the place where young people can reach their full potential.
“MO NGA RANGATAHI O WHANGANUI KA PU TE RUHA KA HAO TE RANGATAHI.”

Introduction

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.



A new Youth Committee is formed each year and is open to Wanganui residents aged between 12 and 24 years. Once appointed to the Youth Committee membership is from 1 – 3 years and comes by invitation from the Chairperson. The Chairperson is appointed by the Mayor and is a Wanganui District Councillor.

The terms of reference for the Youth Committee are:

- Develop and monitor policy on Youth issues
- Provide opportunities for Youth to contribute to the decision-making of Council
- Advise the Council on matters of interest for Youth in the Wanganui District

Approximately 8000 people aged 12 – 24 live in Wanganui. They represent a very widespread group, with differing needs and with a wealth of youth experience and knowledge. The Youth Committee was established to integrate understanding of the needs of all young people into relevant Council decisions and projects. The Youth Committee informs through individual peer networks, as well as seeking out more youth input and views.

Each year the Youth Committee creates an action plan that demonstrates progress towards the strategy’s mission: ‘to continue to support the youth of Wanganui.’ Success will be gauged through youth feedback, the number of events and initiatives they are involved in; and ongoing youth surveys. In 2008 the Youth Committee adopted the brand “DUB.DEE.SEE” (W.D.C.)

The Youth Committee Strategy links to the ‘big picture’ by aligning with other relevant strategies:

- Youth Development Strategy of Aotearoa “*A country where young people are vibrant and optimistic through being supported and encouraged to take up challenges*”
- Wanganui District Council Family-Friendly Strategy “*To make Wanganui an attractive place for families and to ensure a quality of life for all.*”

The strategy is designed to guide the Youth Committee’s actions and promote them to ‘speak up, speak out and be heard.’

Wanganui District Council

Youth Committee 2009/10

Strategy

On behalf of, and for the benefit of all young people in the Wanganui district, the Youth Committee aims to -

1. Support all young people
<i>What does that look like?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing leadership, role-modelling and encouraging positive choices• Being inclusive and considering the needs of all young people regardless of race, culture, social background, gender, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, age, physical and intellectual abilities or economic status• Understanding that some young people may require special provision to take up opportunities
2. Build quality relationships that support youth development
<i>What does that look like?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taking part in initiatives through other agencies at a local, regional, national and international level so a youth perspective is considered, i.e. advisory panels, activities, conferences, submissions• Inviting partnerships to strengthen the work of the Youth Committee through expertise, financial or other support• Facilitating communication so that youth development filters through the community i.e. website
3. Develop strategically to enhance outcomes
<i>What does that look like?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taking opportunities to be part of Council decision-making and influencing changes that benefit youth• Being forward-thinking and long-term when planning – noting actions that cannot be achieved immediately• Maintaining a high profile in the community for effective awareness e.g. marketing, advertising, promotion, attending events• Keeping up-to-date with trends and practices that may relate e.g. Treaty of Waitangi, Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa• Keeping informed of youth needs through individual networks, surveys, consultation, feedback, attending conferences etc
4. Encourage participation in opportunities that promote healthy wellbeing
<i>What does that look like?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hosting or supporting events so that young people have a safe place to go and be together socially i.e. Underground• Contributing to or promoting projects and initiatives that support positive pathways to education, training and employment• Advising or supporting agency or group initiatives that promote a healthy life-style e.g.. Youth Access to Alcohol, Sport Wanganui “Get Active”
5. To ensure facilities meet youth needs
<i>What does that look like?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Informing Councillors, staff and community on youth likes and needs i.e. improving recreational facilities, advising on youth interests etc• Identifying the gaps and being part of a solution e.g. transport• Helping young people to have access to services e.g. via promotion on website, informing services of ways to connect to youth

Wanganui

DUB.DEE.SEE. Youth Committee Values

Connect – we aim to establish good relationships and communication between all groups and on behalf of all young people

Integrity – we are honest, reliable and credible in all our efforts

Unify – we work together to create a cohesive community

Diverse – we are creative, diverse and consider all aspects in our efforts and ideas

Accept – we are approachable, without prejudice and accepting of others

Dynamic – we aim to be innovative, motivated and passionate in our work

DUB.DEE.SEE. Youth Committee Membership 2009/10

TOP: L – R Madison Martin, Chelsea-Anne Phillips, Rapheal Soloman, Frances Wood-Bodley, Shariah Irving, Kate McLennan

MIDDLE: L – R Alaska Dobbs, Grace Williams, Anneke Batelaan, Shannon-Renarta Jury, Jaaron Tihema, Brierley Penn

BOTTOM: L – R Grace Kennedy, Heather Cox (Youth Services Coordinator), Whitney Tangaroa (Co-Deputy Chair), Cr Danny Jonas (Chairman), Jack Bullock (Co-Deputy Chair), Sally Patrick (Community and Cultural Manager), Karyn Turner (Governance Administrator)

ABSENT: Amber-Rose Edwardson, Josh Chandulal-Mackay, Caleb Perry



DUB.DEE.SEE. Youth Committee References

Full-profiles, meeting times, agenda and minutes available from www.wanganui.govt.nz

Youth Wanganui Website: www.youthwanganui.co.nz / Facebook: DUB.DEE.SEE. YOUTH WANGANUI

Email: youthproject@wanganui.govt.nz

Wanganui District Council Youth Services Coordinator: Heather Cox, 06 349 0001, 027 683 7341