APRIL 2014

SHAPE YOUR CITY

Whangarei District Council Youth Advisory Group

School Report

It was decided that YAG would provide Whangarei schools a synopsis of the minutes of our meetings to promote the group's work and encourage youth outside of the group to make their voice heard.

Psychoactive Substances Policy Submission

After receiving information at the previous meeting about the Draft Policy, it was suggested that YAG make a submission to the Psychoactive Substances Policy to advise WDC from a youth perspective. The group was unanimous and delegated to the Chair and Deputy Chair the role of creating a submission in support of the policy.

Council Update

Councillor Bell provided the WDC update. He reported to YAG that Council was busy deliberating the Draft Annual Plan for the coming financial year and they were preparing for the Long Term Plan 2015-25 discussions.

Guest Speaker: Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai

The Mayor spoke about her childhood experiences of growing up in a small community and the steps she took to become the leader of the Whangarei District. She reminded YAG members the role they play in providing a youth perspective that helps shapes the District, and that Council looks forward to hearing the fresh ideas of YAG at future Council meetings.

She finished by talking about what the Mayor and Council do on a day-to-day basis, and how rewarding it is.

ABOVE: HW Mayor wears a ShapeYourCity T-shirt, flanked by YAG Chair Brad Olsen and Deputy Chair Kelsey Eaton.

BELOW: The YAG April 2014 Meeting in action.

25 April 2014 - ANZAC Day

The group felt that YAG should lay a wreath at the Dawn Service on ANZAC Day to represent the youth of the Whangarei District and show that we remember and acknowledge the efforts of the parties involved.

Media Representative

Emma Barnes, Year 12 WGHS, has been voted in as the new YAG Media Representative. The previous YAG Media Rep, Lilly MacKinnon, has stepped down and become Media Rep Support due to time demands.

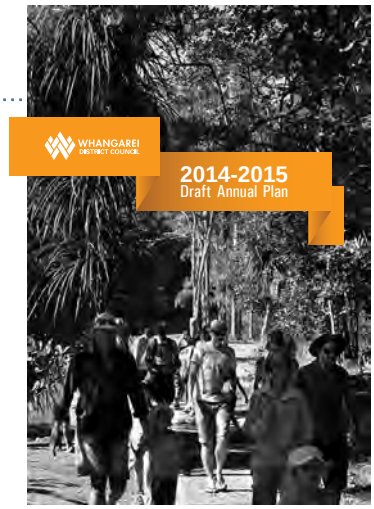
Youth Space Update

YAG was informed of the continued work of the Whangarei Youth Space; and the new direction being taken to find Youth Interns, Youth Advisors, and Youth Trustees

Jewel of the City Report

Cr Bell thanked the YAG members that were involved in preparing the report for Community Services Dept. He reported that it was well received by Council and something they would like to see carried out every year.

WDC Annual Plan 2014-2015



A comprehensive power point presentation on the WDC Draft Annual Plan was presented to YAG, after which, the Policy Committee was charged with making a submission to give a youth perspective on what we felt were the areas that money needed to be spent in the coming financial year.

Three unfunded projects in the WDC Annual Plan were identified that were recognised as extremely important to the District's youth. These projects included the improvement of the William Fraser Memorial Park skate park, extending the Whangarei Netball Centre netball courts and implementing the proposed "Carpark to Park" development plan at the Town Basin.

YAG felt the skate park improvements were a priority as the 2013 *ShapeYourCity* survey results had strong support for skate parks in Whangarei and youth have recently lost part of the Onerahi skate park. Councillor Bell and Her Worship the Mayor encouraged YAG to submit on a range of projects brought up in the Annual Plan, to ensure all options and opinions were available for Councillors to discuss.

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