

AUGUST 2014



Whangarei District Council Youth Advisory Group

Youth Advisory Group to recognise Whangarei's Youth



Whangarei District Council and the Youth Advisory Group launched the inaugural Whangarei Youth Awards on 1 September.

The Whangarei Youth Awards will be run by the WDC Youth Advisory Group as a way for the community to recognise and celebrate the awesome things young people in the Whangarei District do; to hear the stories of those who fly under the radar.

Anyone aged 12-24 years who lives in the Whangarei District can be nominated.

Nominations will be accepted until 3 October. Application forms can be found online at <http://www.wdc.govt.nz/CommunitySafetyandSupport/Youth/Documents/2014-Whangarei-Youth-Awards-Nomination-Form.pdf> and at the Whangarei Central Library and the Whangarei Youth Space.

"Our young people are our future and we need to encourage them," Whangarei Mayor Mai says.

"And it's important they are recognised for their efforts to improve our District, and that their achievements are showcased through the forum of these Awards."

Policy 101 Presentation

David Hebart-Coleman, WDC Senior Policy Adviser, gave YAG a presentation on policy; covering topics such as what is policy, why it changes, who is affected by it and, why and how to respond. This information is important for the group to understand, to support their advisory function

Interactive Noticeboard

In an effort to better communicate with the district's youth, YAG members are investigating the idea of having an interactive notice board in a place or places that they congregate. This is a way of letting young people know what WDC is doing that affects them and getting feedback on what young people think.

Whangarei's 50th Anniversary Parade

Whangarei City turns 50 this year, and we're having a huge 1960s party to celebrate. The party will start with a 1960s-themed Grand Parade through the central city on the morning of 1 November and every Whangarei resident, business or community group is invited to watch or be part of it.

The recipients of the awards will be chosen by an expert panel of community youth leaders who themselves have the attributes reflected in the awards. The awards will be presented at an event on December 10 at the Northland Event Centre.

There are six award categories:

- **Leadership:** A person who inspires people to achieve bigger and better things around the Whangarei District. They are someone who has led by example and produced tangible results. They will create a vision to be shared with Whangarei's youth.
- **Empowerment:** Someone who provides support to others to allow them to accomplish their goals in the community.
- **Volunteer:** Someone who willingly provides tangible services to the community for the betterment of others without seeking compensation for services rendered.
- **Team Player:** Someone who works for the team and who puts others ahead of themselves. They are an integral part of the team, who ensure a cohesive structure and provide momentum to the team.
- **Group Award:** A group that has made inroads into a problem identified by the community.
- **Change-maker:** A person who, by embracing diversity, has created change in their community.

