

# Youth Projects - Update

---

<b>TO</b>	Thames Community Board
<b>FROM</b>	Marlene Perry - Community Development Officer
<b>DATE</b>	28 January 2015
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Youth Projects - Update</b>

---

## **1 Purpose of Report**

To inform the Thames Community Board of Youth Projects being undertaken district wide. There are three key project areas which will be outlined in this report including:

- Thames-Coromandel Youth Strategy
- Youth Employment - Futureforce Action Network
- Value 4 Youth - Volunteering and Achievement Awards

Each project has a youth lead, a youth organising committee and youth support advocates from a range of organisations, and involvement from Thames-Coromandel District Council staff - in particular Community Development Officers.

## **2 Background**

The Thames-Coromandel District Council supports youth projects and engages with youth in a variety of ways which are outlined below.

### **2.1 Thames-Coromandel Youth Strategy**

Thames-Coromandel District Council has taken a key agency leadership role in developing a Youth Strategy which identifies a vision for what we hope young people can achieve in the Coromandel.

TCDC is working with the Coromandel Youth Collective to progress the strategy into an action plan and to gain a youth voice at a democratic level.

#### **The purpose of the Strategy is to:**

- Bring agencies together
- Share information and intelligence to provide both a local and district-wide picture
- Consider alignment between national priorities and local practice and delivery currently
- Identify gaps in service provision
- Identify and create opportunities for youth
- Focus collective resources where possible

#### **The Vision of the Youth Strategy is that the Coromandel is a place where:**

- Young people are safe and valued
- Their voices are heard
- Their issues and needs are understood
- Local work opportunities are available and interesting
- And finally, for those that leave, that the Coromandel is a place that they have their roots and would be happy to return and live

## **Coromandel Youth Collective and Upcoming Annual Camp Event**

The Coromandel Youth Collective consists of youth and agency representatives from wards throughout the Coromandel Peninsula who advocate for youth. The Collective meets throughout the year and also holds an annual camp event.

As a member of the Collective the Thames Youth Centre hosted a visit from the Youth Minister Nikki Kaye in 2014. During the visit Youth were represented from throughout the District to discuss their main issues and activities that they are involved in. The Minister was impressed with the projects and youth were engaged in, and suggested future funding for service volunteers.

The Coromandel Youth Collective holds an annual camp. The Collectives 2015 annual camp will be held at Miranda Hot Pools over the weekend of Saturday and Sunday 21/22 2015. The discussion about the Youth Strategy is timetabled for 2 - 4pm.

### **2.2 Coromandel Youth Survey 2013**

Evaluation Reports have recently been released by Population Health for the Thames-Coromandel District. The surveys were conducted in 2013 with an age group of 12-20 year olds. 788 responses were received by Population Health.

It was felt that 60% of the Thames-Coromandel felt their community was youth friendly, however 40% of those surveyed still felt that their district was non-youth friendly because there was nothing to do and they were sick of the same old things and some felt unsafe because of crime, violence and intimidation. There was a lack of youth focussed facilities, shops and activities. The biggest and most current issue for youth were the use of legal and illegal drugs and a lack of motivation due to boredom. Most respondents 63.22% felt that it was still important for young people to be involved in decision making in matters that affects them. Seeking a youth voice and perspective during planning and implementation phases of projects was important to them.

The aim of the TCDC / Youth Collective partnership is to continue to gain a youth voice in a democratic sense and to progress the Youth Strategy into action points, the starting point for this work will be at the Youth Collective annual camp at Miranda.

### **2.3 Youth Employment - Futureforce Action Network Workshop**

Thames-Coromandel District Council Economic Development Committee has supported a district wide project to encourage youth employment on the Coromandel. The Thames Community Development Officer is providing the key lead on this project.

#### **Development of the Futureforce Action Network**

TCDC is working closely with a range of key partners including Smart Waikato ([www.smartwaikato.co.nz](http://www.smartwaikato.co.nz)) who have developed a project called the Futureforce Action Network which encourages connections between youth, employers, training providers and industry training organisations.

The Futureforce Action Network provides a series of programmes and events that bring youth, employers and training providers together in a series of events and workshops to identify the key needs from each of these sectors. The aim of the network is to increase employment opportunities for youth in the district.

Currently the Futureforce Action Network is supported by funds from Smart Waikato who have contributed \$5,000 sourced from Ministry of Social Development Funding, \$3,000 from

Smart Environmental Ltd, \$1,000 from Thames Toyota and \$1,000 from Ministry of Youth Development/TCDC funding.

### **Futureforce Action Network Upcoming Event**

- A Futureforce Action Networking event is being held at Thames Toyota, Jellicoe Crescent on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 5.30pm. The purpose of the event is to discuss ways to address youth employment, skills shortages and to identify how to retain young people in the district. The event is:
  - Free to attend
  - Supported by TCDC and Smart Environmental
  - It will be hosted by a high profile, local employer (Toyota's Thames Vehicle Operations)
  - The event is for all employers and hiring managers regardless of size of business (educators, local government representatives and local community groups interested in youth unemployment or education-employment transitions are also encouraged to attend)
  - It provides the opportunity to network with people who have direct access to young talent
  - Attendees will have access to free resources and contacts to successfully transition young people into the workplace, hear inspirational stories from other employers already engaged with youth and from young people early in their careers.

## **2.4 Recognising and Celebrating Youth in the District**

### **Value 4 Youth: Youth Achievement Awards Event and Youth Volunteering**

Thames-Coromandel District Council has received \$20,000 funding from the Ministry of Youth Development in this financial year to establish youth volunteering projects and a youth achievements awards event in the district.

Budget: \$20,000 is being received by TCDC to implement a Youth Achievement Awards and encourage Youth Volunteering projects.

\$10,000	Is being distributed equally between five wards for travel and volunteering projects (\$2,000 per ward)
\$2,000	For training opportunities with Volunteer Waikato or similar to encourage youth to volunteer and be informed about the parameters of volunteering
\$6,000	Achievement Awards Event - venue, marketing, advertising, the event itself, music, etc.,
\$2,000	To assist with initiatives which support youth

Youth Development Partnerships Fund is a fund open to Territorial Authorities which enables the Ministry of Youth Development, Territorial Authorities and young people aged 12 to 24 years of age to work together to provide Active Youth Citizenship projects for young people. For the Ministry of Youth Development, Active Youth Citizenship is about young people using knowledge, skills and experience to participate confidently in their communities. Round 10 (2014/2015 year) of the Fund has been allocated to projects involving Youth Achievement and Youth Volunteering projects.

### The Youth Achievement Award Categories are:

- **Young Creative Award for Artist Expression** - young people who have made an outstanding contribution in the arts, culture, music, dance and performance
- **Helping Hand Award for Community Service** - young people who have volunteered in order to improve the community
- **Green Thumb Award for Environmental Care** - young people who have completed environmental projects improving protection, conservation, and/or sustainability
- **Kia Kaha Award for Perseverance** - young people who have overcome challenges in order to improve the community
- **Legend Award for Leadership** - young people who have demonstrated great leadership in projects that have improved the community
- **The People's Choice Award for Excellence** - this award is chosen from all nominations in all categories

### The Criteria for the Awards

All activities of nominees must have been completed within the last two years (March 2013 to March 2015). Nomination systems are currently being researched and Youth Project applications are available from CDO Thames.

### Youth Achievement Awards Event Date

A formal ceremony for the Youth Achievement Awards will be held on Saturday 23 May 2.30 - 5pm at the Thames War Memorial Hall (Civic Centre)

## 3 Issue

Thames Community Board has over the last year taken pro-active role in youth development in the following ways:

- Progressing the Sport and Recreation Facilities which included the Thames Skate Park and the new indoor courts facilities.
- Future projects: an upgrade to Rhodes Park facilities and create a district Aquatic Centre.

All these facilities will benefit youth and encourage young families to live, stay, work and play in the Thames area.

## 4 Discussion

Thames-Coromandel Peninsula can lose a quarter to a third of its youth each year - the aim of these initiatives is to encourage youth to have a sense of belonging, through volunteering, achievement awards and youth employment. In the long term this will increase the economic development of our districts.

Community Board members and Councillors play a significant role in getting to know our youth and their aspirations which can be easily met by attending various youth events, listening to them and finding ways of elevating a youth voice to Board Meetings.

## 5 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Thames Community Board:

1. Receives the report.
2. That the Board member(s) continue to be advocates and be involved in the Thames-Coromandel Youth Strategy, Youth Employment and the Value 4 Youth - Volunteering and Achievement Awards activities.
3. That the Board considers the following ways to encourage a youth voice to be

included in the decision making process:

- Invite the Youth Collective and Thames Youth Centre to a workshop with the Board on youth matters following their youth camp on 21-22 February 2015.
- Request that staff investigate Youth Councils within New Zealand and report back to the Board.
- Request that staff investigate the feasibility of having a youth representative as part of the Thames Community Board.

**References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments**

***Attachment A:*** *Thames Coromandel District Youth Strategy*

[Attachment A - Thames-Coromandel District Youth Strategy](#)