

Youth Projects

TO	Tairua-Pauanui Community Board
FROM	Marlene Perry - Community Development Officer
DATE	29 January 2015
SUBJECT	Youth Projects

1 Purpose of Report

To inform the Community Board of Youth projects being undertaken District Wide. These being:

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

Each project has a youth lead, a youth organising committee and youth support advocates.

2 Background

- Thames-Coromandel Youth Strategy
Thames-Coromandel District Council has taken a leadership role in developing a Youth Strategy to provide a collective vision for what we hope young people can achieve in the Coromandel. 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 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 affected them. Seeking a youth voice and perspective during planning and implementation phases of projects was

significant for 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.

- Youth Employment - Future Action Network Workshop 29 April 5.30pm - 7.30pm
 The Thames-Coromandel District Council Economic Development Committee supported Thames CDO to work on a District Wide project to encourage youth employment on the Coromandel. Smart Waikato www.smartwaikato.co.nz who have been encouraging connections between youth, employers, training providers and industry training organisations have contributed \$5,000 from Ministry of Social Development Funding, \$3,000 from Smart Environmental Ltd has contributed and \$1,000 from Ministry of Youth Development / TCDC funding . There is currently a shortfall of \$2,000 for travel to Thames for Smart Waikato, a business follow up event, and food and beverage for both events. It is hoped that key businesses will continue to contribute as the event organisation continues.
- Value 4 Youth: Youth Achievement Awards and Youth Volunteering 23 May 2.30-5pm,
 Thames War Memorial Hall (Civic Centre)
 Thames-Coromandel District Council applied for Ministry of Youth Development Funding for the 1 July 2014 - 30 June 2015 financial year. The process of decision making has been by consensus with Youth Forums District Wide and the projects are led by Youth with support from Youth Advocates and CDO's.
 Budget: \$20,000 is being received by TCDC to implement a Youth Achievement Award 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
\$20,000	Total expenditure

The 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

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.

3 Issue

The Thames Community Board has over the last year taken a pro-active role in youth development by progressing the sport and recreation facilities especially the Thames skate park and the new indoor courts facility. In the future it is envisaged that Thames Community Board will upgrade 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 Thames and the Thames-Coromandel district.

Based on direction from the Thames Community Development Officer, Sophie Dickinson and Emma Darragh worked collaboratively to raise awareness about the Youth Achievement Awards and Event and TCDC's Youth Volunteer Initiative. They created a display in the youth area of the Tairua Library and spoke to the Tairua Youth Group and School about the project. This sparked interest and awareness among local youth, and connected them with the Volunteer Waikato website. In November 2014, Tairua Library, in cooperation with Tairua Youth Group, hosted a series of art and creativity workshops (The Afternoon Academy) which were facilitated by the volunteer services of young arts graduates; Ryder Jones and Ophelia Mikkelson. This proved highly successful; not only by offering a new course of interest to eight local youth, but for fostering a mentorship relationship between the facilitators and participants. Youth volunteer activities look prosperous for 2015; with the Young Library Volunteer initiative due to start in late February, and development of more youth-led interest workshops coordinated by Tairua Library and Tairua Youth Group throughout the year.

These initiatives take time and young people become young adults with children of their own, which is why it is so important for Councillors and Community Board members to attend youth functions on a regular basis.

Recently the Youth Minister Nikki Kaye visited the Thames Youth Centre and was impressed with the projects the youth were engaged in, and suggested future funding for service volunteers.

Through these youth projects the CDO's have had a commitment to work together on the projects and engage with their communities, attending workshops which encourage volunteers, and supporting their communities to create and apply for project support funding.

4 Discussion

The Thames-Coromandel district 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. 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 Tairua-Pauanui Community Board:

1. Receives the report.