

Youth Projects

TO	Thames Community Board
FROM	Marlene Perry - Community Development Officer
DATE	21 July 2015
SUBJECT	Youth Projects

1 Purpose of Report

To inform the Thames Community Board of Youth Projects being undertaken district wide and identify whether the projects align with the TCDC Youth Strategy.

2 Background

The purpose of the Strategy

Thames-Coromandel District Council through the 2012-2022 Ten Year Plan began the development of a suite of people focused strategies. The Positive Ageing Strategy was adopted in December 2011, followed by the Disability Strategy in November 2012. The Youth Strategy is the third, and at the moment, final component of this people focused strategy framework.

There has been considerable focus locally and nationally on the ageing population, particularly because Thames-Coromandel has the second highest proportion of its population over the age of 65 in the whole of New Zealand. It is therefore critical that there is a balanced approach, ensuring that the importance and needs of young people are not lost as they represent the future for the Peninsula. The ability to retain and attract young and growing families is an important factor in achieving a balanced community.

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, the Coromandel is a place that they have their roots and would be happy to return and live

3 Issue

The Youth Strategy suggested that "a Thames-Coromandel Youth Steering Group will be established, hosted by the Thames-Coromandel District Council.

Within the terms of reference for this group will be the ability to establish short-term working groups to develop detailed action plans, outline timeframes, set targets, determine success indicators, and identify lead agencies, for each of the themes.

The Steering Group will meet twice a year to share current information regarding youth issues and provide an oversight of progress against any agreed actions in this plan."

To date no specific funding has been set to enable the work to be programmed in a strategic way. Despite this, external funding has been secured and utilised to run programmes associated with youth issues over the past 12 months.

4 Discussion

Stakeholder Engagement:

TCDC has been active in the Youth Space during the 2014/2015 year - holding several meetings in partnerships with stakeholders to promote youth activities and a youth voice on the Coromandel including:

Establishing New webpages on TCDC website - #Coro Youth www.tcdc.govt.nz/coroyouth

The aim of the website is to highlight youth projects and activities on the Coromandel.

Current pages displayed are:

- Value 4 Youth
- Coromandel Peninsula Youth Awards
- Futureforce Action Network
- Youth in Emergency Services Programme

Coromandel Youth Collective

Hold meetings four times a year and a Youth Camp in February each year.

One of the items at the Camp in 2015 was to discuss the possibility of a youth council for the Coromandel. Councillor Connors and Community Development Officer Marlene Perry met with the youth collective at the camp in Miranda and ran a short workshop on youth councils held in other regions of New Zealand.

Ministry of Youth Development - Youth Council research

The youth recommended that the Ministry of Youth Development conduct research on youth council models and report back via the Community Development Officer so that the Youth Collective could review their view on a youth council and what format it should take.

The discussion paper on Youth Council Development dated 1 May 2015 is **Attachment A**.

Youth participation in the Long Term Plan Process

Following on from a Coromandel wide youth survey conducted by Population Health in 2013, youth on the Coromandel have regularly submitted to their Community Boards and Council and in 2015 to the Long Term Plan.

What concerns youth:

- Giving youth a voice and identity
- Giving more support for youth
- Having respectful interactions with youth without discrimination
- Ensuring consideration is given to young people, particularly Maori, who may be hard to reach environments, and may be disengaged from Marae or Iwi
- Youth acknowledges work that is being done through the Ministry of Youth Development and TCDC partnership programme and wishes to see this continue

Youth Activities

- Giving youth a voice and identity
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- Having respectful interactions with youth without discrimination

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Social and Economic Support

- Ensure there is more support for youth experiencing hardship such as homelessness
- More employment opportunities

Gaining a youth voice on Community Boards and Council may be a more effective way to receive youth issues rather than submissions to the Annual Plan process where there is insufficient timeframes to assess and explore options.

Future Action Network (FAN) - Aims to keep more young people employed on the Peninsula

The TCDC Economic Development Committee, Smart Environmental and Thames Toyota Vehicle Operations raised funds to enable Smart Waikato to run a series of meetings in Thames and Coromandel Town. FAN is free to join and gives employers better access to young talent and FREE access to excellent tools to successfully incorporate young people into the workplace via work experience, apprenticeships, internships, cadetships and/or jobs.

167 people attended the workshop held at Thames Toyota Vehicle Operations, 68 of whom said they could offer and would like to offer opportunities for young adults under the age of 25 years.

Coromandel Action Network

A newly formed group of employers, not for profit, educators and industry training organisations committed to carrying on the FAN initiative are working on a Terms of Reference for the group to liaise, integrate and share information and set tangible goals to improve the uptake of young people into the range of opportunities from volunteerism to employment.

Ministry of Youth Development partnership funding

The Value 4 Youth Volunteering and Coromandel Youth Awards were held in May 2015.

A series of training opportunities were offered to young people by Volunteering Waikato to enable youth to be more in touch with volunteering opportunities and to lead volunteering projects. 92 young people were surveyed from around the Coromandel to highlight their key volunteering interests. Animal Care was top of the list followed by:

- Fundraising
- Community Events
- Entertainment
- School Projects
- Catering
- Leadership
- Emergency Services
- Promotion
- Health Care
- Sports and Sport Events
- Maintenance
- Peer Support Roles
- Committees
- Historical Places
- Conservation
- Representative Roles

- Supporting the Elderly
- Building Projects
- IT
- Gardening
- Customer Services
- Tutoring
- Public Speaking

Volunteering Waikato

A matching process will continue using the tools provided by Volunteering Waikato. This is a free service for those looking for volunteering opportunities in their communities, and a fee service for volunteering organisations looking for volunteers. Volunteering Waikato also provides solid human resources advice and training programmes to volunteer organisations.

Youth Zones and Centres

Meetings held in Coromandel Town, Mercury Bay, Whangamata and Thames and they have engaged in the following volunteering projects for their wards:

- Coromandel Town Refurbishment and painting of their Youth Zone held at the Coromandel Netball Club Rooms, Youth Week, Christmas gathering, Music and Cooking classes
- Mercury Bay - Whitianga Youth Zone - Whitianga Music Festival and Cooking Classes for youth
- Tairua/Pauanui - Leadership programme for youth which included a trip to Combat Zone, Whitianga
- Whangamata - A Virtual Youth Zone and feasibility study for a physical youth zone
- Thames - Social evenings to enable a safe, alcohol and drug free meeting place at the Thames Youth Centre
- Thames - Youth Awards - organisation and delivery of the awards
- Adventure Scouts - Outdoor first aid, abseiling and rock climbing certification
- Library Champions in Thames and Tairua
- Thames Amateur Swimming Club - to re-cycle and install a playground
- NZ Festival of MindSports volunteers
- Thames Mountain Bike Club - Moanataiari Mountain Bike track safety signage and a low bridge on the Karaka Bush Track

Coromandel Youth Awards

64 young people were nominated for an Award which was distilled down to 12 finalists.

The Awards were organised and run by the Thames Youth Centre and were successful and invigorating for the audience as well as the participants.

- **Young Creative Award for Artist Expression** –Young people who have made an outstanding contribution in the arts, culture, music, dance and performance. Sponsored by Totally Thames.
- **Helping Hand Award for Community Service** –Young people who have volunteered in order to improve the community. Sponsored by Thames Rotary.
- **Green Thumb Award for Environmental Care** –Young people who have completed environmental projects improving protection, conservation and/or sustainability. Sponsored by Smart Environmental.
- **Kia Kaha Award for Perseverance** –Young people who have overcome challenges in order to improve the community. Sponsored by Hauraki PHO.
- **Legend Award for Leadership** –Young people who have demonstrated great leadership in projects that have improved the community. Sponsored by Coromandel Peninsula Youth Collective
- **The People's Choice Award for Excellence** –This award is chosen from all nominations. Sponsored by Thames-Coromandel District Council.

Judged by:

- Amy Williams - 2013 Youth MP
- Rob Griffiths - Regional Youth Participation Advisor - Ministry of Youth Development
- Diane Connors - Councillor - Youth portfolio Thames-Coromandel District Council
- Sophie Wiseman - National Swim Champion and stand-in judge for conflict of interest
- Jason Sebastian - Hamilton City Council

The Ministry of Youth Development contribution to Value 4 Youth was \$20,000

Ministry of Youth Development - Youth in Emergency Services

The Minister of Youth - MP Nikki Kaye paid a visit to the Thames Youth Centre in November 2014 and listened to our youth at a special meeting held at Thames Youth Centre and offered a pilot programme to TCDC in a subsequent meeting with Civil Defence.

18 young people aged 16-21 participated in an Emergency Services programme championed by Thames Valley Civil Defence including the Order of St John, Land Search and Rescue (LANDSAR) and Thames Fire Services. Eight have shown interest in being recruited into one of the emergency services.

What the youth said about the programme:

- A great experience that allowed me to go out of my comfort zone and try something new
- Everything was really good
- It was an amazing opportunity and gave me an insight into what volunteer services in our community do
- Overall it was amazing
- Thank you everybody that gave their time to train us
- Keep doing what you're doing because it's good

The Ministry of Youth Development contribution to the Youth in Emergency Services programme was \$10,000

A further application can be made to the Ministry of Youth Development for Mercury Bay dependent on the emergency services uptake and administration support being supplied by an organisation in Mercury Bay.

General

The activities for 2014/2015 are addressing many of the ideals of the Youth Strategy.

Coromandel Action Network is about bringing agencies together, sharing information, gaining a district-wide picture of youth readiness for work and employment through cadetships, internships, apprenticeships and employment.

More information on the national level will be gained through active involvement with Mayors Taskforce for Jobs. Councillor Connors and the Community Development Officer attended a meeting at Morrinsville with Mayors Taskforce for Jobs on Tuesday 28 July, 2015. The workshop being facilitated by David Turner on behalf of the Taskforce explored ways that shape and strengthen the vital connection between young people leaving school and the employment and learning opportunities in the world of work. This information will be very integral to the CAN DO group in identifying gaps in service provision.

The Value 4 Youth Programme has been highlighting that young people are safe and valued and growing the Coromandel as a place that they have their roots in - people that

volunteer together make connections and friendships beyond their usual network.

The Yes Programme is also creating opportunities for youth and at the same time it strengthens our emergency volunteering systems.

The areas we need to work on are to continue to strengthen volunteerism, work readiness and opportunity making as well as a stronger link between what our youth are saying and what Council is doing at a district and community level.

To date all the funding has been available through the Ministry of Youth Development and Territorial Authority Partnership Fund - as the youth of today are the workers of tomorrow it would be reasonable for the Council and Community Boards to invest in their opinions in a more formal arena.

It is pertinent to remind ourselves that many of our youth have no personal income; therefore their contribution needs to be valued with funding to enable them to truly contribute to the democratic process.

5 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Thames Community Board:

1. Receives the Youth Projects report dated 21 July 2015.
2. That the Board considers providing budget for progressing the Youth Strategy recommended implementation in the 2016/2017 Annual Plan.

References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments

Attachment A *Thames-Coromandel District Youth Strategy*

Attachment B *MYD research for TCDC on Youth Voice on Councils*

Attachment A - TCDC Youth Strategy

Attachment B - MYD Research on Youth Voice on Councils