

**HERETAUNGA
HASTINGS**

**MAHERE
PAE TAWHITI
A TE YOUTH
COUNCIL
YOUTH
COUNCIL
LONG TERM
PLAN**

**HASTINGS
YOUTH
COUNCIL**

Back Yourself - Okeā Ururōātia



**NOVEMBER
2025-2030**





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KARERE A TE KOROMATUA MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I'm very excited to introduce this Long Term Plan, a roadmap drawn up by our young leaders that helps set the course for our future youth councils.

The Youth Council has been part of our wider Hastings District Council in some form since the 1990s and I'm very proud that it is still going strong and offering opportunities for our young people to contribute to council decision making.

Since 2020, our youth councillors have been even more empowered to have input with members appointed to some of our subcommittees, an initiative that was unique to Heretaunga Hastings.

Our young people are our future so it is very appropriate that they be at the table to share their perspective, as they are the ones who will be most impacted by the choices we make today.

We've been through some huge upheavals in recent years with Covid-19 and Cyclone Gabrielle, and as we build back from these events the voice of our rangatahi has never been more important.

Congratulations to those youth councillors who put together this comprehensive plan – it will be a very useful tool for future youth councillors wanting to make a difference.

**Sandra Hazlehurst
Mayor, Hastings
District Council**



HE KARERE NĀ CHRIS RĀUA KO BOWEN

A MESSAGE FROM CHRIS AND BOWEN

**Rangatira i tēnei rā! Rangatira mō āpōpō!
Leaders of today! Leaders of tomorrow!**

It's never too early to start leading and making a meaningful difference in our communities. The Youth Council is built on the strong foundation of elevating the youth voice, ensuring that our perspectives resonate throughout our community. We believe that rangatahi have the potential to inspire change and move mountains, even amidst a chaotic world.

From our first day on the Youth Council, we embraced this vision. Every meeting, discussion, and project has brought us closer to empowering young voices, and this commitment will last until we leave this building for the final time. We aspire to leave a legacy for future youth councillors, enabling them to build on what we have learned and experienced.

We are not just focused on the present; we are actively planning for the future. This Long Term Plan outlines our key priorities and combines simple, individual actions that, when taken together, will lead to extraordinary outcomes for our rangatahi.

We hope to kindle a flame of inspiration that will grow and expand the impact of this incredible organisation. Together, let's build a legacy that resonates with our values, and creates a massive sense of community and engagement among our youth. Every step we take today paves the way for tomorrow's leaders. It's a privilege to present this plan to you.

Chris Proctor, Chair
Hastings Youth Council
Bowen Steffert, Deputy Chair

HASTINGS YOUTH COUNCIL

**Ko wai te
Hastings Youth
Council, ā, he aha
i ora ai mātou?
Who are Hastings
Youth Council and
why do we exist?**

Hastings District Council recognises the positive contribution young people make to a strong, diverse, resilient, and inclusive community. The Hastings Youth Council is a vehicle for young people to be actively engaged in local government planning and decision making relating to their city and district.

The Youth Council is responsible for creating dynamic engagement opportunities for young people to participate in, from community activities to government decisions.

Its objective is to canvass youth opinions on a range of topics, and to advocate and implement changes on behalf of the young people in Hastings.



Main goal - youth advocacy

- Bringing different perspectives from diverse communities (including places where rangatahi aren't always heard)
- Youth voice! (pretty straight forward, make the wants and needs of youth in our district heard through our voices).

OUR THEME FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS IS...

Whakawhanaungatanga Connections



**Ngā hononga
Youth Council
Youth Council
connections**

We want to:

- Create a connected Youth Council by doing fun events: Rush Monro's, bowling, Laser Tag, beach day, movie night, marae leadership camp, Splash Planet Day etc.
- Upgrade and modernise our YC logo.
- Get education around how to run events and do politics.
- Update the YC website annually showcasing what we do.

Hononga kaunihera

Council connections

- Attend more Council meetings to show that we are engaged
- Learn and grow our skills in Council subcommittees
- Make submissions on key local issues to Council
- Make the most of meetings with the mayor
- Build a relationship with councillors, including inviting them to our meetings
- Work closely with Council staff to support our work
- Support Council-run events like Blossom Festival, Anzac Day, Youth Potential Awards etc.
- Connect with the climate action officer
- Organise a mayoral debate for 2025 in October (strongly recommended)
- Consider a youth councillor vs councillor debate in the future
- In the longer term update our Youth Strategy with a recovery lens
- Push for voting rights on subcommittees (we've laid the groundwork in 2024).
- Connect with the Council Youth Team for mentoring sessions



Hononga hapori

Community connections

We want to:

- Be aware (in advance) of council projects, volunteering opportunities
 - Focus on social media as the best way to share our work – aim for shameless exposure. (Social media awareness campaigns, trends, update articles from My Hastings newsletter, hopping on the radio, day in the life videos, job or funding opportunities, podcasting, promoting youth businesses)
 - Support events in the community, e.g volunteering
 - Make the community aware we are available to get involved
 - Connect with Volunteering Hawke's Bay every month to see if there's any key events we can help with
 - Volunteer for groups https://vhb.org.nz/team_opportunities
 - For years, youth councils have wanted a dedicated Youth Hub – imagine if this was the year we could make it happen. Wellington has just opened theirs...
 - Incorporate kaupapa Māori into our processes, build connections with local iwi
 - Fundraise more in the community for youth grants, e.g.sausage sizzle, bake sales etc.
 - Invite our local MPs (both from Tukituki and Ikaroa-Rawhiti). Our current local Tukituki MP has already visited us and is keen to come back. Ask questions, give suggestions, work on projects – be proactive
- Connect with organisations in the community that are important to us, such as:
 - Multicultural Association
 - Mafia Dance
 - Rezspect dance
 - Get There NZ
 - Nourished for Nil
 - Volunteering Hawke's Bay
 - Youth Environmental committee
 - FotoFest
 - ToiTu Te Reo event, www.toitutereo.co.nz/festival
 - Happy Waves podcast
 - Young Enterprise Scheme
 - Project Prima Volta
 - Napier Youth Council.



Hononga rangatahi

Youth connections

We want to:

- Aim to promote Youth Grants every year! (See the 'How to Youth Grants' section) - this is the biggest way that we can build connections and impact
- Create videos to present in schools about key information that is important to share. Connect with school councils and schools in general
- Understand our social media demographics, be creative and fun
- Connect with other youth groups, e.g. Napier Youth Council, sharing minutes, project plans and resources, and/or other youth councils.
- Think about organising a HB Regional Youth Conference with guest speakers
- Put on one or two big events in the community (we have a small budget, so it is very important to be realistic about what we can achieve).
- For example: Youth Week (as many fun events that we can over this time). Collaborate with the Camberley and Flaxmere Community Centres - movie nights, games nights, dance.



Ō mātou whāinga

Our goals

Subcommittee goals

- Show up
- Be engaged
- Read the papers
- Make your time worth it
- Be consistent
- Engage with the chair.

Our foundations (the stuff we always do)

- Youth Grants (Strongly emphasise)
- Participation in Council subcommittees
- Events
- Youth Potential Awards
- Youth Week
- Consistent new content on our social media channels.

Marketing goals: Shameless exposure

- Reduce formality
- Be relatable
- Be consistent
- Consistent surveying and youth input
- Transparency around our projects.

We understand the importance of creating a good team culture to get the mahi done.



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