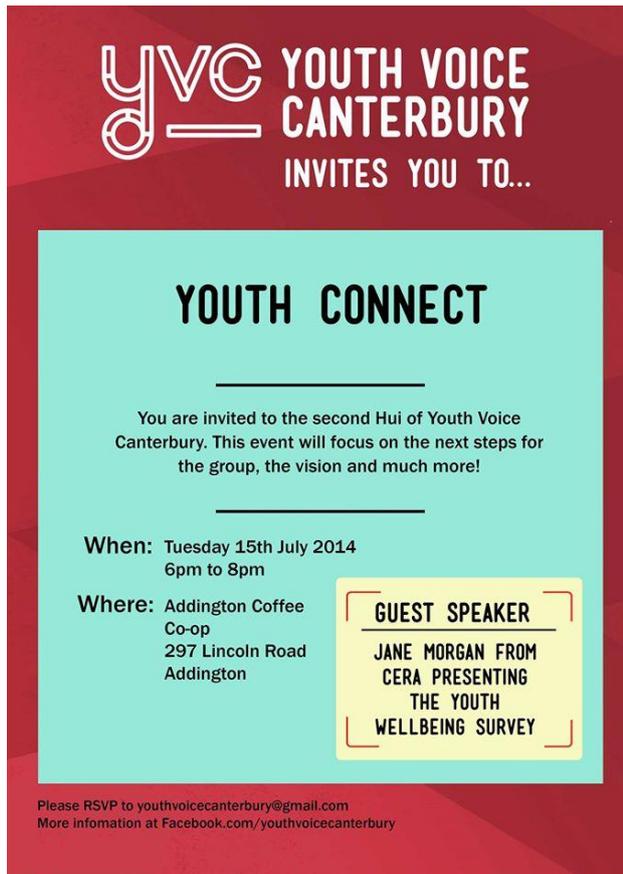


Youth Connect: July 2014



The poster features the YVC logo at the top left. The main text is centered on a light blue background. It includes the event title, an invitation message, the date and time, the location, and a guest speaker box. At the bottom, there is contact information for RSVPs.

**YVC YOUTH VOICE
CANTERBURY**
INVITES YOU TO...

YOUTH CONNECT

You are invited to the second Hui of Youth Voice Canterbury. This event will focus on the next steps for the group, the vision and much more!

When: Tuesday 15th July 2014
6pm to 8pm

Where: Addington Coffee Co-op
297 Lincoln Road
Addington

GUEST SPEAKER
JANE MORGAN FROM CERA PRESENTING THE YOUTH WELLBEING SURVEY

Please RSVP to youthvoicecanterbury@gmail.com
More information at [Facebook.com/youthvoicecanterbury](https://www.facebook.com/youthvoicecanterbury)

Overview

On the 15th July 2014 the Christchurch Youth Council and Youth Voice Canterbury (YVC), one of the work streams of the Strengthening the Youth Sector Project, held the first Youth Connect meeting in Addington at the Addington Coffee Co-op.

This was a follow up to the first Youth Voice Canterbury Hui held on the 9th May at the Lincoln Events Centre.

Youth Connect invited those who had come to the first Hui as well as new members to come together, share some food and drink and discuss the future of YVC.

The night consisted of a round of introductions, followed by an update on the Results of the Youth Wellbeing Survey. There was an update on the development on the YVC website and a presentation on the vision of YVC. The main focus of the evening was the conversation café to unpack the ideas from the previous Hui which led into open discussion and idea-sharing about what's next for YVC.

Youth Connect – 15th July 2014

The purpose of the second YVC Hui was to unpack the conversations that were started at the Hui in May. About 20 young people attended, as well as several coordinators and advisors, from various groups such as: The Christchurch Youth Council, Waimakariri Youth Council, Selwyn Youth Council, WAIYouth, Pacific Youth Leadership and Transformation, Fanau Ola Youth Service Canterbury, Ashburton Youth Council, Student Volunteer Army, Society of Youth Health Professionals Aotearoa New Zealand, No Limits, Ministry of Youth Development Youth Advisory Panel and the Hurunui Youth Council.

Update on the Youth Voice Canterbury Website

Members of YVC and young people who feature on the website gave a brief overview on its purpose and where it was at. Next steps included having a meeting with the youth guides that feature on the website to discuss process, policy and safety and ensure they were ready for any enquiries that come their way. The website is an exciting tool for young people to reach decision-makers and an opportunity to have a say in issues that are affecting them.



Update on the Youth Wellbeing Survey

Kevin Grimwood gave an update on the results of the 2013 'What's Up? Youth Wellbeing Survey'. 3341 young people took part in the survey which gave a snapshot of how young people are feeling several years on from the Canterbury earthquakes. The survey shows what the impacts young people are experiencing due to the earthquakes, how they are feeling about the rebuild, what support is available to them, how their emotional wellbeing is holding up, what the continuing issues are for them, and so on. For the detailed results visit <http://cera.govt.nz/youth-wellbeing-survey>

Conversation Café

The conversation café was an opportunity to unpack the ideas from the previous YVC Hui in May that we about breaking down the barriers to youth voices being heard. Young people were split into groups and were given different themes to brainstorm and then presented their ideas back to the group.

The themes and ideas were:



Youth Mentoring Scheme:

One idea was around creating a youth mentoring scheme to support young people in leadership roles, or to enable and empower them to gain entry into areas that interest them. By having a 'guide' in the sector you wish to work in you not only make hugely valuable connections but you also gain a huge amount of insight into the actual operating structure of that organisation.

Making the Youth Voice and being Engaged Cool:

This focussed on what is cool about being an engaged young person and what impacts the way it's viewed. Some ideas were: food, people, media, diversity, the ability to make a difference, and being a positive influence. Organising cool events was also mentioned.

Creating Common Ground:

How do we create common ground with young people? How will this help youth engagement? Creating meaningful relationships with young people makes it easier to work together. This includes immersing with other cultures, identifying common issues or themes and forming relationships from there. This can lead to the ability to network with a larger amount of like-minded agencies and young people if there is a common thread.

Database for Youth:

This could work as a platform on the YVC website and could include links to funding and a basic guide of how to apply, collaborative funding arrangements that are accessible and easy to use, contacts for help doing funding applications. There could be a youth guide for this in particular.

Youth Engagement – What does this look like?

There is a need to go to young people and this can be done through a range of approaches. It was discussed that social media is at times too relied upon for engagement with young people. Organisations need to utilise the modern technology to connect, think, and don't limit to what has been done before. Extending the reach will enable wider community buy in meaning more involvement. It is important to engage with the groups that are established in communities with the purpose of being a youth voice or are already linked in with young people to best engage.

Conclusion

Overall the second YVC Hui being the first Youth Connect meeting was a huge success. We had great attendance by young people and some awesome conversations were had and elaborated on from the previous Hui. It is exciting to see

YVC moving forward and continuing to work hard to create positive youth participation and youth engagement opportunities for young people. Bring on the next Youth Connect – October 14th 6-8pm at the Rivertown Café, 77 Williams Street, Kaiapoi!