

**YOUTH  
CONNECT**

*Hosted by*



**yvc YOUTH VOICE  
CANTERBURY**

**REPORT JULY 8 2015**

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## What we got up to

On July 8<sup>th</sup> 2015 the PYLAT Council hosted Youth Connect 2 for 2015 at Christchurch Community House. The Selwyn Youth Council, Wai Youth Waimakariri Youth Council, Hurunui Youth Council, Christchurch Youth Council, PYLAT Council, Te Ora Hau, Canterbury District Health Board Youth Council, Ministry of Youth Development Youth Advisory Group, Canterbury Youth Workers Collective and the Strengthening the Youth Sector Group all came.

The night opened with an awesome feed followed up by a debate about changing the flag between National Party MP for New Plymouth Jonathan Young and New Zealand First List MP Denis O'Rourke from Christchurch. The MP's discussed the history of the flag, whether the \$26 million being spent on it was worth it and what a new flag would mean for NZ. After this participants asked our MP's some questions. After finishing up with the listening to our experts, it was time for us to share our views. These ideas were collected up afterward and sent them to the Flag Panel, Minister in charge of the Flag discussion Bill English and the Electoral Commission. We also included a recommendation that these groups consult with YVC on how to best engage young people on how to be encouraged to vote in the flag referendums.



Later, Riki ran a cultural competency workshop. This started off looking at some of the thoughts around being



inclusive and creating a space for all people to feel like they belong. This was followed up with four challenges and a final quiz to help highlight the key learnings. These were around greetings in Pasifika languages like Talofa lava (Samoan), Malo e lelei (Tongan) and Ni Sa bula vinka (Fijian) to name a few; talking about Pasifika values such as Alofa (love), Tautua (Service) and Fa'aaloalo (respect); and finally some history on the "Dawn Raids" and what the Realm of NZ is.

We finished with dessert and some informal hangout time. PYLAT really loved to share this evening with our YVC friends and appreciated how everyone put heaps into it! Alofa to you all. – PYLAT Council

# Summary of Survey Feedback

## Organisation

This youth connect was put together by the PYLAT Council. Participants enjoyed the evening with different highlights such as the food, activities, the teaching and learnings.

## Length of the Programme

The programme started at 5.30pm and went to 8.00pm. Participants were satisfied with the length of the programme. Some participants said they would have been happy for it to have gone longer. Those who had to travel into Christchurch for the evening said that the finish time suited them better because they had to travel home afterward. The earlier finish time was also beneficial as this was a school/work night.

**Recommendation:** Coordinators of future *Youth Connects* try to have the programme done by 8pm.

## Venue

The Community House Function room handled the number of attendees well and participants were happy to use this space again.

## Food

The food was the highest rated part of the evening. On arrival participants had a selection of foods to eat and at the end they had desert. Those with special dietary requirements were very happy with what they had to eat.

**Recommendation:** At future evening *Youth Connects*, that dinner is held first.

## Facilitator

Participants thought that the facilitator did a good job running the evening.

## Purpose of the programme

Participants thought that the purpose of the evening to share youth opinions was good. They enjoyed the programme and discussions calling it “valuable” and one participant shared that they “love coming” to *Youth Connects*.

## Are *Youth Connects* valuable?

All respondents thought that *Youth Connects* definitely should continue? One participant thought that YVC’s work could benefit many more young people if it was opened up.

**Recommendation:** YVC Workstream to consider ways it can engage with other young people

## What we learned

All participants thought they learned new things. Some of these were around our nation’s identity though the flag debate, Pacific cultures, ideas and history.

## Would you have participated in the flag debate without the youth connect?

Just under half of participants said they would not have participated in the flag discussion if this engagement did not happen. A number of participants stated that they would not have had an informed opinion on the subject knowing both sides of the argument, or that they would not have contributed as much or as meaningfully to this discussion because of their limited knowledge.

**Recommendation:** YVC is used as a place to inform the different youth participation and engagement groups on current issues and to collectively submit feedback.

## Other comments

Participants stated that they were very glad to have come and that they found the whole evening informative and entertaining. Some participants thanked PYLAT and appreciated the sharing of Pacific culture with YVC.

## Appendices

### Event Survey Results

Youth were asked how they felt about each of the following statements. The results were as below. Not all participants who attended filled in the survey.

	Terrible 0	Poor 1	Sort of Poor 2	Sort of Good 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	Mean
How was the organisation of the event?	0	0	0	0	4	16	4.5
How was the length of the programme?	0	0	1	2	6	12	4.3
How was the venue?	0	0	0	1	5	14	4.3
How was the food?	0	0	0	0	1	19	4.9
How was the facilitator	0	0	0	0	2	18	4.6
How do you feel about the purpose of the programme (to ensure the Youth opinion is heard)	0	0	0	0	4	14	4.8

	Yes	No	Approval Percentage
Should we continue organising these discussion events for Youth?	20		100%
Did you learn anything new today?	20		100%
You would have contributed to the discussion if you had NOT attended this event.	8	12	42%

### Comments from Discussion Groups and Survey Forms

The following comments are notes taken from both the group discussions which all attendees participated in, and also the comments made on the individual survey. Please note that the comments are in raw form and no attempt has been made to correct any grammatical errors.

### Event Evaluation Comments

#### 1. How was the organisation of the event?

- Thank you PYLAT for a well organised active and educational event
- Had such an awesome time tonight, was so much fun thank you guys you did a brilliant Job
- Great night, thanks for being great hosts and sharing your amazing culture with us
- One of the best youth connects
- Was great – good food.

- Awesome!!!

**2. How was the length of the programme?**

- Don't mind if it was longer
- Great! Loved food first
- Nice size, decent.
- Good I think the time was good for people who drive home or have work.
- Good length for the people who do not live in Christchurch.

**3. How was the venue?**

- Irrelevant, nice.
- Community House forever.
- Same as usual, great!
- Great.
- Really good for the amount of people who attended.

**4. How was the food?**

- Amazing
- Love the vegetarian
- Kai was amazing the soup!! Can I have the recipe?
- The desert
- Vegan food love it, love it.
- OMG!
- Chocolate mousse to die for.
- Best food.
- Kai wow was delicious and definitely a highlight!
- Dinner held first is best.

**5. How was the facilitator?**

- Amazing
- Loved him.
- Josiah = amazing
- Did his job nicely.
- Awesome.

**6. How do you feel about the purpose of the programme (to ensure the Pacific Youth opinion is heard)?**

- I love coming
- Very worthy discussion
- Awesome

**7. Should we continue organising these discussion events for Youth?**

- Yes, but not just target the youth in school, Uni etc. but youth who have dropped out etc.
- Invite a friend, watch it grow.

**8. Did you learn anything new today?**

- Some cool cultural greetings
- More informed about the flag discussion

- Pacific values, greetings and history
- About another culture.
- Flag crap.
- Lots of greetings.
- To allow youth to learn about issues and get involved. Mainly why to change the flag.

**9. Would you have contributed to discussion on changing the NZ flag if you had not attended this event?**

- Not nearly so much.
- Dependent on when I ended up but knowing what I know now. It has changed my mind and stuff.
- Because I would not have known why they want it to change.
- I have but not been as informed nor felt it was this meaningful.

**10. Do you have any other comments?**

- Thank you for allowing me to be a part tonight. It was very informative and entertaining.
- Great work team PYLAT.
- Thanks for the awesome evening.
- Thanks for doing this.
- Great hosting and sharing of your culture well done.
- Well done PYLAT.