



Youth Connect Report

10 October 2015



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The Youth Connect

On October the 10th, the Hurunui Youth Council hosted the third Youth Connect of 2015 in Hanmer Springs. Representatives from The Selwyn Youth Council, PYLAT Council, YMCA Youth Council, Ashburton Youth Council, Ministry of Youth Development Youth Advisory Group, Canterbury Youth Workers collective, Christchurch Youth Council, and of course the Hurunui Youth Council all attended.

We met at the Library and walked down to meet the Mayor, Winton Dalley, to welcome us all to Hanmer. The Youth Connect was based around the theme of 'Heritage and Youth', and it seemed fitting to have a tour around some local heritage. Rosemary Ensor took the group around the Queen Mary Hospital, which will be 100 years old next year. Rosemary explained some of the history surrounding the Hospital, and had us scope out the old morgue.

After this it was back to the library for some lunch and a talk from Winton Dalley about what issues the Hurunui District Council are having surrounding the hospital, and about their responsibilities for it. We then had a workshop about what our thoughts were on heritage, why it was relevant to youth, and what should be done with the Queen Mary Hospital. Some really good ideas and thoughts came out of this, and will be passed on to both the Hurunui District Council when it considers the future of the hospital, and the Ministry for Heritage and Culture for future policy changes.

We finished up with some presentations about what we were all up to, and then it was off to the pools for a quick dip and a hydroslide! The Hurunui Youth Council loved to share a bit of our district and heritage with YVC, and thank you all for your amazing insight and ideas.

Hurunui Youth Council



Summary of Feedback Survey

Organization

Participants thought the event was well organized and ran smoothly, but there were comments that proper introductions and ice breakers needed to commence before the tour went underway.

Length of the programme

The programme commenced at 12.45pm and concluded around 3pm. Participants were mostly happy with the length of the programme, however some felt there could've been further discussions at the Library to make the programme longer, when the amount of travel for some participants is considered.

Venue

Participants were relatively satisfied with the venue save that it may have been a little small and cramped. There was also the suggestion that it could've been held somewhere pertaining to the topic of heritage, such as at the heritage building being discussed.

Food

Participants thought the food served was great, but it was pointed out that there could've been more vegetarian and gluten free options available.

Facilitator

Participants felt the facilitator was well spoken and did a good job running the event smoothly. It was also mentioned that other HYC members were useful in prompting to help facilitate the discussion.

Purpose of the programme

Participants thought the purpose of the programme was great, and that heritage is definitely a topic of discussion relevant to youth, especially those attending from Christchurch. However, one participant thought there were better ways to engage youth with heritage, but did not elaborate on what that could be.

Should we continue organizing these discussions for youth?

One big, unanimous yes.



What we learned

Participants generally agreed about learning something, be it the importance of Heritage, the Queen Mary herself, or that HYC girls are hot.

Beneficial?

Most participants found the discussion beneficial, especially when faced with the opportunity to hear other educated perspectives.

Has the Youth's opinion on the value of heritage changed?

Participants had mixed feeling about this; some said their opinion had changed, others pronounced theirs had developed, whilst a large portion also answered no. The impression was made that participants already had strong preconceived ideas on heritage before the discussion commenced, given Christchurch and its heritage have currently been a relevant issue.

Other comments

Most participants thanked HYC for running the event, with special mention to Jess for organizing free passes to the Hanmer thermal pools. Two participants commented on lack of cultural diversity, and that maybe we needed Tangata Whenua involved, as well as Mihi and Karakia at the start or the end of the day minimum. It was also mentioned that the survey would've been better if a rating system was provided, rather than just room for comments.



Youth for a Voice ... The youthful gathering of young people in Hanmer Springs last weekend. PHOTO SUPPLIED

Youth have a voice

By ROBYN BRISTOW

"Heritage now is Yesterday's vision" was the catch cry and theme following a gathering of young people in Hanmer Springs last weekend.

The Hurunui Youth Council hosted around 50 young people, from Youth Voice Canterbury, a network of young people from youth organisations who support young people to create a united front and voice for all youth in Canterbury.

The youths, who are aged under 25, gathered for a cultural and heritage weekend and found there could be more done to make the cultural and historical relevance of the Hurunui district known.

They based much of their visit on the former Queen Mary Hospital site due to its heritage values and called for more development of the site and its gardens to preserve the cultural and historical significance of the site.

Workshops were held in the local library before moving on to the Queen Mary site



Heritage tour ... Rosemary Ensor of Hanmer Springs details the history of the Queen Mary Hospital. PHOTO SUPPLIED

where they toured with local historian and "archivist of Hanmer Springs" Rosemary Ensor who told them the history of the site and its buildings.

Feedback Response



Hi to all of our YVC friends,

On behalf of the Hurunui Youth Council, I would like to thank you all for coming to our youth connect in Hanmer Springs last month and making it such a success. From the feedback received it looks like most people enjoyed themselves and learned a thing or two about heritage, which is great to hear.

Something noted in the feedback was the lack of Maori influence throughout the day. HYC have responded to this feedback and want to ensure future tours of the Queen Mary hospital incorporate a Karakia to bless the grounds. With the centenary of the soldier block commencing next year, we would also like to ensure the Hurunui District Council opens the celebrations with a Karakia, and make cultural consideration for any future events.

Overall the programme was enjoyed by most (a couple found heritage boring), feedback on the food was good with some requests for more vegetarian and gluten free options. The length of the program (2.5 hours) seemed to be perfect – heaps of engagement without getting too bored. Some found the venue a bit small and constricting, while others found it 'cosy', and thought they were able to work better when closer to group members.

Responses to the five Heritage questions ask on the day have been collated, and will be passed on to the Hurunui District Council to consider during any future discussion around the Queen Mary Hospital. This information has also been passed onto the Ministry for Culture and Heritage. They were interested to hear young people's insight on heritage and how we decide what is important.

The points expressed in the workshopping session will have an influence on the Hurunui District Council's decisions around the future of the Queen Mary Hospital, so thank you to those who came and have had input on that future.

Sean Ryan
Chairperson
Hurunui Youth Council

Feedback Survey Comments

How well was this event organised?

- Very well
- Very well organized
- Very well
- Very well organized
- Amazingly well!
- Very well
- Good organization
- Very quick and good discussion
- I think it was fantastic, your team did a very good job. If the intro with everyone could have been at the start that would help. It was strange not all being able to fit into one room.
- Verrrry well!!!
- Good information was out early and it was easy to get more info when needed.
- Very well ran to time
- Personally 100%
- Pretty good, slight lack of communication about what was happening.
- Very well very fun
- It [was] well vocalised through all the youth groups so that a decent number of people could be able to come!
- Very good! Couldn't really hear the lady talking
- Overall really well! Would've been good to have some introductions first and maybe a brief at the beginning of how the day would go
- Pretty well! The library is a bit awkward though. Also, it would have been *way* better if HYC had given us the tour of the hospital, rather than the old lady. Also, need Ice Breakers!
- Pretty well
- 10/10
- Very well – ran smoothly
- Good
- Very well organized
- Excellent
- Very well
- It was organized well, everything seemed to run smoothly
- Very well

How was the length of the event?

- A bit long
- Good. The walk gave it a nice start.
- Good
- Good length
- Great!
- Great

- Enjoyable nah it didn't feel long or boring
- Good
- For a Saturday it would have worked. It was good some informed travel would have been good
- Good length
- All discussion and the tour were a good length
- Great!
- Good, could've been longer in the way of travel
- Good length
- It wasn't too long, and enough to sort of engage our minds and educate us of the matter at hand
- Good. Hospital tour was quite long in the heat. Rest of the day was a good amount of time!
- Perfect
- Good! Great!
- 10/10
- Good amount of time
- Good
- It was good. Since we went walking around at the beginning, it broke the programme up well.
- Took a while to get into it but it was okay, would've started earlier.
- Perfect amount of time
- It was a good length – could have been some more activities at the library though like other discussions.
- Good

How was the venue?

- Great, a lot of scenery
- Very good
- Very good
- Very nice
- Great!
- Wonderful
- Nothing to complain about
- Good
- It was too small maybe if talking about heritage we could've been based at the heritage building.
- It was good
- Awesome!
- Bit small but ran well
- Nice/ great place to feel welcome
- Good central
- Great venue
- Fine!
- Choice!
- Good for workshop. Needed more seats and a better eating area.

- Not good. Too small and awkward.
- Good – a bit too warm though
- 10/10
- Great! Maybe air conditioning?
- Good.
- The library was a bit cramped but we all fit in the end.
- Great, a nice drive from Kaipoi
- Perfect location
- Good!
- Good

How was the food?

- Yummy
- Excellent
- Yummy
- Excellent
- Really good
- Fabulous!!
- Okay – more veg options are always good
- Not bad, definitely was enough
- Great!!! Yummy!!!
- Good!
- Great food
- Amazing/ O.P!
- Great
- Awesome yum yum
- Great.
- Delicious!
- Awesome!
- YAY! Lots of food! Temperature and range could've been better. But thank you so much for what was provided.
- Pretty good
- 10/10
- Food was fantastic
- Good mix of savoury and sweet. Would prefer lunch earlier
- There was a lot of sweet food – that's a good thing. Not many options for gluten free.
- Was great! Yummy
- Good! Can't complain about free food!
- Good!
- Good

How was the facilitator?

- Great
- Excellent
- Good
- Lovely
- Really good!
- Awesome
- Good
- Good – HYC were really helpful in aiding discussion. Good leadership!
- Sean was good, seemed uncertain with bits though
- Dunno
- Good, could've been more enthusiastic
- About an 8 which was good
- Great!
- Good
- We got through everything we needed which was good.
- Good job! Entertaining.
- Great Sean is the man!
- Sean was the man. Some good professional development from him.
- Good
- 10/10 very well spoken
- Good
- Great
- AMAZING
- Really good! The enthusiasm was incredible!
- They were good, they seemed to have a handle on what was going on during the event
- Good

How do you feel about the purpose of the programme?

- I feel that it was a great way to learn about the wider community
- Very interesting and maybe something that may become relevant to our YC.
- Good
- Good purpose.
- Great purpose, very relevant
- Very informative
- Relevant to youth
- Having a tour around the hospital led perfectly onto the heritage discussion.
- It's to meet and connect with others. Heritage is a good topic. The submission should go to all councils.
- I feel good
- The heritage topic was interesting
- For what they wanted to know it was good. Straight to the point
- A lot of great stuff about heritage!

- More topics of discussion, I feel it wasn't as beneficial as it could have been seeing travel of 2 hours just for heritage
- I feel it was good
- It's of great relevance to us all and being units that represent youth is important to express!
- Awesome to hear everyone's perspective on the heritage and how it could be preserved.
- Very good – more interesting than I thought it would be
- Heritage... boring... sorry... I think there would be a far better way to engage young people with heritage.
- Good history on the Queen Mary Hospital
- Satisfactory 10/10
- Really good purpose, enjoyed talking about heritage.
- Great for networking and sharing.
- Heritage – it was a great discussion
- It's fab, great purpose. Anything to help youth out.
- Was good! Heritage is so important and something I'm quite passionate about so I loved it.
- I think it's so cool having all the youth groups coming together and sharing what they are doing. I wish there were more activities where we can share and maybe collaborate.
- Important to focus on heritage given that most attending are from Christchurch.

Should we continue organising these discussions for youth?

- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes!
- Yes! It's very important
- Yep
- Yes
- Definitely
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes it's great
- Yes
- Yes!
- Absolutely
- Yes! It's good to hear how things effect the youth as well as everyone else.
- Yes – please send submission/discussion to us too
- Yup
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes!

- Yes!
- Yes – definitely more discussion!
- Yes

Did you learn anything new today?

- About heritage
- Yes heritage of Hanmer
- Yes. About the Queen Mary
- Yes a lot about heritage and Queen Mary Hospital
- Heaps.
- Yes, the history of Queen Mary
- HYC girls are hot
- Good history on Hanmer!
- Made me realise how much you all have to travel to get to us.
- Yes, a lot of information about heritage
- Yes – the redevelopment of Queen Mary Hospital
- Yes
- Yes, the mental hospitals meaning.
- Not really
- Yes. A lot about the Queen Mary Hospital
- Yes, I came here with an open mind/less knowledge about the situation at hand.
- Yes, learned all about the Queen Mary Hospital
- Heaps – mostly my thoughts on diversity
- Yup
- History of Queen Mary Hospital
- The work opportunities in Hurunui
- Learned about Queen Mary Hospital
- Hanmer heritage and Queen Mary Hospital. What Hurunui and Selwyn youth councils are doing (great stuff)
- Yes.
- Learned about Queen Mary! It was very interesting.
- I never knew those buildings were a hospital.
- Yes, all about the heritage around Hanmer.
- Yes – lots about Queen Mary.

Has the Discussion of Heritage to Youth been beneficial to you?

- Yes opened up my mind to new things
- Yes. Made me think different.
- Yes. It has made me think about mine.
- Yes, very interesting
- Yes. I know a lot more!
- Yes
- It's been valuable to know other viewpoints

- Yep
- Definitely
- Sort of coz it's not my heritage but keen for Hanmer have heritage
- Yes, really enjoyed this
- Yes
- Yes, questions are a bit to broad
- Yes
- More knowledge now about the history
- Yes it retouches on things that we usually might forget/ take for granted.
- No
- More time discuss and reflect, honestly not as much as hoped
- Yes
- It was interesting but not particularly relevant
- Not sure. Interesting to think about. Definitely at heart of Hanmer. Interesting to consider. Awesome to feedback to Hurunui, especially coz you guys came to turning the tables.
- Yes
- Yes, I feel it has given me a valuable perspective on the importance of heritage and what others think about this topic.
- Yes
- It has created a part in my brain to store knowledge

Having taken part in this discussion, has your opinion of the value of heritage to youth changed?

- Yes indeed
- Yes, made me think more in depth for it.
- No. It has developed.
- Not particularly, but has opened my eyes to new perspectives
- No. I have developed my original ideas
- It has developed because I didn't know much about it beforehand.
- No – being from Christchurch it's a topic I have a study of and point on.
- Yep
- No
- N/A. each will have their own perspectives
- No my opinion was quite similar to others
- N/A
- No
- Yes – I valued it more.
- No, heritage should be appreciated.
- It hasn't changed it, just reinforced it!
- Yes
- Yes!
- No
- No
- Developed
- Not really. I feel I have gained insight that has built on my pervious opinions.

- I've always felt that heritage is important so no

- Thank you
- Thank you
- Thank you! – especially Jess for pools
- Nope! Great event!
- Awesome people! Awesome afternoon
- Diversity would be good. Felt very mono-cultural
- Great job Hurunui and thank you!
- Nah it was good
- Thank you for this opportunity
- Yes
- Can the next feedback form have a scale system instead of comments
- I'm not sure how rep this youth council is of diversity in the region. Could be wrong? Need tangata whenua involved. Mihi and karakia at start or end of the day minimum.
- Great event!
- Fantastic effort