

MAYORS TASKFORCE FOR JOBS

www.mayorstaskforceforjobs.co.nz

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2008

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It is my pleasure to bring you this newsletter. This year the Taskforce has some ambitious goals but ones we think need to be achieved if we are to reach our vision of a New Zealand which supports and celebrates all our young people to reach their full potential. I am excited about the new Schools Plus policy which will provide more varied pathways into work and education and will be fully operational by 2011. We have a great opportunity to make this policy truly effective in our communities by ensuring the links with business, education and the community are strong. These are the partnerships we as Mayors have developed well and many of us are also part of the business community in our "other lives", so we are in a unique position here to influence how things will look in our local areas. To this end we are working with the Ministry of Social Development and our other partners to ensure there are positive connections for all school leavers.

Our vision is that **"Every school leaver has the support to connect to opportunities within their own community"** and we will be developing proposals from Mayors to make this happen in a way that is appropriate in your communities and can be delivered in a responsive and flexible manner. Currently about 44% of school leavers have access to Youth Transition type services - our aim is to have 100% by 2010. So if your community is one of those not covered, give us a call and we will help you put together a plan which will make sure your young people can make the most of the opportunities you have in your community and also that you get the skills your businesses require to grow and thrive.

With a general election looming we met with political parties to discuss their youth, employment and training policies and I am pleased to say we have great cross party support for our youth goal and vision and a willingness to work closely with the Taskforce to achieve it at the local level. See our website for more details.

We continue to meet with senior Government Officials and Ministers quarterly and I urge you to help us make the most of these meetings by letting us know of any issues or concerns you have which can be addressed at that level. With the continued support of nearly all the Mayors in the country we are a force which cannot be ignored and we are certainly able to gain maximum resources for you to get the work done in your community - so make the most of it!

As you will see later in this newsletter the Youth in Local Government Conference is coming up in October in Christchurch. We will be celebrating the successes of our young people with the awards associated with that conference and also working together with our young people to ensure their voices are heard and we are as responsive as we can be to their needs. I hope to see many of you there.



Dale Williams
Chair

GUEST PARTNER COMMENT

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry of Social Development - Work and Income National Office recently realigned its operations with a Strategy & Service Development area being created. Mike Smith has taken on the new role of General Manager of this area. One of the Strategy & Service Development team's responsibilities is Youth Outcomes. We are co-ordinating all activities relating to young people within Work and Income and are the central point of responsibility, co-ordination and contact. My role is National Manager of the Youth and Work Outcomes team. I have worked for Work and Income for eleven years, starting in a cadet programme, through various roles within the Contact Centre, then to National Office where I was involved in developing the initial Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Newsletter.

Recent projects have included "Working for Families" and "Working New Zealand". It is exciting to work with passionate people who are focused on ensuring that all young people in New Zealand make successful transitions in their lives. Some current work areas include the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs, Youth Transition Services, Limited Services Volunteers and Regional Initiatives. Several government agencies and the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs are working together toward a new shared goal for young people:

"All young people under the age of 25 should be engaged in appropriate education, training, work or other options, which will lead to long-term economic independence and wellbeing."

We are currently working with the Taskforce to identify priority areas that we will focus on to achieve this goal.

YOUTH TRANSITION SERVICES

Youth Transition Services work in partnership with the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs and involves local authorities. It provides a voluntary service for young people seeking support as they transition from school through to further education, training or other meaningful activities into sustainable employment. The general age range is 15 to 19 year old school leavers, with a particular focus on 15, 16 and 17 year olds. We are currently in the process of enhancing and expanding Youth Transition Services across the country.

LIMITED SERVICES VOLUNTEERS

Limited Services Volunteers is a Work and Income contracted service which helps young job seekers to improve their self-discipline, confidence, physical fitness, communication skills, group dynamics, basic job search skills, financial and budgeting skills and personal presentation. These skills are developed by training within a disciplined environment. It is a six week residential programme run by the New Zealand Defence Force through LSV Company, located at Burnham Military Camp, Christchurch. We are focused on ensuring that all young people are given the opportunity to participate in LSV, and when they complete the course that they are assisted to take the next step of their journey.

REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Each region has a range of locally developed initiatives for young people that focus on assisting them find employment.

I am enthusiastic about working with the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs and look forward to an exciting and productive year.



Jeremy Wilson

National Manager
Youth and Work Outcomes
Strategy & Service Development
Work and Income

MAYOR'S COMMENT

TOKOROA TRADE TRAINING CENTRE

“Retaining Youth for the Betterment of the Community and its Industries”

Industries in South Waikato voiced concerns in 2005 about the lack of skilled labour available to support business growth. Issues continued to be brought forward and research was then undertaken in 2006 by South Waikato District Council, Work and Income NZ and Waiariki Institute of Technology. The research clearly indicated the skills gap issues nationally publicised were severely affecting a number of important sectors that the South Waikato community depended upon for growth and economic sustainability.

Youth issues also gained momentum around the same time – no avenues were available for youth to move into employment and career opportunities within the towns. The community was struggling to retain its youth, even those who wanted to stay in the district close to their families.

As a result, a skills gap strategy was developed. Each sector submitted plans of action and a document was created listing appropriate activities to retain youth and get them trained and skilled to fill the needs of local industries. A number of key stakeholders signed up and Council agreed to support the development of a Trade Training Centre.

After hosting two Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremonies, discussion forums with industry and a student tour of the four major engineering firms in the area, it became apparent that the engineering sector was enthusiastic about helping support the concept of a Trade Training Centre.

In May 2007 discussions with Waiariki Institute of Technology started and an agreement was made stating that the engineering sector could steer the Trade Training Centre project and design the curriculum required to meet their skill requirements while providing work experience for students.

Five firms provided representatives. The objectives of the project and steering group were developed to promote Trade Training within the South Waikato District and to ensure the Educational projects were relevant and would add value to the various business sectors of the District.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was established between Waiariki Institute of Technology and Council. Council's role was to coordinate the project and lead the steering group while promoting the engineering industry to youth through other Council mechanisms. Council also agreed to find an appropriate site for the Trade Training Centre, source the funds to pay for the first year's lease and contribute \$60,000 for the purchase of equipment for the centre.

On 25th February 2008 the Trade Training Centre was opened to students from within South Waikato. At the start of the course 19 students enrolled in the engineering training programme and 11 in an additional carpentry programme. An official opening took place on 17th March 2008 in which delegates attended, industry was present and the building was blessed. Currently 10 students are actively attending the engineering course six months on, and 4 have already been employed with engineering firms half way through their training programme.



Mayor Neil Sinclair
South Waikato District Council

It speaks well for the future of the Trade Training Centre.

WORLD SKILLS

Over 100 young trades men and women and nearly 70 judges from throughout New Zealand converged on Wellington Institute of Technology from 18-20 September 2008, for the WorldSkills NZ National finals - three days of intense, practical competition to find the best in New Zealand for their trade. There were competitions in 18 different skill categories ranging from Floristry to Welding, Car Painting to Cookery and almost everything else in between. Competitors were selected to come to the National Finals, usually by winning a Regional competition in their trade. The National Finals finds the best in New Zealand, but they also form a major part in the selection of a New Zealand team to compete at the WorldSkills International competition.

In 2009, the WorldSkills International competitions are to be held in Calgary, Canada and over sixty countries will be sending teams to this "Skills Olympics". WorldSkills NZ plans to have a team of at least 15 competitors at the 2009 international competitions.



The regional and national competitions are held every two years, with the international competition in the "off" year.

Present regions are Northland, Auckland, Waikato/Bay of Plenty, Central North Island, Wellington, Canterbury, Otago/Southland and the NZ Defence Force. It is hoped to get Nelson/Marlborough and Hawkes Bay regions up and running before the next round of competitions in 2010. The WorldSkills NZ Wellington region, in partnership with Wellington Institute of Technology (WelTec), hosted the 2008 National Finals. Many of the region's schools took the opportunity to bring their students to see the competitors working on "real-life" projects as this was an excellent way to promote trades and service industry careers.

WorldSkills NZ is about recognising achievement and celebrating the success of New Zealand's top young trades men and women and encouraging them to aim higher both personally and in their careers.

More information about WorldSkills NZ, the National Finals and the International competition can be found on the website, www.worldskills.org.nz or by contacting Mrs Sally Gray the WorldSkills NZ Events Coordinator.

Her contact details are:

Mrs Sally Gray

Events Coordinator

WorldSkills NZ

Phone: 03 528 6295

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YOUTH WEEK 2008

The Taskforce provided funds for young people involved with Youth Councils or Youth Reference groups to run events or contribute to projects during Youth Week. Some great events were held.



ASHBURTON – Mayor Bede O’Malley

Youth Council members approached other young people with different interests/hobbies to many young people, whom they interviewed and photographed for the local newspaper – included were a motocross rider, swimmer, tap dancer, black belt karate expert, girl’s rugby captain, a thespian and a young person who is involved in a number of extra curricular activities. Members of the Youth Council took turns ‘on air’ at a local radio station “Port FM” alongside the breakfast host, resulting in an invite to have a regular time slot on air. In partnership with the Ashburton Library the Youth Council helped promote and provide prizes for a ‘Design a Logo’ competition. Young people were asked to design a logo for Youth Week which could be printed on a hoodie which they would win if their design was chosen.

SOUTHLAND – Mayor Frana Cardno

Southland District Youth Council ran a variety of events for Youth Week, including a Talent quest (four schools); School Social (one school); Launch of suggestion boxes for students to put their views to the Youth Council; Hoodie Day (all schools); Southland District Youth Council meeting; Attending a Youth Council forum organised by the Ministry of Youth Development and hosted by Gore District Youth Council. Youth Councillors were enthusiastic about the talent quests and saw it as a chance to showcase youth in a positive light. Funding was used to purchase hoodies with the Youth Week logo on them. These were awarded as prizes for the Talent Quest and ‘best dressed’ at the Social. Southland District Councillors and staff wore Youth Week hoodies on Council Day, with coverage in two local newspapers and local television (Mayor Frana Cardno was interviewed wearing a Youth Week hoodie), promoting Youth Week locally.



Press releases before and after Youth Week also promoted the positive messages, with two radio stations following up with interviews.

CLUTHA – Mayor Juno Hayes

In partnership with Positively Clutha Women, BBQs were run on two consecutive Saturday evenings. Feedback from the youth was very positive – word-of-mouth alerted many to the activity. The Memorial Hall area in which the BBQ was situated, is often littered with broken glass after the weekend. Positively Clutha Women arranged for a skip, and along with the BBQ there was an opportunity to exchange views on the “how to deal with the glass” problem. The young people who interacted with those running the BBQ thought it was a great way to reach out and have friendly conversations.

DUNEDIN – Mayor Peter Chin

Dunedin’s Youth Action Committee (YAC) promoted their event as the 2008 Youth Week Grand Finale. Growing on “Youth Gig” the previous year, the 2008 event was “for youth by youth”. YAC took responsibility for ensuring all bases were covered. “Youth Gig” included 10 performances ranging from high school bands to solo artists and covering a myriad of genres from folk to hip hop to heavy metal. For many this was their first live gig with YAC ensuring they were treated like rock stars for the night. About 300 people attended including parents and siblings of the performers who would not necessarily have the opportunity to see them perform. YAC also supported and were involved in Dunedin Public Library’s – *Teen Space Launch; Skate To Relate – Skateboard Competition and Drive In Movie – Eagle vs Shark.*



TASMAN – Mayor Richard Kempthorne

The Waimea cluster of the Tasman Youth Council sold nachos at Waimea College for fellow students to enjoy – a delicious change from *boring old sandwiches* their mums had been making for years!!! MotFest, held at the Mot Skate Park and organised by the Motueka branch of the Youth Council was a hit, featuring Skate and BMX groups; live music; graffiti art and plenty of prizes. Golden Bay Youth Council held a Village Theatre Gig starting with the movie “St Trinians” followed by a hip hop dancing group. Two short films “The Hump Back Yeti” and “Nganu Nganu” were also shown. The evening was rounded off by a five piece rock band – “Top Heavy”.

KAIKOURA - Mayor Kevin Heays

Youth Week kicked off with a Youth vs Oldies Quiz Night. 120 community members from 12 to 80 packed the Memorial Hall for a night of brain teasers and general knowledge. Mayor Kevin Heays and Youth Council Member Kim Broadhurst were the MC’s for the evening. There were fantastic prizes as the Youth Council had worked hard to gain plenty of sponsorship from businesses for the event. A supper the Youth Council put on provided an opportunity for the community to mingle and chat. The night was a huge success. National Hoodie Day was well supported with many businesses taking the opportunity to wear their favourite hoodies. The Youth Council awarded spot prizes. The High School had a mufti-day so the students could all wear their hoodies. The Youth Council put on a free movie ‘Drillbit Taylor’. Before the movie two hoodies which the Youth Council had purchased were given away to lucky ticket holders as well as lots of sports equipment which had been donated by Mission On. Around 100 youth attended this event which was enjoyed by all.

TIMARU - Mayor Janie Annear

Timaru's focus was on getting Mission On Ambassadors (celebrities who promote and model healthy lifestyles) to come to their lovely city. Youth Alley organized "Spacifix" (Pacific Island group) to perform. There was plenty of backing from all sectors of the community, with radio stations donating air time for advertising – as well as being Youth Week, May is NZ music month. Local community and youth workers from Temuka were supportive, organising a bus load of youth to come to the event. They also helped out with security. Youth from Fairlie come through with the Work'n It Out worker. Approximately 150-170 youth turned up. Local rangatahi gave a taiaha performance which was well received and a local youth band "No Indication" opened for "Spacifix". "Spacifix" were brilliant entertainers and after they had finished all came out and talked with young people, posed for photos and gave autographs.

NEW PLYMOUTH - Mayor Peter Tennent

Two teams comprising fourteen young people aged 15-22 were formed by the Council's Youth Subcommittee and Youth Reference Group. **Team Extreme** organised a bus tour, 'Teens on Tour 08' - for 30 deserving young people aged 11-15, offering a full day of activities promoting youth networks, youth interaction and youth leadership. Great community sponsorship was achieved to create a wonderful day, consisting of fun and prize filled ice-breaker and get-to-know-you activities; team building and confidence building activities; free lunch; fun water safety activities; and a guest presentation by Youth Development Expert Marcus Akuhata-Brown with special guests including the Mayor Peter Tennent.



Team Youth-a-licious organised a 'Youth Zone' event with a Kiwiana theme, providing free food and fun activities for young people out and about on a Saturday afternoon. They also gained good community business support and discounts. Youth Zone activities included New Zealand movie screenings plus local youth film pieces; free sausage sizzle; spot prizes and give-aways; a sing-star competition, Young Enterprise Scheme promotions; free pool and juke box. Feedback was extremely positive with very positive media coverage on all activities in both the community and daily newspaper. A feature article has also been written.

WAITAKI - Mayor Alex Familton

Oamaru's Youth Gallery was home to an exhibition of over 50 items – paintings, photographs, sculpture and conceptual art displays – works coming from local High Schools, the IHC and the wider community. Eighty people attended opening night and throughout the week people added to the "I'm Proud of my Young Person" wall with comments about the achievements of young people in their lives. The exhibition received stunning feedback and although not initially intending to sell individual items, the team acted as liaison and price fixers for 5 exhibitors. One young man with autism sold two of his sculptures and his care giver is now talking about organising an exhibition of solely his work. Another young sculptor's work caught the eye of the local Economic Development Board's CEO with discussions about commissioning pieces for display in recreational areas. The week also featured Wearable Arts, Music Drama and Dance – standing room only events – such was the level of interest and support. A young tagging artist sold his work to a 50 year old and they have subsequently set up time to view cartooning and art books together at the library to help develop the tagging artist's skills. Three senior community members commented that they now could see what tagging versus graffiti was about and quite liked it.

OTOROHANGA - Mayor Dale Williams

A dozen members of the Otorohanga Over 50s group and the Lyceum Club went back to school. They heard speeches by the Head Boy and Girl with a presentation of pictures and information on the recent sports tour to Canada and the US. The morning culminated in a tour of the College and morning tea hosted by the students. One 94 year old attendee reminisced about her time at the College. One of the first pupils at the College on its current site, she remembered the large oak trees as saplings.



An autograph challenge was run within the school. Students had to get the signatures of 60 other students/staff that fitted the written criteria. Things such as "a member of 1st XV; a Maths teacher; someone who learns the guitar; someone who plays squash; an exchange student etc." All entries had the chance to win a spot prize. Council members went to South School and played rippa rugby and netball with Year 7 and 8 students. The week culminated in Hoodie Day for students and staff.

ROTORUA - Mayor Kevin Winters

A working party of Youth Council members was established to plan and implement a project during Youth Week. The result was a fun sporting type event – "Hardout". They designed the poster, planned the day, approached community businesses for sponsorship of prizes, gained the support of "The Edge" radio station for advertising and MCing on the day and brought Sport Bay of Plenty on board to assist with sports gear. 13 Youth Council members participated in running the event which included a BBQ; horizontal bungee; rippa rugby; volleyball and oversize soccer.



The event was a great success with around 50 young people participating, having a great time and the Youth Council gaining some valuable skills in event planning and implementation.

PA's MEETING/TRAINING DAY

Wellington, 26th August

A very successful day was held in Wellington with Mayors PA's. Although 22 initially registered, due to illness and other circumstances, 16 attended on the day. The day was a great success on many levels.

Having the PAs meet each other and talk about issues common to them all in their work was invaluable. Also it gave them a really good understanding about the Taskforce and an appreciation of its importance for their respective Mayors as well as the opportunity for them to meet some of the LGNZ staff from whom they receive much correspondence. Four LGNZ staff introduced themselves to the meeting and then joined us for lunch. After lunch the PAs were taken on a short tour of the LGNZ environs.

Jan Francis started the day off by giving the PAs some background on the Taskforce which was very well received. For many PAs, the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs had been just *one more thing* the Mayor deals with, without them (the PAs) having any real understanding of its background and purpose.

Our two speakers for the day were Marcus Akuhata-Brown and Celia Lashlie. Both were predictably superb and the group was buzzing after each speaker had finished.

Marcus is such an inspirational speaker and gave the PAs the perfect illustration of why they should be putting his name in front of the Mayor whenever there is an event in the Council which requires a guest speaker par excellence.

Celia focused much of her talk on the Good Man Project which evoked many questions from the group. She also expressed her desire to come along to the next PAs Meeting/Training Day and continue where she left off. There was such a lot of dialogue between her and the PAs – they could really relate both to her work on the Good Man project and her work with the Taskforce focusing on young people. It created a great atmosphere.

Mo talked to the group about all aspects of communication with the Taskforce Executive, the MTFJ website, Industry Training Graduations and WorldSkills. She encouraged the group to view the MTFJ Executive as their resource and to use it as much as possible.

"I just wanted to say it was great to catch up with you all and thanks Mo and Jan for a great day and the LGNZ team."

"Bless you and thanx, thanx, thanx. You are exceptional ladies and we love you ta death!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

"Thanks for a brilliant day – catching up with other PAs, inspirational guest speakers, lots of laughs, learning about the Taskforce – it all made for a truly valuable day – can we do it again please?"

"Those who missed out will be kicking themselves – it was about learning, sharing, meeting people, being inspired and lots of laughter."

"I had been really looking forward to this. It was a good chance to meet with Mo, Jan and some of the other PAs. Many thanks for organising it."

The group very much appreciated the day and the opportunity to network with one another and also to meet the LGNZ people with whom they have substantial contact. We would like to do this again and try to get those who didn't attend along. We will be contacting them to ascertain the reasons they didn't come. It would be useful to have a PAs Meeting/Training Day annually.

YOUTH IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE 2008



Youth in Local Government 2008 offers a varied and interesting programme. Starting with Youth Day there are sessions solely for 12-24 year olds and concurrent sessions for Adult Support Staff. The evening social event promises to be both fun and lively with the Superhero Quiz.

On Day Two at 1.30pm Mayor Dale Williams, Marcus Akuhata-Brown and Jan Francis's workshop is **"Make the Connection – Young People, Communities and Civic Leadership"** and at 3.15pm **"Dancing With the Stars"** sees Mayors Peter Tennent, Frana Cardno and Brendan Duffy strutting their stuff, ably assisted by Bry Kopu (NPDC), Rex Capil (Venture Southland) and David Ward (Horowhenua DC). These are two great workshops – please give them your support.

Day Three sees more MTFJ involvement with Mayors Philippa Barriball and Jono Naylor along with Councillors aged under 30 participating in a Panel Discussion Chaired by Mayor Dale Williams – **"How To Get Young People Engaged in Local Government"**.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

MELISSA CROCKETT

How can being involved with your community benefit your business. The workshop will give examples and ideas, provide a space for brainstorming and planning to become involved with the community in a way that will genuinely help both partners.

Melissa (Nga Puhi, Ngati Kahu, Te Rarawa) is the co-owner of Potiki Adventures, an innovative Maori tourism company based in Auckland. She is passionate about showcasing the relevance and beauty of culture, landscapes and art, all from a contemporary Maori perspective. Potiki also focuses on providing employment and mentoring for young Maori. Melissa is into her third term as the Chair of a national Maori Theatre Charitable Trust that works with at-risk Maori teenagers and has been a board member of the Auckland Maori Regional Tourism Organisation.

Melissa's Favourite Superhero – Maui Potiki

KEHINDE BAH

Kehinde's address will be about his experiences in youth organising in Toronto. Hear the story of a young person who went from organising fundraisers at the local community centre to playing a key role in advancing Canadian social policy. Included in the address will be some references to the youth-led programmes and initiatives that have stood out as examples that should exist everywhere.

The overall theme is that strong community leaders are given the opportunity to develop their skills over time, and that the path to success is not always a straight line.

Kehinde's Favourite Superhero – Spiderman (his sharp wit)

AWARDS



The Aspiration Kid's Active Citizens Award

Award for best example of how Youth Councils, staff or young people have engaged young people in Local Government issues and influenced change in their community.

Collaborationista Award for Partnership Work

Best example of collaboration between Youth Councils, agencies or departments working together and leading to action on an issue or problem within the Local Government sector.

LGA Dude's Employment Award

Award for the most innovative Youth Employment project.

LTCCP Girl's Cool Small Project Award

Best cool small project (under \$2,500) designed and implemented by Local Government, young people or Youth Council. (this is not just for girls...).

Bylaw Bloke's Best Big Project Award

Best big project (over \$2,500) designed and implemented by Local Government, young people or Youth Council. (this is not just for boys...).

Captain Chaos Clanger Award

Award for those projects or initiatives that you thought were a good idea but just bombed.

The Supreme Award

All entries will automatically be eligible for the Supreme Award. The Supreme Award is for the best overall project.

With 40 nominations for awards, the judging panel have their work cut out.

Awards will be presented at the Conference Dinner on Tuesday 7 October

MARCUS AKUHATA-BROWN



If you wish to invite Marcus to speak at an event in your region,
you can contact him directly or through Kararaina Pahuru at Tukaha Global Consulting

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