

Tabled at Ywh Council  
on 17 Sept 2019  
Item 3

# TAIHAPE SUPPORTS BREAD TAGS *for wheelchairs*

DROP OFF YOUR BREAD TAGS TO  
WORK AND INCOME  
32 TUI STREET TAIHAPE  
06 901 0110  
MICHELLE.FANNIN001@MSD.GOV.T.NZ

OR TAKE DIRECTLY TO:  
ST MARY'S SCHOOL  
30 LONDON STREET  
ARAMOHO  
WHANGANUI 4500  
OR CALL 06 343 1227



**TABLED DOCUMENT**Tabled at Youth Council  
on 27 SEPT '19  
Item 8

Rangitikei District Youth Council

# Tuesday 17th September 2019

## Chairperson's Official Report

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### Introduction

Kia ora everyone, welcome to the Rangitikei Youth Council meeting held once again in Taihape courtesy of Taihape Area School and Principal Richard McMillan. This is sadly our second to last meeting this year *and* for our departing Youth Councillors, as we will be having an end-of-year/farewell dinner on the final meeting date. Quickly reflecting back on this year since we all met at River Valley, we have all grown considerably closer, furthered our understanding of local government and its procedures and arguably, developed our professional debating skills in the pre-meeting warm ups. Thanks to the District Council, Mayor Andy Watson, Councillor Cath Ash and of course, the relentless and passionate support from Rangatahi Strategic Advisor Nardia Gower - our efforts turned to progress and our ideas blossomed into projects. For those of you who would like to remain in your seat next year, I hope you will take some time to reflect on what your role as a Youth Councillor brought to this table in 2019 and what you have to offer for our District in 2020. I know that in addition to school, sports and various other

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commitments, it can be difficult to fulfill your role as a Youth Councillor, however, being in the Rangitikei Youth Council is both a privilege and a massive responsibility. You all did so well this year in many of our events not just as representatives but as individuals as well, and there are many other high school students and young adults who would be and are interested in being a part of this in 2020. I expect that all of you have filled out and submitted the evaluation form Nardia sent out to everyone, and if not please do this asap. To those of you will be leaving us for tertiary study (coincidentally Victoria University), thank you for helping us lay the foundation of this Youth Council and for your contributions this past year. It isn't goodbye yet thankfully, we still have so much to do (and say!) until then.

Next term, I would like to prepare and present a powerpoint presentation highlighting our Youth Council's successes that will hopefully be published online. If you would like to help, please let me know. It will be a great way to share our successes and smiles with everyone, especially since our Te Wiki o Te Reo Maori video is currently the only video there is of us online. Speaking of Maori Language Week, our video was posted on Facebook recently and I'd like to thank those of you who participated in this awareness project. Thank you as well of course to Nardia and Lequan for driving us around and to Hunter the Editor, it was an awesome way to show our support for a very important week.

## **Meet the Candidates**

As you all know, the local government elections will be taking place this October - most of us may be too young to vote, but thanks to Council we will be assisting with the Meet the Candidates events around the district (Bulls, Marton etc.). I wish you all the best, it is going to be very busy for those of you who are helping and/or hosting. Contrary to popular belief, elections in NZ are not just about voting for people who want to be in government. It's about sustaining our nation's democratic system and ensuring that every New Zealander over the age of 18 has the chance to vote. We can all think of at least one country that does not have a democracy, yet so many NZ citizens (particularly young people) choose not to vote. Your involvement in the Meet the Candidates events will not only give you great insight

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into Politics, but you will also be contributing to the nationwide effort aimed at increasing youth involvement and understanding of local elections. I know that mock exams are still underway for some of you so I hope you can stay on top of it and I look forward to hearing all about the MTC events we helped with in the next meeting.

### **Taihape's 125th Birthday celebrations**

The people of Taihape celebrated this town's 125th birthday over the weekend. This is a significant milestone and those who attended the celebrations witnessed Youth Councillor and Secretary Caryse Clark dancing over the weekend because she was so happy about Taihape turning 125. So I have asked Caryse to tell us a little bit about last weekend.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Finally, a topic we are all familiar with - communication. A friendly but serious reminder that as we are very geographically separated, it is important that you open any and all WhatsApp, Facebook and Gmail messages you receive. The chance of a message being relevant to you is 100% as you all are on Youth Council and need to keep up with everything that is going on. Everyone is more than welcome to send updates, news and emails of their own to their fellow Youth Councillors as well to enhance our communication - just no memes or silly videos, please.

Last but not least, thank you very much to our Deputy Chairperson Kat for chairing our last meeting. I hope you can all attend our next meeting as it is our last but until then, good luck with exams and enjoy your holidays. Kia ora.