

Tabled at Youth Council
on 15 October 2019

Rangitikei District Youth Council

Tuesday 15th October 2019

Chairperson's Last Report



Introduction

Kia ora everyone, welcome to Rangitikei Youth Council's *last* official meeting. This is sadly our 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.

I know that for our Youth Councillors Rei, Hunter and our Secretary Caryse, today is their last meeting before becoming our first group of alumni. Therefore it feels quite right to be having our last meeting here at Ohakea, as many of us will be

departing and travelling to the next chapter in our lives. Yes, the group dynamic will certainly change: the role of Secretary will need to be reappointed and the roles of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson will be reelected. Regardless of who earns these positions of responsibility, I hope that the rest of you have decided to reapply for a seat in the Rangitikei Youth Council of 2020. As you know, sitting at these meetings can be daunting and leading projects and youth initiatives can be stressful - so I need those of you who are remaining to show the new Youth Councillors the ropes, and to carry them with you as you continue the work we started this year. Luckily for you all, our Rangatahi Strategic Advisor will be here next year to support you as always. Nardia has consistently been there to assist and lead us when needed (which was most of the time) and she always does so with a genuine smile. I encourage those of you staying next year to ask her for help when you need it, instead of waiting till the last minute. Nardia coordinated our district's Youth Awards this year, and I would like to see Youth Council taking it on their shoulders in 2020.

Meet the Candidates

Generation Z has been stirring the pot lately around the world, from protesting for Climate Change to advocating for the importance of mental health. So it is unsurprising that many of you were willing to support and be a part of the recent Meet the Candidates events here in the district. I understand that we were asked to help with the Taihape event last minute, but plans with Bulls and Marton were carried through successfully. Thank you to everyone who willingly gave their time for this event, and I hope you all learned more about the political environment you will soon be eligible to have a say in.

Marton's 150th name change anniversary

Thank you to Councillor Cath Ash, Project Marton and Marton and District Historical Society for celebrating Marton's 150th name change anniversary. Charly led our Youth Council's involvement in this event, so I would like to thank her once again for taking initiative and for involving her fellow youth councillors. I will now ask her to speak a little bit about the day's events, thank you.

[illegible]

“What do we want? *Climate justice*. When do we want it? *Now!*
Whose future? *Our future!* Whose future? *Our future!*
No more coal, no more oil! Keep your carbon in the soil!”

I know many of you wanted to come but due to practice exams and other commitments, were unable to. Mr. Andrews was kind enough to take myself and Youth Councillors Caryse and Anaru to the strike, so we could join a protest that

only asked for three things as Sophie Handford (one of the event organisers) put it wonderfully in her A.M Show interview the morning of the strike:

“1) Declare a climate change emergency. 2) Cross party support on an ambitious zero carbon bill and 3) Ending all fossil fuel exploration and extraction in Aotearoa, building a regenerative and renewable economy.”

Sophie Handford also mentioned “supporting those in the Pacific who are feeling the effects of climate change right now.” Flags of nations such as Tonga, Samoa and Fiji that I saw being waved in the strike were a deep reflection of her words. Maori students were vocal in their support for our pacific neighbors too, singing He Honore and Tutira Mai throughout the chants. Muslims, Asians, Europeans, you name it - they were all there, holding their banners and signs in an effort to be heard.

I applaud you all for your care and concern in climate change. From helping with the planting of hundreds and hundreds of trees in our district, to the small changes you make on a daily basis for Earth. The conversations you have only increase awareness and strengthen our generation’s stance on this scary issue, and I look forward to hearing what our Youth Council does next year to support not just our youth, our district and this country; but our environment.

