

MEETING MINUTES	
YOUTH COUNCIL	
MONDAY 06 OCTOBER 2025	6:02pm



*Minutes of a meeting of the Youth Council held on Monday 06 October 2025, which commenced at 6:02pm, Te Āhuru Mōwai, Manawatu Community Hub Libraries, Pātiki Tahuaroa room.*

<b>Present:</b>	Kahupounamu Potaka (Chair)	Finn Macdonald
	Ruth Doyle (Finance Officer)	Carlota Ramirez
	Mackenzie Carman (Marketing/Social Media)	Rose Jeffery
	Madeleine Lloyd (Marketing/Social Media)	Wiremu Bray
	Aislinn Kuriger (Alumni Liaison Officer)	Darren Wijerathna
	Sam McLean	Maarire Komene
<b>Attended:</b>	Joey Mckechnie (Youth Engagement Co-ordinator)	
	Cr Lara Blackmore (MDC Liaison Councillor)	
	Tori Short (Staff Governance Support)	
	Barbara Bowling (Community Support)	
<b>Apologies:</b>	Kaea Tahi-Martin	
	Kyle England	
	Eric Schuster	

YC 22-25/380

### MEETING OPENING

Kahu opened the meeting with karakia.

YC 22-25/381

### APOLOGIES

Kyle, Kaea, Eric

Sam coming late

YC 22-25/382

### YOUNG ACHEIVERS AWARDS DEBRIEF

#### 1. Looking back at the night, what part of the event are you most proud of?

- Macca** was proud that she did not mess up while speaking.
- Kahu** was proud of everyone who came to help with the setup.
- Maddie** appreciated how everyone worked together and pulled their weight.
- Darren** was proud of how confident everyone was when speaking.
- Joey** was proud of **Carlota** for doing a great job MCing the event.
- Lara** was proud of the entire event, especially seeing happy parents and kids.

#### 2. What challenges did you experience (big or small) and how did you handle them?

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- a) **Maddie** found pronunciation to be a challenge.
- b) **Macca** had difficulty keeping up with the words while speaking.

**3. How did it feel presenting your category or supporting on the night? What did you learn about yourself?**

- a) **Kahu** enjoyed seeing others do well and succeed.
- b) **Joey** and **Finn** felt proud watching **Ruth** shine during the event.
- c) **Maddie** and **Ruth** both felt proud to represent **MYC** on the night.

**4. What is one thing we, as a youth council, could do better next year to make the event run smoother?**

- a) **Tori** suggested lining up the kids away from the crowd and providing a programme so everyone knows their category.
- b) **Aislinn** recommended having the winners' blurbs in advance so MCs can practice.
- c) **Kahu** noted that a clearer or different run sheet is needed, as she had her hand raised for more than she realised.
- d) **Wiremu** mentioned that some books were taken by the crowd, and Joey noticed adults were laughing during that moment, when advised these are not for everyone.

**5. What's one piece of feedback you'd like to give about the preparation process (setup, practices, communication, or teamwork)?**

- a) **Everyone** agreed that the preparation process went well overall.
- b) **Darren** appreciated being let out of school early, thanks to **Joey** for arranging it.
- c) **Mrs. Ellery** commented that the Youth Council did a great job, best she had seen.

**Lara, Ash, Kate, and Joey** held a review meeting after the event to reflect and provide feedback (notes from that meeting are available below).

YC 22-25/383

**FAREWELL KŌRERO FROM/ FOR LARA**

**Lara** delivered a farewell speech that included an interactive session with YC using **slido.com**. The activity focused on exploring community needs, wants and ideas for shaping a better future.

**Joey, Kahu, and Finn** shared heartfelt words and memories with **Lara** and the group, creating a special farewell moment.



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YC 22-25/384

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

GB was skipped, as we went on to having cake and saying goodbye to Lara.

YC 22-25/385

**MEETING CLOSURE**

Maarire closed the meeting at 7.37 pm with karakia.

The next meeting of the Manawātū District Youth Council will be held at Te Āhuru Mōwai (Manawatu Community Hub Libraries), the Pātiki Tahuaroa room, on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025** at 6:00 pm.



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### The Ceremony (logistics)

- Hide the Yearbooks from public view, and have a short programme handout for the night
- Try and have a run through at the FCC prior to the evening (minimal set up, but have the mic etc)
- Change how we do food on the day
- Joey to be at the line to help sort through any issues as they arise on the night

### Admin before the ceremony

- Ask schools to send out RSVP's / reminders to parents – schools also to advise students whether or not they should wear uniforms
- Update the web nomination form to include an “examples” box under the criteria
- Add more information about the scoring criteria
- Enforce the citation character limit
- More promotion of the event prior to it happening

### Big Picture Stuff

- Joey getting feedback from schools
- The ceremony felt too serious – needs more music, colour, entertainment, decorations, presenters, performers (etc)
- Idea around not having winners

### Youth Councillors

- Spend more time practicing citations – particularly the pronunciation of names
- Youth Councillors could benefit from more practice public speaking, to build their confidence. Staff to consider how we can incorporate this into next year's workplan (e.g., one YC prepares a speech per meeting on a topic of interest)