



**WHAKATĀNE**  
District Council  
*Kia Whakatāne au i ahau*

# YOUTH STRATEGY

## 2022-2027

### TE RAUTAKI RANGATAHI

TE ROHE PŌTAE O  
WHAKATĀNE

# CONTENTS

## RĀRANGI TAKE

Who are we?.....	3
Who are our youth?.....	4
Where are our youth from? .....	5
Youth survey .....	6
What our young people said .....	6
<b>Whakatāne District Youth Strategy</b> <b>summary.....</b>	<b>7</b>
Actions .....	8
Strategy implementation and review .....	9
Next steps .....	9

# CONTENTS

## RĀRANGITAKE

Who are we?.....	3
Who are our youth?.....	4
Where are our youth from? .....	5
<b>Youth survey</b> .....	<b>6</b>
What our young people said .....	6
<b>Whakatāne District Youth Strategy</b> <b>summary</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Actions .....	8
Strategy implementation and review.....	9
Next steps.....	9



# WHO ARE WE? KO WAITĀTOU?

The Whakatāne District Youth Council is a diverse group of young people aged between 12-24 years with varying backgrounds and interests. The group is selected each year to represent the young people of the District. We learn about how local government works, what councils and community boards do, and how decisions are made that affect our communities. The Youth Council aims to inspire young people to get involved in our communities, affect decision-making and become leaders. Each year, the Youth Council sets out a work plan, which includes projects, events and liaising with Council in order to achieve these things.

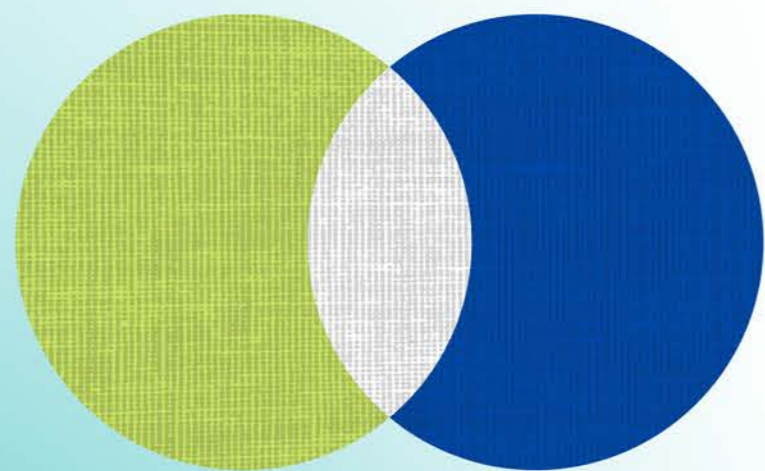


# WHO ARE OUR YOUTH? KO WAI OTĀTOU RANGATAHI?

## 14-24 YEARS



A quarter of the Whakatāne District population are aged 14-24 years. This compares to twenty percent for New Zealand as a whole.



Whakatāne District has a higher proportion of Māori and Pakeha compared to New Zealand as a whole.



## 33 SCHOOLS

Whakatāne District has 33 schools, including intermediates, high schools, kura kaupapa and bilingual schools. We have a higher percentage of youth achieving NCEA Level 1 and 2 than the national average.



## FOUR TERTIARY CAMPUSES

There are four tertiary campuses in Whakatāne that offer more than 150 qualifications from certificate to postgraduate level.

# WHERE ARE OUR YOUTH FROM? NO HEA Ō TĀTOU RANGATAHI?

**104**  
in Edgecumbe

**45**  
in Matatā

**1200**  
in Whakatāne/Ōhope

**120**  
in Murupara

**51**  
in Taneātua

**45**  
in Waimana

# THIS IS WHAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TOLD US THEY WANT KO ĒNEI TĀ RĀTOU HIAHIA KUA MEATIA E RĀTOU



## YOUTH SURVEY TATAURANGA RANGATAHI

The Whakatāne District Youth Council completed a comprehensive youth survey in 2021. The survey asked a range of rangatahi - including students, young professionals, and new parents - what living in this District is like now and what would make it an even better place to live. The information was designed to help shape a Youth Strategy for the District.

*The information we received was used to create the following strategy by youth and for youth in the District.*



### BRINGING YOUNG PEOPLE TOGETHER

- We need more low-cost events and activities aimed at youth
- We need activities and events that are inclusive of all young people and encourage them to get involved
- We want activities that are fun and not just competitive
- We need to make it easier to access events and activities.



### PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

- We want to identify and support existing sustainability initiatives
- We need to look for new ways to protect and support our environment.



### EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- We need more easily-accessible education opportunities
- We need greater work experience opportunities
- We want to learn more about how to participate, lead, influence and make change through local and national government
- We need to know how to get information about jobs that are available locally and how they fit internationally
- Facilitate greater exposure to 'industries of the future' that support sustainability.



### BETTER MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- We need to know where to go for health and support services
- We need more organised activities that are inclusive and fun, not just competitive
- We need to create safe spaces for young people to socialise.



### CELEBRATING OUR UNIQUE CULTURE

- We need to embrace and celebrate our culture and identity and have it reflected in our surroundings
- We want help to reconnect us with our whakapapa and marae
- We want to share more of our local history, stories and experiences.

# SUMMARY

## TE WHAKARĀPOPOTATANGA



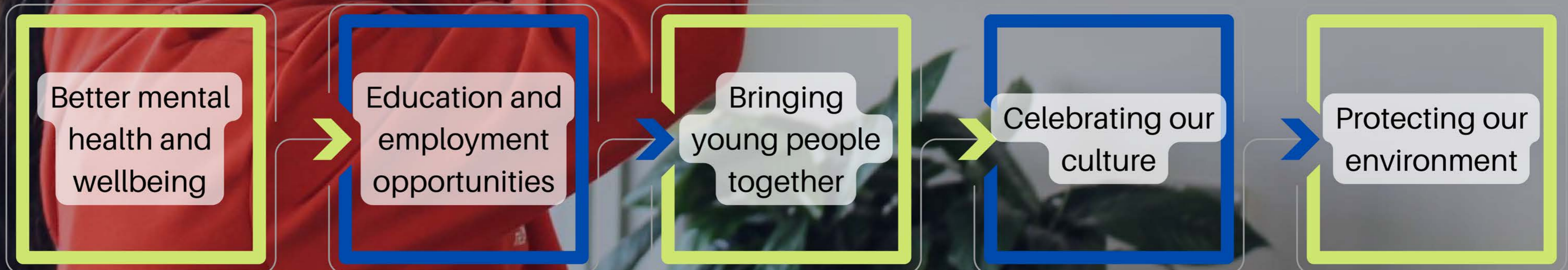
### WHAKATAUKI

Mā te rangatahi, mō te rangatahi

### VISION - TE TIROHANGA

Every young person is inspired and supported to explore unlimited opportunities and thrive as tomorrow's leaders.

### OBJECTIVES - NGĀ WHĀINGA





# ACTIONS NGĀ MAHI

## BETTER MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Te orangatonutanga o te hauora hinengaro

- Research subsidised options for rangatahi health
- Create a resource that lists mental health and support services for young people and distribute this throughout the district to young people.
- Publish a public calendar of events and activities for rangatahi
- Create a youth sector map and a live document for reporting events, and progress on the strategy and action plan
- Look for opportunities to collaborate to support youth events

## EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Nga kowhiringa mō te whakawhiwhi mahi me matauranga

- Connect with decision-making organisations to advance youth employment
- Develop a funding proposal to help rangatahi get access to internet, devices etc.
- Publish a map of free Wi-Fi in the District
- Create a youth-friendly civics/election campaign to educate youth on how council and elections work
- Create advertising campaigns to inform rangatahi of employment and education opportunities.

## BRINGING YOUNG PEOPLE TOGETHER

Te kohinga o nga rangatahi

- Work with arts agencies to promote and create opportunities for participation for young people
- Lobby sports sector organisation to create subsidised activities
- Collaborate with external organisations to make better use of resources that already exist
- Create a public calendar of events to inform people of what's going on
- Hold an annual Youth service hui to share what is happening in the District.

## CELEBRATING OUR UNIQUE CULTURE

Te whakanui o tātou ahurea tuakiri

- Work with local iwi to develop an education programme for the Whakatāne community on local history
- Work with local iwi to create a tool for understanding whakapapa or similar
- Create and deliver an annual event to celebrate youth culture
- Create opportunities to better celebrate national Te Ao Māori events such as Matariki and Waitangi Day
- Help to develop or support other cultural rangatahi groups, such as iwi/hapū groups and Pacifica groups.

## PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Te whakahaumaru o ā tātou taiao

- Advocate for a local composting initiative/composting collection.
- Advocate for action on climate change
- Educate the community on environmental issues of concern to youth.

# STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW TE MAHERE RAUTAKI ME TE AROTAKE

The Youth Council will be instrumental in facilitating the delivery of this strategy and action plan, but not exclusively. Youth from throughout the District will be encouraged to participate, alongside other key stakeholders such as schools and educational institutions, youth agencies, businesses, event planners, councils and funding agencies.

This strategy will be reviewed every three years. The action plan will be monitored and re-assessed annually, reviewing priorities, actions and emerging trends and issues. Progress on actions within the action plan will be reported back to Council. An online youth survey will also be conducted annually. Key stakeholders will be involved to ensure alignment with other youth strategies and to identify opportunities for working together.

## NEXT STEPS KEI TE HAERE TATOU KI HEA

Here's what we are doing to create better everyday lives for our rangatahi.

We will:

- Communicate this strategy with the youth of Whakatāne District, youth agencies and key stakeholders, including councils.
- Create a charter that reflects the aspirations of our District's youth and to have this adopted by major decision-making groups in the Whakatāne District.
- Start delivering on the action plan of activities based on what our rangatahi told us would make this a better place to grow up and live in.
- Take an active role in a Youth Focus Group proposed to be formed through the Whakatāne District Wellbeing Project. This focus group is expected to be the vehicle for the delivery of some of the actions in the Youth Strategy.
- Monitor and report on progress on actions within the action plan and update these on an annual basis. This will include the results of an annual online youth survey.
- Review and update this plan every three years.



"Mā te rangatahi,  
mō te rangatahi"