

Waitai Coastal-Burwood Community Board
MINUTES ATTACHMENTS

Date: Monday 14 March 2022
Time: 4.30pm
Venue: Audio/Visual Link

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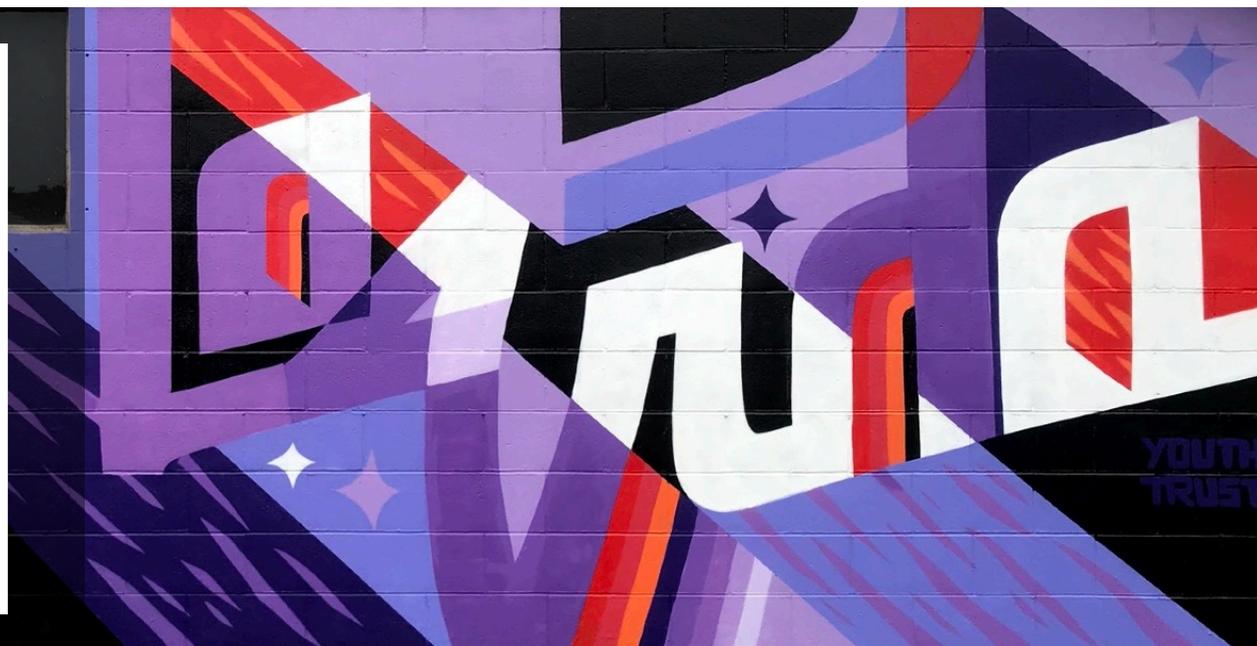
Who we are

La Vida Youth Trust is a Christian faith-based charitable trust. We advocate for young people from primary school through to young adults in our local communities across Canterbury. We work in local schools, community programmes, university and city wide events. Our heart is for young people to see and show value in themselves and the communities they belong to and it is our mission to empower them and their whānau to reach their mental/ emotional, social, physical and spiritual potential.



Our values

- Aroha** – We really care about young people and their whānau
- Hope** – We believe in the potential of young people and their whānau.
- Consistency** – We are there when people need us, over time.
- Presence** – We listen and walk alongside.
- Relationship** – We form enduring relationships.
- Faith** - We encourage spiritual awareness.



Our story

It all started with a basketball hoop and a ball at 34A Hansons Lane in 2002. Realising that many local kids were coming to play after school as they had little else to do with their spare time, Life Church (the owners of the 34A Hansons Lane property) made a hall available for a youth community centre and our first programme, Furnace, was formed.

Furnace began with just one attendee the first week, growing to 20 in the first year. 34a Youth Trust was established in 2004 which gave us the support and structure we needed to increase the vision. Opportunities to place Youth Workers into both Riccarton High School and Riccarton Primary School as part of the 24-7 Youth Network and also to run holiday programmes and after school programmes each term for children in our local community, saw the work of the trust grow.

In 2009 the Trust changed its name from 34a Youth Trust to La Vida Youth Trust to reflect how the community saw us and to align with the identity of the church's new facility - the La Vida Conference and Community Centre.

In 2017 we brought a Trust Manager on team full time, giving the needed structure and support to continue serving our community.

In 2018 Life Church established a new campus of their church in the Selwyn region. Having worked so closely over the years, they asked La Vida Youth Trust to partner with them in serving their new community. Through this the need was recognised for a youth worker in a local school (with more schools and youth workers planned), Red Frogs support and a University Pastoral Care Worker. 2018 also saw the trust undergo a SCOPE external review. This helped identify areas for growth within the trust and our practice against youth work practice standards in NZ.

After working on these standards for nearly two years, in 2020 we undertook a re-review with the same assessors to see how we had progressed with the standards. We were very pleased with the results and look forward to addressing areas we can continue to improve in.

In 2021 Life Church again established another new campus near QE2. Again, they asked if La Vida Youth Trust would continue to partner with them in serving this new local community.

Although the last few years have seen big growth in the trust, we believe this is just the beginning of see young people see and show value in themselves and the communities they belong to.



Our dreams in the East

We want to contribute to empowering young people and their whānau to reach their mental/ emotional, social, physical and spiritual potential. We believe we can help see this happen by supporting young people to see and show value in themselves and the communities they belong to. We really care about young people and their wider whānau and as we form enduring relationships that allow us to listen and walk alongside we believe positive community transformation can occur.

24-7 Youth Work

We believe in the power of Youth Work, and the 24-7 Youth Work model has worked really well for us and our communities in the past so we are excited to have launch a youth worker into Parkview Pārua school this year. If there are other schools in the area who might like a youth worker 10 hours a week or additional youth workers we would look to expand this initiative.

Community Drop in Space

As we have met and talked with other community leaders and organisations we've heard of the desire for something to do for rangitahi in the area. The Life Church QE2 site is uniquely situated almost across the road from Avonside Girls and Shirley Boys high school providing a great opportunity for this. The site has a basketball hoop, pizza oven and plans for a volley ball net and out door tiered boxes for seating. A purpose built youth space is also being built with a programme like this in mind 1-2 a week, either after school or of and evening.

After School Programme

Already Parkview has signalled there may be need for another ASP in the area.

So many opportunities

We see the East side of Christchurch as somewhere with high potential for young people and opportunities for us to serve and partner with what is already happening. All our initiatives have always been community lead and all we do is run through this lense, is it something that will benefit the tamariki and families in this community long term.



L-R Kent MacDonald (Deputy Principal) Simon Thomas (Principal) Lauren McDermott (Youth Worker, and Jeremiah Nicholls (LVYT Manager/ Life Church QE2 Pastor.

Parkview Pārua School

In 2022 we have partnered with Parkview Pārua School and Life Church QE2 to have Lauren, a 24-7 youth worker, supporting young people in the school 10 hours a week.

In 2021, Parkview Pārua School approached Life Church, seeking a youth worker support in the school, so with Life Churches partnership with La Vida Youth Trust we have started Lauren in the school at the beginning of Term 1 of this year.

24-7 Youth Work is a partnership between a local school, local church and often a local community trust. The school and church each contribute 25% of the funding to employ the youth worker and the trust will source 50% from community funders. This way there is a great coming together of organisations to have a real investment in the betterment of our communities and the young people and whānau that make them up.



Where we also work

La Vida Youth Trust has 7 areas of work supporting young people and their whānau.

1. Youth Workers in schools. We serve in both Primary and High Schools primarily with students but work closely with teachers and support staff. We have 7 youth workers across 4 schools (Riccarton High, Te Kāpehu Riccarton, Springston and Parkview.)
2. Red Frogs in Universities and city wide events. We serve young adults primarily around the areas of intoxication of alcohol and other substances; we also offer safe walk homes and support to event management in planning safe events.
3. After School Programme, Upper Riccarton. We serve primary aged children 5 days a week at our after school programme. Our focus is the wellbeing of young people after school, providing a safe and supervised community where they can engage with meaningful activities and have great role models. This programme is run at no cost to families to make it the most accessible to the young people who truly need the support.
4. Community Connector, Wigram/ Ilam electorate. We employ 1 fabulous woman as our community connector. Her role sees her visiting families in homes, catching up as another positive voice and connector to other community agencies. Her other roles are as a youth worker and ASP Co-ordinator.



5. University Pastoral Care Worker, Canterbury, Lincoln Universities. We employ another vivacious woman as our UPCW. Her role sees her linking in with students on campus, perhaps supporting them to connect with organisations, engage in a church, find a place they can belong, and connecting them with other students and supports. Our UPCW also works as our Red Frogs Co-ordinator.
6. Breakfast Club, Upper Riccarton. We work in one primary school serving breakfasts and sitting down with students and occasionally their families for their first meal of the day and a word of encouragement before their busy day of learning.
7. Assistantship. We have one young man completing an Assistantship with us this year. He desires to gain experience in community work, and he assists us in the running and oversight of the Breakfast Club and packaging and, in partnership with Life Church, the delivery of Food parcels to families in need.

The Foundry at Burwood













