



# Sunday Sports Connect

## Overview

There are three schools in the Hurunui district, situated in Cheviot, Culverden, and Hawarden. Our youth worker makes weekly visits to provide fun, foster connections, and organize activities. However, young people residing in the South Ward area (from Amberley to Broomfield) are missing out on this valuable opportunity.

In addition to typical sports clubs, church youth groups, and the Hurunui Youth holiday activities, there is a noticeable lack of regular opportunities for young people to engage in physical activities in this area. Many residents of the South Ward attend high schools in Rangiora or Christchurch, and there is also a vibrant community of homeschooled students.

## Solutions

- Staff engaged in conversations with YouthTown to explore potential opportunities for residents of South Ward.
- The timing was ideal to apply for the Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa fund managed by Sport Canterbury.
- Our successful funding application enabled the creation of a monthly Sunday session for rangatahi residing in South Ward for 8 months.
- YouthTown hosted each session, while Hurunui Youth staff, including our Amberley youth leaders, provided support, allowing them to benefit from the available opportunities as well.

## Challenges

- Encouraging rangatahi to sign up for the sessions took a bit of time, resulting in 31 registrations for the events, although attendance varied for each gathering.
- In case of rain, the meeting was relocated to the 'Tin Shed' at Amberley Domain, and the activity plan was adjusted as needed.
- We learned to delay ordering the pizza for shared kai until the day prior, due to the fluctuating attendance numbers each week.



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## Outcomes

1. The event held by the Hurunui Youth team was exceptionally smooth. They managed the shared kai and tracked the number of attendees, while YouthTown provided excellent support with all necessary resources.
2. There has been a noticeable increase in connections between Hurunui Youth staff and the local home school community.
3. The shared kai after each gathering proved to be a highlight, as it allowed Hurunui Youth staff to engage more with the rangatahi and forge new connections. These relationships encouraged the rangatahi to participate in additional HYP opportunities.
4. Due to the event's location, many youth opted to walk or bike, resulting in reduced parental involvement for transportation.
5. Numerous new friendships blossomed during this time.

## The Future...

Staff would like to continue to offer something to our South Ward rangatahi but will be dependant on external funding and participant feedback on the possible format.



*“Sunday Sports Connect has been such a hit for bringing young people together to connect. Having a fun, active session followed by shared kai gives both opportunity for active/physical engagement but then also to chill, relax, chat, and have some kai together. An absolute win this one.”*

Kimberley Spencer | Youth Worker