

HYC FORMALS

Hurunui District Council
Case Story #18

Background

Hurunui district has a large geographical spread, with coastlines on the east and high country to the west. There are three area schools located in Cheviot, Culverden and Hawarden. Area schools offer primary, intermediate and secondary education in one school. Along with our primary schools offering intermediate education we have a number of young people who travel to Rangiora or Christchurch for schooling.

A lack of public transport makes it difficult to get around the district and to meet other young people. In the past the Hurunui Youth Programme have run formals for students, since 2023 the Hurunui Youth Council (HYC) have taken on this event following feedback from the young people.

2024 Formals

After the success of the 2023 formals the Hurunui Youth Council formals are back for a second year. They took place over two evenings: Year 7 and 8 students celebrated on Friday, while Year 9 and 10 students enjoyed their event on Saturday, both were held in Hanmer Springs. A total of 181 young people attended the formals, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.



These events are highly anticipated by young people across Hurunui each year, providing them with opportunities to connect, meet, and socialise with other young people from the region. The nights unite students from Hurunui schools, those who are home-schooled, distance learners, and even students that school outside of the district and it is super exciting to see the friendships ignited at the events.

Challenges

Location: HYC conducted social media polls and asked students which location was their preference. Hanmer Springs was the resounding winner.

Transport: two buses were funded by Ministry of Youth Development to bring students to Hanmer Springs. One left from Amberley and went up the west side of the district. The other left from Cheviot and brought students from the east and those from the Waiau area.

Outcomes

This youth-led event is created, organised, and executed by members of the Hurunui Youth Council, with assistance from the Hurunui Youth Programme Leaders. Council staff were there in a support capacity.

Teamwork truly brings dreams to life!

The Future...

As long as funding is secured and there remains interest from young people, the formals will continue to be held annually.



THANK YOU

Our Funders:



“As Mayor of the district I feel very privileged to be welcomed to attend the HYC formal, this year I was able to attend the Year 7/8 and I was incredibly impressed with the young people in attendance. They obviously spent a lot of time preparing for the event as they looked absolutely stunning, their enjoyment of the music, the friendship and fun was obvious from the start to the end of the evening. I love seeing our young people embracing these special occasions and I hope they keep these special memories with them forever.”

Mayor Marie Black



“These Hurunui Youth formals were such a great event. Two nights of youth getting together. First night with the year 7 & 8 and the next 9 & 10. I was watching on the side lines giving out drinks and was watching everyone have a really good time. Dancing, singing and interacting with other youth. Bring on 2025 formals!!”

William Munsey - 2024 HYC Chairperson