

JOHN KNOX CHURCH RANGIORA

YOUTH SPACE FEASIBILITY STUDY

FINAL REPORT

February 2022



Contents

1. Executive Summary.....	1
2. Background	2
3. Approach.....	4
4. Programmes / social needs.....	7
4.1. Social needs of young people	7
4.2. Current provision for programmes that address the social needs of young people	11
4.3. Gaps in provision for the social needs of young people	12
4.4. Social needs gaps that align with John Knox Church	13
5. Youth Spaces.....	14
5.1. Spaces for young people in Rangiora.....	14
5.2. Current physical youth spaces provision	18
5.3. Gaps in physical space for young people.....	19
5.4. Gaps in physical spaces for youth that are aligned with John Knox Church.....	20
6. Key findings	22
7. Recommendations and next steps.....	24

1. Executive Summary

John Knox wants to create a youth space to “allow relationships to happen in healthy and supported ways”

Prior to advancing this space it is seeking assurance over the unmet needs of the youth community in Rangiora with respect to both programmes and the spaces programmes are run from.

To do this we assessed:

- The need in Rangiora
- The current provision
- Whether there were any unmet needs
- What gaps are values aligned to John Knox.

We carried out this assessment for both programmes and physical spaces that could contain these programmes.

We found that:

- There is an unmet demand for programmes in Rangiora that John Knox could meet including:
 - Mental health support (Pre critical interventions);
 - Arts programmes;
 - Migrant care services;
 - Intergenerational connections; and,
 - Volunteering opportunities ,

We also found that there were issues of access to services (transport) and access to information of current services.

- There is an unmet supply of spaces in Rangiora that John Knox could meet that includes:
 - Dedicated youth spaces;
 - Safe afterschool spaces;
 - Spaces that are not overtly religious in nature;
 - LGBTQI+ friendly spaces; and,
 - Dedicated tech spaces.

Taking these two aspects into account it is recommended that having confirmed the level of need in their community, John Knox builds on this foundation by carrying out a business case study. This would assess the capital costs, operational costs, revenue streams, financing partners and operational/management structures that could deliver these programmes in these spaces.

Central to this business case would be the inclusion of continued engagement and co-design with both young people and mana whenua.

2. Background

John Knox Church in Rangiora is planning a site redevelopment programme to replace the historic church building that was demolished following the 2010/2011 earthquakes. As part of this programme, a space on the Eastern portion of the site has been allocated for a proposed youth space, the Hard Knox Café.

The primary purpose of this space is to “allow relationships to happen in healthy and supported ways”.

It is intended that this would occur through ministries including holiday programmes, afterschool programmes, training and other activities and programmes (both run by John Knox and other values aligned organisations).

Before embarking on a full business case for the project, the John Knox Building Management Team (BMT) and Parish Council require an assessment of the feasibility of this project. Specifically, this feasibility study will primarily be centred around providing assurance into both the level and nature of need in the local community with respect to both programmes and community assets.

The BMT have outlined seven key questions that they expect to be answered from this study. These are:

1. Is there a need in Rangiora?
2. What are the needs of youth in Rangiora?
3. What works in relation to Youth ministries and why?

4. What ministries are currently available for Youth in Rangiora and how effective are these in serving the Youth community?
5. How does location shape the project?
6. How will it be resourced (staffing)?
7. Is there a better option?

The scope of this feasibility study is therefore contained to establishing an agreed position of “what does success look like?” for both the programmes and the spaces themselves. This will provide a foundation for a subsequent full business case which would focus in detail of:

- a. The physical options for the layout, standard, features and detail.
- b. An assessment of how each of these options contributes (or not) to the agreed project objectives.
- c. Reviewing and confirming the capital costs of delivering the project.
- d. Forecasting the future revenue streams, operating costs and gross/net surpluses.
- e. Summarising potential financing partners and structural options (as required).
- f. Outlining the management structures to both deliver and operate the facility. g. Risks and mitigation strategies for the project.

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Guiding values and principles.

The John Knox Church building committee advised that the following values and drivers underpin this project.

- Making the most of the location
- Meeting the local need
 - Needs of young people including mental health
 - Need for spaces for young people
- That church is more than Sunday – community outreach
- The project needs to work fiscally
- Taking the opportunity for partnership and collaboration externally
- That church is for all ages
- Doing the right thing

Confirming these values and drivers from the outset is important and these need to be held central to the process of assessing the feasibility for this endeavour.

3. Approach

To deliver on the feasibility study’s scope we framed the proposal in line with the Logic Model Approach.



This approach provides a framework outlining the pathway to achieving both the outcomes and subsequent (long term) impact that arises from investment in assets and the programmes they support. Based on our understanding of the project to date we see this as follows:

The John Knox Church Youth Space Project context:

1. The church is exploring funding, building, and maintaining a youth space.
2. In this space ministries and programmes would be housed.
3. These ministries and programmes are intended to enable relationships to be formed (as per the primary purpose noted earlier).
4. These relationships are aimed to enhance the wellbeing of youth in their physical, emotional, and spiritual development. This should be consistent with models of Positive Youth Development.

Therefore, to provide the BMT with assurance into the feasibility of the project we addressed the seven questions in the following approach:

1. An assessment of Rangiora youth needs (Impact) (Question 2).

2. An assessment of what work is going on to effectively meet these needs currently (Outputs) (Questions 3 and 4).
3. A summary of the ministry/programme gaps that aren’t being provided.
4. A summary of which ministry/programme gaps that John Knox could fill in Rangiora (Question 1) (based on your kaupapa, experience and strengths).
5. An assessment of the spaces that are needed to facilitate youth programmes in WDC (Inputs).
6. An assessment of the spaces that are currently provided and whether they are fit for purpose.
7. A summary of the gaps of spaces in WDC (Question 1).
8. A summary of the gaps of spaces that the Hard Knox Café could fill (based on your kaupapa, experience and strengths) (Question 1).

To deliver on this approach we carried out a process as outlined below:

1. Literature Review

- 1.1. We gathered relevant existing literature that provides insights and data on the needs of youth in Rangiora, mapping of existing programmes and assets for youth in the area, what contributes to effective youth spaces.
- 1.2. The review involved a scan of key documents and summary of key points relevant to this project.

1.3. Key documents reviewed included:

- 1.3.1. Waimakariri Youth Strategy 2018
- 1.3.2. Youth spaces internship report March 2020 – Waimakariri District Council
- 1.3.3. Youth Activities Survey Report October 2020 -Waimakariri District Council
- 1.3.4. Mapping of services and assets for young people – Waimakariri District Council: This was not included as the document was not made available.
- 1.3.5. Young People and Public Space – a Strengthening the Youth Sector working group background paper for the youth friendly places and spaces work stream.
- 1.3.6. Youth Relevant Design Check Card – Youth Voice Canterbury

2. Kick off meeting with John Knox Church BMT and Youth Team.

- 2.1.** We met with you and listened to your first-hand overview of your key drivers and kaupapa.
- 2.2.** We provided an introduction to key concepts that will be referred to throughout the feasibility study. This includes Positive Youth Development and youth participation principles as well as an overview of youth relevant design regarding youth friendly places and spaces.
- 2.3.** We discussed of the proposed approach in detail to ensure all parties are aligned.

2.4. We reviewed key questions to be addressed in this feasibility.

Further questions included:

- 2.4.1. What are the key factors in the development of a youth space (both the asset and the programming)?
- 2.4.2. Do these key factors that underpin an effective youth space align with the core values of John Knox?
- 2.4.3. How can young people be involved throughout the process in a meaningful way?

3. Focus group with young people

The purpose of the focus group with young people was to dig deeper into the themes that emerged from the literature review and fill any knowledge gaps. These gaps were ones where there is no obvious data to answer the key questions posed in this feasibility study and deepen understanding around what young people see as needs and desires for youth spaces and programmes in Rangiora.

One focus group was held and with 11 young people from local schools, a range of ages and from various interest groups including church youth groups, Waiyouth and youth council. Recruitment for this was done through direct contact with schools, stakeholders, and Waimakariri District.

4. Key stakeholder interviews

The purpose of the stakeholder interviews was to gain insights on youth needs, existing spaces and programmes, gaps in youth opportunities, insights into how John Knox would be best placed to meet these gaps and needs.

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Stakeholder interviews became group conversations and individual semi structured interviews to fit within budget. Analysis of interview notes provided insights into the key questions.

Key stakeholders invited to be interviewed:

- Younger Voice in Rangiora
- Local Government (WDC)
- Local Schools
- Neighbouring Commercial businesses
- Local Churches (and Youth Ministries)
- Rangiora Youth Trust (24-7)
- Youth Development and Opportunities Trust
- Local Iwi
- NZ Police
- Sport Canterbury

This report focuses on the needs and gaps of youth spaces and programmes in Rangiora and will help potential future funders

understand the problem and proposed solution in these areas. This provides a foundation for a subsequent full business case which would focus in detail of:

- a) The physical options for the layout, standard, features and detail.
- b) An assessment of how each of these options contributes (or not) to the agreed project objectives.
- c) Reviewing and confirming the capital costs of delivering the project.
- d) Forecasting the future revenue streams, operating costs and gross/net surpluses.
- e) Summarising potential financing partners and structural options (as required).
- f) Outlining the management structures to both deliver and operate the facility.
- g) Risks and mitigation strategies for the project.

4. Programmes / social needs

4.1. Social needs of young people (of which programmes are designed to address both opportunities and deficits)

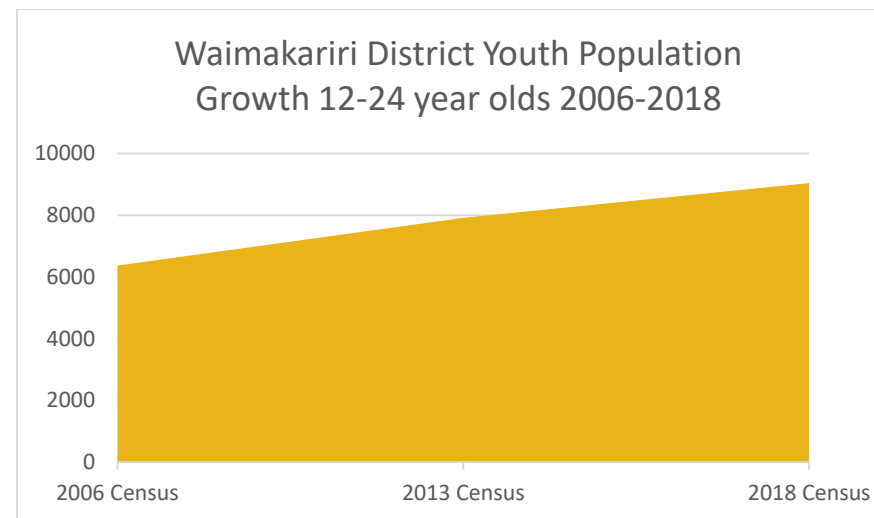
This section outlines our learning of the overall social needs and issues facing young people in the Waimakariri district and Rangiora according to literature, youth voice and stakeholder perspectives. It is important to understand the context for young people before advancing any substantive planning or design work for the proposed development.

While this section focusses on the needs of young people it is important that planning takes a strengths-based approach and further work should be done around understanding young people's strengths and how to build on these rather than a deficit-based approach the looks to 'fix' young people. In isolation, the latter approach is not best practice and is inconsistent with Positive Youth Development principles.

What the literature says about social needs of young people:

The Waimakariri district population has been growing and so has its youth population aged 12-24.

- 2006 census: 6,369
- 2013 census: 7,917
- 2018 census: 9,042



The Waimakariri District Council surveyed young people in order to develop their Youth Strategies of 2010 and 2018. The key issues and needs that have been consistent are:

- Mental health and wellbeing
- Lack of things to do, activities etc
- Lack of social connecting and cohesion
- Bullying
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Connection – with peers, intergenerational, wider community
- Stress
- Self-esteem
- Inclusion

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Further work was done by WDC to better understand the needs of young people and the March 2020 report highlighted the following needs:

- Transport – Many youth do not have the means of reaching services or youth spaces
- Funding – Many services have expressed the need for more support, either from government or business sponsorship.
- Young people do not feel that their voice is being heard – Youth are more willing to engage when their voices and ideas are given weight, and they know that they are making a difference in their community.
- Mental and physical health/wellbeing
- Lack of information regarding services and programmes available for young people
- Migrant care – There are few support services in the district for young migrants that do not have a western European background.
- Employment – Young people often find it difficult to gain employment due to a lack of experience and skills.

What young people say about their social needs:

During the focus group with young people, they were asked to identify the issues and needs they face as young people individually and then collectively. The themes that emerged often overlap and contribute to each other. These are themes that emerged:

- **Social connection:**

This theme covers several areas outlined in the following points and at the heart of it lies a sense of disconnection with people and a desire for meaningful connections and relationships

 - a. The need to make friends but also things to do with friends
 - b. Disconnection with the wider community
 - c. Loneliness and not fitting in
- **Mental illness and wellbeing**

Issues around depression, anxiety, bullying, stress of school, personal relationships, social pressure
- **Things to do**

This links to the desire for social connection and that it's hard to find fun stuff to do in Rangiora with friends or to make new friends and just getting bored and wanting to engage in something
- **Discrimination:**

This theme included issues around a sense of not fitting in because of sexuality, gender and being neurodiverse. There was general talk of feeling unwelcome in public spaces because they are young, being looked up and down and facing prejudice and harassment. This was linked back to the conservative nature of Rangiora.

What stakeholders say

- Rangitahi Māori (young people that are Māori) are a growing population group in Aotearoa. In discussions with Iwi they shared that there are a large number of young Iwi members who live in Rangiora. Young Māori need **access to their culture** and whakapapa to ground them and their identity. The experience shared through the stakeholder engagement highlighted that when young people (not just Māori) are connected to their culture and identity they do better.
- **Mental health support** was raised as a key issue. Schools are seeing a rise in mental illness related issues like anxiety and depression. Rangiora High School in 2021 has three of its community suicide.
- Throughout the Covid pandemic of the last two years it has become evident that young people generally don't do well apart and **need social connection** with each other.
- Young people need **opportunities to give things a go** and express themselves as they navigate adolescence and building of their identity and connection to the world around them.
- There are 900 young people enrolled at Rangiora High School that bus into school every day from outside Rangiora. These are mostly **rural young people** and don't necessarily have access to **transport** that isn't the bus or their parents. There is a need to find ways of supporting these young people to access opportunities to engage with their peers.
- There has been a marked growth **in people moving into the district** and into Rangiora from Christchurch. It has been observed that for these families their lives outside of work and school are very much lived in Christchurch still and therefore they are not as connected or involved in their local community.
- **Transport** is an ongoing issue for young people's access to opportunities in Rangiora. Young people rely on their parents, peers or public transport prior to gaining a driver's licence if they are not within walking distance.
- There are needs around supporting young people into **employment**. School does this to some extent but there could be more tailored support for young people in developing their own pathways into employment or enterprise. This came through for several the stakeholders and specifically for Iwi.

4.2. Current provision for programmes that address the social needs of young people

There are a wide range of programmes, activities, and services available in Rangiora designed to meet the social needs of young people:

- Church youth groups - there are approximately five main youth groups based in Rangiora. Feedback from those we spoke with suggest that some of these have declining numbers
- Performing arts – this includes several dance and drama schools/companies
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters North Canterbury mentoring programme
- 24-7 Youth Work in school’s programme. Situated in both high schools and supported by local churches.
- Rangiora Youth Trust (umbrellas 24-7 Youth Work)
- Social services e.g. Wellbeing North Canterbury, Presbyterian Support. These services provide social work, counselling, drug and alcohol counselling and other wrap around whanau support. They operate more in a office based environment.
- Sports – including school and club sport – All that we talked to said that all major codes of sport are well catered to
 - Rugby – union, league, touch
 - Soccer
 - Netball
 - Gymnastics
 - Cricket
 - Basketball
 - Athletics
 - Golf
 - BMX biking
 - Martial arts
- Equestrian and Riding for the Disabled

4.3. Gaps in provision for the social needs of young people

1. **Mental Health Support**

There is a gap in access to mental health support for young people who are not “mentally sick enough” to go to the doctor but still need some sort of in between support before they get to a critical state. There needs to be more ‘early intervention’ style work being done in a way that is not threatening and holistic for young people. We know that when young people are connected, belong, are able to give back and learn new skills then they thrive. There is a clear gap for this kind of catch all space that provides a holistic approach to youth development that can help young people be well and that if there are signs of being unwell there is support available to navigate working through that.

2. **Arts programmes**

There is a lack of activities focussed on the arts. There are performing arts organisations like dance and drama, and private music tutoring. There are no known of visual arts opportunities. Young people don’t always want to join a club or take something long term but want to give things a go to find something they enjoy or excel at.

3. **Calendar of events/ information on what’s happening for young people**

There is no programme or calendar of regular events and activities that young people can engage in. There is some initial work being done by WDC to develop an app. A youth space would

need to have a schedule of activities and events that young people know are coming up and can plan to engage in. There is a gap in communication about what is happening for young people in the district.

4. **Bridging inter-generational divide.**

Literature, young people, and stakeholders all raised that there is a sense of disconnect between generations that leads to discrimination, isolation and conflict. There is a gap in opportunities for this bridging generations to happen in a natural and holistic way

5. **Volunteering opportunities tailored to young people**

There are a lot of volunteer organisations and opportunities out there but they don’t necessarily appeal or can connect with young people. Young people are interested in a range of social justice issues for example environment and climate change. Young people want to make a difference, this is shown to be a protective factor in youth development.

4.4. Social needs gaps that align with John Knox Church

In undertaking this analysis, we draw on the John Knox values/criteria identified early in this project. These were:

- a. Make the most of the location
- b. Meet the local need
 - Needs of young people including mental health
 - Need for spaces for young people
- c. Church is more than Sunday – outreach
- d. Works fiscally
- e. Opportunity for partnership and collaboration externally
- f. Church for all ages
- g. Do the right thing

Our assessment of values aligned gaps for programme provision through a youth space in Rangiora is:

- **Location**
John Knox is centrally located close to other spaces that young people access. This addresses some but not all of the gaps around access to transport for young people. It is close to public transport hubs and places that young people already go, therefore making it more accessible for those who have challenges with transport.
- **Needs of young people**
Access to mental health support and social connection through programmes and relationships.

A space that is safe and vibrant where young people can connect socially, where they have things to do and express themselves.

- **More than Sunday**
Young people and stakeholders envisage a youth space that has both structured and unstructured activity every day of the week.
- **Opportunity for partnership and collaboration**
It is clear there are a number of partners who are keen to collaborate on a project like this.
 - Young people – leading and running activities and playing an active role in what happens there in order to remain relevant and meeting the needs of young people.
 - Iwi – Could host kapa haka type activities in the space.
 - Waimakariri District Council (WDC) –Youth-led events, consultations and room bookings
 - Schools – an opportunity to enhance learning, employment and enterprise opportunities.
 - Youth orgs - there is a lack of spaces flexible and neutral enough to host youth events and activities in a way that meets the needs of young people. Youth organisations or those for whom youth work is part of what they do could make use of the space and ensure it is ‘alive’ and ‘vibrant’ adding to the tapestry of activities available.
- **Intergenerational connection**
John Knox is a ‘church for all ages’. The generational divide highlighted through the data indicates an opportunity to create a space to bridge the gap and provide meaningful and reciprocal engagement.

5. Youth Spaces

5.1. Spaces for young people in Rangiora

This section looks at the physical / built environment needs of youth in Rangiora. This is compared to the emotional or social need identified in Section 4 noting that the two are strongly related in that programmes to meet social needs could be held in these physical spaces.

What the literature says is needed:

The wider literature reviewed suggest some key needs that young people have when it comes to the built environment of a youth space. This includes:

- **The space must be safe:** Youth spaces should be visible and located near other public and/or commercial activity to discourage illegal behaviour. It needs to be well lit and have appropriate amenities like drinking fountains, bathrooms etc.
- **The space must be appealing:** If a youth space is to be successful, it must be targeted at youth. This requires consultation with young people that represent many youth demographics. Care must be taken that consultation is broad and not focused on a narrow subsection of youth (e.g. skaters for skate parks). An environment needs to be created in which certain youth demographics do not feel ostracised.
- **The space must be accessible:** Ideally, the space will be accessible to youth via appropriate transport. Accessibility for

- disabled youth is also a high priority. Wheelchair access is necessary at entrances and in the toilet facilities to include disabled youth in a space.
- **The space must be well resourced:** A youth space should appeal to youth and have a stock of activities that young people want to partake in. Providing for many different hobbies will help youth to feel included. Activities in a youth space also do not need to conform to societies' ideals for youth activities.
- **The space must be youth friendly:** the voices of youth must be included in the development of spaces, as well as over the entire lifespan if the space is going to attract young people continually.
- **Development of a youth space must be continual:** The space must constantly be in development to appeal to new cohorts of youth coming into the space. Youth eventually grow out of a space when it no longer provides for their needs and interests. A space needs to continually appeal to youth that are coming into the age range for the use of the space.

According to a 2018 youth survey conducted by The Waimakariri District Council, the average ranking of how connected the responders feel with their local community was five on a scale of ten. There is a real need for a physical space where young people feel safe to connect with other generations in a way they don't feel judged.

What young people say is needed:

The young people involved in the focus group were unanimous that there is a need for a physical space in Rangiora that is for youth.

Overwhelmingly the discussion centred around the need for safe spaces where young people can learn new skills, try new things, connect with others and express themselves freely. The group had some key insights about what they need from the built space these are:

- **Safe spaces** Not knowing what spaces are safe for LGBTQ+ people in Rangiora, and needing safe spaces for self-expression and giving things a go like dramatic arts, or any new activity that might break from social expectations
- Mix of big open spaces and smaller quiet spaces
- Colourful and include nature
- Natural light
- Indoor – outdoor flow
- Include water fountains, bathrooms, and kitchen facilities
- Hang out spaces with couches, games, and beanbags
- Tables and chairs that can be used for study groups and art workshops
- Projector and screen for gaming and movies
- Notice boards and chalk boards
- Space for big events and for small groups
- Needs to be a non-religious and neutral space
Run by youth workers or “people, people” as in people who are good at relating to young people and people from all walks of life.

What stakeholders say is needed:

- Young people need a space that is **that in-between home and school** and be a place where they can find **social connection** with caring adults and be supported in their mental health journey. Youth don't have a space to hang out and this increases the opportunities for negative risk-taking behaviours. If young people aren't engaged in sport or clubs then they are more likely to get involved in negative behaviour.
- **Safe spaces for young people** to be when home life is a challenge. The issue of latch-key kids was raised whereby parents are at work and many commute into Christchurch. This means young people are home by themselves until the evening during school days. There is a lack of after school options for 12-15 year olds.
- Young people need "a roof to keep them safe with some, but not too many, rules."
- Young people need to have a **voice** through out the process of establishing a youth space and then in the continued running of the space.
- For young people that are rural and come into Rangiora for school there is a potential need to be able to **access some services** that they may not want their parents to know about initially. For example, sexual health clinic. While students can access this in school
- There is a need to have a space run by a great team of people that have a **holistic approach** to working with young people, that

sees the whole young person and provides opportunities and pathways to help them succeed. For example, providing a range of activities to have a go, connection to support services when things aren't going well, and a space to just have fun and connect socially. The face of the space should be young and vibrant with good support and training.

- There is concern from some stakeholders about the 12-14 year old age bracket being in a very transitional space and needing safe spaces to engage in positive activity that supports them to **develop their identity**. There is concern about them engaging in anti-social behaviour with older young people in order to try and 'fit in'. There is a need for something that is not school to engage this age group in a range of activities that support them to figure out who they are.
- Concerns around a '**digital divide**'. For those households without disposable income there is less access to higher end digital devices and reliable internet. This limits the resources available to young people to pursue opportunities that require access to this kind of technology. This then limits enterprise, employment, and education opportunities.
- Rangitahi Māori need access to spaces and activities that **reflect and connect them with Te Ao Māori** (the Māori world), their culture. This includes having Maori staff.

5.2. Current physical youth spaces provision

Rangiora has a range of amenities common for a town of its size and location. Listed are existing spaces that were identified by young people and stakeholders as places young people go. It is likely not an exhaustive list but are the range identified through this feasibility study by those whom we have talked to.

- Library – this is a moderately youth friendly space but does not appeal to all youth and does not involve young people in the design and running of the space
- Schools
- Parks
- ICE Gymnastics and Trampolines
- Skate Park – well utilised by a small group of young people
- Aquatic centre
- Food outlets – Burger King, Mc Donald's
- Churches – hosting youth groups, there are approximately five main youth groups based in Rangiora.
- Thrive Church has a climbing wall. It is said this is not in use much.
- Sports facilities and clubs e.g. all major codes, swimming, martial arts and boxing
- Performing arts – this includes several dance and drama schools/companies
- Walking around town
- YDOT youth space – bookable space connected to YDOT programmes focussed on trades education, located on the south edge of Rangiora , its location in the outskirts of Rangiora

combined with its event based access reduces its appeal as a space to hang out.

- Equestrian facilities with programmes like riding for the disabled.

5.3. Gaps in physical space for young people

1. Dedicated youth space:

There is a clear gap that exists when it comes to a physical space dedicated to young people.

- a. While the YDOT space exists, it's location and means that it might not be as well utilised as a central location.
- b. There are no big commercial spaces like malls or Timezone that attract young people

2. Safe spaces afterschool

Where young people are actively engaged in activities. Spaces that are safe for young people to express themselves but also get help in a more casual way. There is a lack of sheltered spaces where young people can just hang out.

3. Not overtly religious youth groups and activities

Youth groups in Rangiora are predominantly Christian based. These groups have actively engaged young people but don't necessarily have a wider appeal to all young people. There is a need for a 'neutral' space where the perceived barrier of religion isn't obvious.

4. LGBTQI+¹ friendly space

Both young people and stakeholders alike shared their concerns that there is a gap for young people when it comes to safe and welcoming spaces for young people who identify with a gender or sexuality outside the traditionally accepted male/female and

heterosexual identity. Rangiora is seen as a conservative community and young people in particular face discrimination from peers and the wider community. Young people need a space in which to be accepted for who they are no matter their identity and orientation and have support that nurtures them on their journey.

5. There are no dedicated technology spaces in Rangiora

As stated under needs there is a digital divide based on socio economic status and access to devices. Most young people have access to entry level devices that don't have the processing power to be able to explore more advanced work through things like video editing and graphic design, 3D printing, music recording, radio, photography etc.

¹ LGBTQI+ is the shortened terminology for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex

5.4. Gaps in physical spaces for youth that are aligned with John Knox Church

This section builds on the physical space gaps identified in the previous section and suggests which of these could be aligned to John Knox's values (noting that some uses of space may not be).

In undertaking this analysis we draw on the John Knox values/criteria identified early in this project. These were:

- Make the most of the location
- Meet the local need
 - Needs of young people including mental health
 - Need for spaces for young people
- Church is more than Sunday – outreach
- Works fiscally
- Opportunity for partnership and collaboration externally
- Church for all ages
- Do the right thing

Our assessment of values aligned gaps in Rangiora is:

- **Location**
John Knox is centrally located close to other spaces that young people access. For example the cinema is across the road, Dudley Park aquatic centre and skate park is a 5 minute walk. Within a 10 minute walk is the Library, parks, cafes, shops and supermarkets. Rangiora High is a 15 minute walk and Rangiora New Life School

is a 30 minute walk. Ashgrove School is a 15 minute walk and Rangiora Borough School is a 3 minute walk being the closest School.

- **Need for a youth space**
This is very clear across the board that there are limited spaces that are dedicated for young people and where young people can feel safe and find something to do.
- **Needs of young people**
Access to mental health support and social connection.
- **Not just a Sunday**
Young people and stakeholders envisage a youth space that has both structured and unstructured activity every day of the week.
- **Opportunity for partnership and collaboration**
It is clear there are a number of partners who are keen to collaborate on a project like this.
 - Young people
 - Iwi – cultural narrative around the whenua (land), surrounding area and how to ensure Rangitahi Māori are well served. Could host kapa haka type activities in the space.
 - Waimakariri District Council (WDC) – strategic direction and planning the development of the youth space. The Youth Council and Waiyouth would use the space for meetings, consultations, and events. The WDC Youth Development Strategy aligns clearly with this project.

John Knox church Rangiora -Youth Space Feasibility draft report

They have been working on a concept called Youth Friendly Waimakariri that includes a network of youth friendly places and spaces that connect to youth hubs. A youth space at John Knox could be a hub as part of this wider project

- Schools – schools are very keen to partner with a youth space of this nature but in a way that is low key and doesn't brand the space too closely with schools in order to keep the space neutral and 'cool'. They see the value that it can add to the wider wellbeing and education of their students.
 - Youth orgs - there is a lack of spaces flexible and neutral enough to host youth events and activities in a way that meets the needs of young people. Youth organisations or those for whom youth work is part of what they do could make use of the space and ensure it is 'alive' and 'vibrant' adding to the tapestry of activities available.
- **Intergenerational connection**

John Knox is a 'church for all ages'. The generational divide highlighted through the data indicates an opportunity to create a space to bridge the gap and provide meaningful and reciprocal engagement.

6. Key findings

- There is a need and a strong desire for a youth space in Rangiora
- The John Knox site is favourable and well located for young people
- A youth Space on the John Knox site would meet a wide range of needs for young people

The social needs for young people are:

- Mental health and wellbeing
- Lack of things to do, activities etc
- Lack of social connecting and cohesion
- Bullying
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Lack of connection – with peers, intergenerational, wider community
- Migrant care
- Rangitahi Māori connection
- Inclusion / discrimination issues
- Transport to access services
- Information around the available services

A need for un-structured programming and spaces. There needs to be stuff to do with other people that is organised and run by somebody but there also needs to be casual spaces for young people to just hang and relax together.

The gaps in current provision of programmes activities and services include:

- Mental health support
 - Pre critical interventions
- Arts programmes
- Migrant care
- Intergenerational connection
- Volunteering opportunities
- Transport / access
- Information

The gaps in programme provision for young people’s social needs that align with John Knox values as we understand them include:

- Mental health support
 - Pre critical interventions
- Arts programmes
- Migrant care
- Intergenerational connection
- Volunteering opportunities

Youth space needs in Rangiora:

- Safe for all people including LGBTQI+
- Mix of space sizes
- Flexible use
- Indoor/outdoor spaces
- Hangout spaces – couches/games etc
- Study/art appropriate spaces
- Tech (screens etc) for gaming/movies
- Event spaces
- Information boards
- Not overtly religious
- Between home & school space
- Digital access (for those without)
- Reflecting Te Ao Māori design

Current provision of spaces where young people go:

- Library
- Schools
- Parks
- Skate Park –
- Aquatic centre
- Food outlets – Burger King, Mc Donald’s
- Churches –
- Climbing wall
- Sports facilities and clubs

- Performing arts spaces
- YDOT youth space

Gaps in provision of youth spaces:

- Dedicated youth space
- Safe afterschool spaces
- Spaces that are not overtly religious
- LGBTQI+ friendly spaces
- Dedicated tech spaces

The gaps in youth spaces that align with John Knox values as we understand them include:

- Dedicated youth spaces
- Safe afterschool spaces
- Spaces that are not overtly religious
- LGBTQI+ friendly spaces
- Dedicated tech spaces

7. Recommendations and next steps

Based on the findings of this study it is evident that there is a need for a youth space in Rangiora. There are a number of gaps in provision for programmes and spaces that address the social needs of young people in Rangiora. Based on findings there are some key gaps that align with John Knox purpose and values and could be addressed through the development of a youth space on their site.

The findings of this study should be used as a foundation to inform further endeavours to establish a youth space in Rangiora.

Recommendations

We recommend continuing to build on this foundation with a business case to explore:

- a. The physical options for the layout, standard, features and detail.
- b. Reviewing and confirming the capital costs of delivering the project.
- c. Forecasting the future revenue streams, operating costs and gross/net surpluses.
- d. Summarising potential financing partners and structural options (as required).
- e. Outlining the management structures to both design, deliver and operate the facility

Central to this work we recommend partnering young with people, and WDC in their Youth Friendly Waimakariri initiative. This would include joining any steering groups and working with them to establish a youth voice group that guides this project. The capacity and expertise in engaging young people in the decision-making process sits with WDC. It is strongly recommended that John Knox work with the Youth Development Facilitator and Community team to deliver this project.

We also recommend that engagement and partnering continues with Tuahiwi whanau to understand and develop the cultural narrative for the space. This will require building an understanding of Te Ao Māori and Te Tiriti Ō Waitangi. Tuahiwi have advised that they are open to this partnership.

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