

## 2019: A year of Hawke's Bay Youth Environment Council

A group of 15 students signed to represent their community on the Hawke's Bay Youth Environment Council in 2019.

Coordinated by the Regional Council their purpose is "... to represent and be the 'voice' of the youth (12-18 year olds) of Napier and Hastings (primarily), regarding environmental issues, awareness and education in Hawke's Bay. Also, to promote education for sustainability 'in' the environment, 'about' the environment and 'for' the environment.

2019 was another successful year of meetings and events:

- A beach clean up during Youth Week in May along Marine parade which attracted over 50 people and resulted in six large rubbish bags of litter being collected in just one hour.
- The region's World Oceans Day event was organised by Our Seas Our Future. It was a blustery day which limited the number but not the quality of entries to our Sand Castle Competition which members of the council judged.
- The council screened the movie Wall.E, and organised a popular tie-breaker of a quiz night held in September at Napier Girls' High School. It was very successful with a good number of teams and wonderful prizes generously donated from local businesses.
- The council took part in Radio Kidnappers interviews, appeared several times in the local papers, and some also presented to Regional Council's Environment and Services Committee.

A couple of students gave feedback on their year of being on the council:

*"Being involved in the YEC has really opened my eyes to how much a teenager like me could do to help the problems concerning our environments. I personally really enjoyed the presentation we had at the Regional Council. It proved to me that the older generation are willing to listen and hear us out."*

*"Being a part of the YEC has been really rewarding for not just me but also my family as we have become more aware about the environment in our everyday lives."*

Quiz night



Presenting to Council

