



# **The Westland District Council Youth Development Strategic Plan 2017 - 2027**





# Who are our youth?

- *We have 1389 young people in the Westland District making up 16.6% of our population*
- 21% of the young people aged between 10 and 24 years in the district identify as Māori, this is a higher proportion than the 13.4% of the general population who identify as Māori. The majority identify as New Zealand European
- *There are 12 schools within the District including one secondary school, one area school, four Year 1-6 primary schools and six Year 1-8 primary schools*
- Young people in Westland are spread over rural areas with half of that population based in the semi-rural town of Hokitika. The district stretches over 400kms and is home to just 8,307 people. By nature of the area they live in, the majority of young people in Westland experience some level of isolation

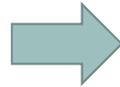


*Youth in Westland are secure and confident in their identity and are able to be themselves, so they can develop into who they are meant to be*



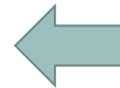
Vision

Core  
values



*Is young person **centred**  
Is **relationship** focused  
Acknowledges **culture** and **context**  
Acknowledges young people as **community contributors***

*To build Westland as a region where young people can thrive, develop, take opportunities, contribute to and feel valued by their community.*



Mission



# CACTUS

Westland District





## What is CACTUS?

- Combined
- Adolescent
- Challenge
- Training
- Unit
- Support





# Why CACTUS?

- Started in 1998, CACTUS was the vision of Rob Fox, Community Constable. He noticed young people getting into trouble for doing silly things around town, vandalising and destroying street signs, letterboxes, rubbish bins etc.
- He saw a need for their energy to be channeled into good physical exercise.
- He set up a trust to get funding.
- Police suggested suitable candidates!
- A good physical workout was introduced, before or after school, including breakfast, t-shirts and some gear
- Once other rangatahi noticed what was happening they wanted to join too, and it gained momentum.





# The return of CACTUS

- After Rob Fox left for Australia, lack of funding and finding a leader, CACTUS struggled and stopped in 2014. It carried on at South Westland Area School, in Harihari on a voluntary basis at lunchtimes, with both students and teachers giving it a go.
- The Community Advisor from Westland District Council approached WestREAP, as he'd secured funding for the next year and asked WestREAP to facilitate.
- A taste-tester session was given to the local high school and a suitable leader found.





## 2018

- WestREAP paid a Year 13 student, Joe, to take CACTUS lunchtime sessions at South Westland Area School
- We employed Pita to be our CACTUS facilitator for Westland. He started with a Year 9&10 class at Westland High School in Hokitika. Students opted into this as a chosen subject, for four one-hour periods a week.





# What are our values and goals?

- Positive group culture
- Bravery
- Mana
- Effective communication
- Honesty
- Self-motivation & challenge
- Physical activity
- Compassion
- Kotahitanga
- Whare Tapawhā



# 'The Longest Day' Challenge

- Once a term we have a 'Longest Day' challenge – this starts early and ends late.
- Kai is always provided





## “Cross-Polynation” Day



a day of challenges  
across CACTUS  
schools



2019 = more  
rangatahi + new  
tamariki

Verb: To watch over and cherish

Noun: Guardianship and care

**Matapopore**



# South Westland Area School

- One hour south of Hokitika, 50 minutes north of Franz Josef Glacier
- Year 1-13
- 102 students

Greta



Alex

Joe





# Success

- More classes
- Senior students gaining credits
- Mentoring of younger students
- More staff
- More schools interested
- Students opting into CACTUS over longer periods
- Going online during Covid lockdown



# Challenges

- Sustainability
- Funding – we estimate \$83,000 to keep CACTUS going in 2021
- Keeping on track of school timetables





## Moving forward

- Irrespective of funding we know that CACTUS is wanted by our community. We will endeavour to make this happen.

