



Media Release
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Camp helps develop future leaders

19 aspiring young leaders from across Selwyn district got together recently to participate in a weekend-long youth leadership camp. The aim of the camp was for attendees to meet other young leaders, develop new skills and be empowered to make positive changes in their communities.

It was run at Wainui Camp on Banks Peninsula by Selwyn District Council staff and members of the Selwyn Youth Council who helped mentor the young people. The campers were aged between 13 and 15 and all aspire to become leaders in the community.

14 year old Olivia Duder from Rolleston attended the camp and said she gained a range of new skills.

"During the camp I improved on my communication skills, I now know to put in everyone's ideas so they know they're included. It was a great two days and it was great that I got to meet so many young people like myself that wanted to become leaders."

She said during the camp she was given a lot of advice on how to talk to people in large groups which was something she was really looking to get out of the experience.

Others who attended the camp said they liked meeting a range of like-minded people, pushing their own limits during activities and that they wished the camp went on for longer.

The camp was free for participants, a grant was approved by the Ministry of Social Development to fund the camp. It ran on 24-25 September.

"Applications to join the Selwyn Youth Council open soon, and hopefully some of these young leaders will take up the challenge and be part of the changing face of the district and help to make their communities the best they can be," says Jason Flewelling, Selwyn District Council Community Resilience Coordinator.

Photo attached: *Campers enjoying the view of Banks Peninsula at the youth leadership camp and Olivia Duder on the big swing at Wainui Camp.*

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