



Urban Unity is a youth-focused programme designed to provide young people with the opportunity to be involved and attend events, participate in workshops, interact with peers in a supportive environment and to have a great time! Modelled on a prototype developed by Youthtown in Auckland, the programme was kicked off in Upper Hutt in September 2008 and has been gathering momentum ever since.

The first task was recruiting the Urban Unity Events Squad, a group of young people made up from local colleges who want to make a difference in their youth communities. This squad then come up with ideas of what events they would like to see happen and the planning gets underway for making it a reality!

The squad decided to launch Urban Unity with a dance party on the last day of term called "Stomp 2 Da Max". They were given a budget and a timeframe to work within and their ideas for the evening were endless. The event was a huge success and it gave young people in Upper Hutt a taste of what Urban Unity has to offer. Both a DJ and a VJ made the night an audio and visual spectacular, dance competitions were held throughout the night to keep the crowd engaged and involved which was kicked off by a guest performance from Hutt City Dance Centre. This was the very first time the squad had worked together as a team and the first time any of them had ever run an event. They were absolutely awesome! Their energy throughout the night was non stop which helped the energy levels of those people who had come along to check it out. The squad were running the show, from selling tickets through to making announcements throughout the night. If anything at all, the major achievement was seeing how well these young people worked together as a team to accomplish something they had never been faced with before. Although security was present, the night went off very smoothly and with no trouble. The feedback from those who attended was very positive and it will be the first of many that Urban Unity will run. You can check out some photos from the event on our bebo site!

With 2009 ahead of us, there is a whole realm of possibilities in store for the youth of Upper Hutt. "Disrupt the Floor" will be starting this term at the Youthtown premises, where young people are encouraged to come along and learn all the latest hip hop dance styles and techniques every Thursday evening during the school term. "The Grind" is another exciting project that will begin in term two of this year. This is an opportunity for all those inspired young musicians to have a chance to share their stuff in a café setting amongst their peers.

All Urban Unity events are drug free, alcohol free and smoke free. To find out more information visit: www.urbanunity.co.nz , visit us on bebo at: www.bebo.com/urbanunity , or phone Jade on 04 5279730.

YOUTHTOWN