

Inspiring Communities July 2010 News – email newsletter

Kia ora tatou

In this our fifth email newsletter you'll find...

--- **Inspiring Communities and Core Learning Cluster News:** In recent months we've co-hosted regional forums in Auckland, Southland and Bay of Plenty. The reports from these forums are now available on our website, in the Community-Led Development section (direct links below)

--- **Community-Led and Community Driven:** An update on Community Economic Development in New Zealand since the February conference in Waitakere

--- **News you can use:** Introducing a great new Community Gardening online resource, and the four C's of 'leaderful' leadership

--- **Events:** Consultation is underway on an agreement between the Community & Voluntary Sector and central Government; and conferences are coming up on issues for Towns and Cities large and small... ('Place' is certainly on the agenda in New Zealand!)

--- **Learning Links:** Tamarack's in-depth review of collaborative community initiatives, and more great stuff from Peter Kenyon and the Bank of I.D.E.A.S.

EXCHANGE TEAM UPDATE

The Inspiring Communities Exchange team has been doing some re-grouping after a whirlwind first half of 2010. We've held or supported five important forum events around the country in the past three months. Since then we've been working hard to complete the draft of our first *What We Are Learning*, while at the same time (thanks to Lotteries: Community Research grant funding) developing a framework to capture the learning from the eight community initiatives which make up [the Inspiring Communities Core Learning Cluster](#). We are also involved in two new partnerships that will result in two exciting new national community-led development initiatives in 2011 (more on these in coming months).

Inspiring Communities: What We Are Learning about Community Led Development 2010 is now in the final stages of incorporating valuable feedback from a review team of generous and insightful folks from around the country. This document marks what we hope will be an annual reflection on community-led development practice and learning from communities across Aotearoa. This year's report focuses on four key themes:

- Working Together in Place
- Community Building
- Leading in and Leaderful Communities
- Building and Sustaining Momentum

We've also included a section on Inspiring Communities' approach to learning and some of the key principles and thinking that continue to drive our work.

Amongst all this we have made time to do some strategic thinking and planning for the next year and beyond. This has been essential since the interest in Community-Led Development (CLD) is taking off so much faster than anticipated! We want to be positioned well to support the exponential interest in CLD from many regions, with a focus on delivering four key outcomes:

- ∞ To draw out and grow local **leadership**, creating what we call 'Leaderful' communities (see 'leaderful language' link below);

- ∞ to continue and grow our work with the eight communities participating in the Inspiring Communities **Core Learning Cluster**; and make space for capturing the critical deeper **learning**;
- ∞ to **communicate** the importance of a CLD approach for building more resilient communities;
- ∞ and keep **connecting** with those interested in CLD; bringing a network of people and initiatives together and linking them with information, thinking and research.

Many of the team are away during July but we have a few links to share with you below. We would also like to share more CLD activity in our regions. Is there something happening in your town, city or region that might inspire other communities? We'd love to let everyone hear about it – simply reply to this email to tell us about it.

As always we welcome all your feedback as well as contributions to this newsletter. Send your comments or story suggestions to exchange@inspiringcommunities.org.nz or by reply email.

Best wishes

Megan Courtney and Leigh Strange
(on behalf of Mary-Jane Rivers who is on a well deserved break overseas this month)
Inspiring Communities

For all our latest news you can go straight to [our Community News online](#).

If you'd rather not receive these newsletters in future please email exchange@inspiringcommunities.org.nz and include **Unsubscribe** in the subject line.

***** The Exchange would like to thank [CallPlus](#) for their generous provision of communications services that keep our 'virtual team' connected *****

COMMUNITY LED AND COMMUNITY DRIVEN

***** Forum reports now online *****

- CLD Auckland Network [“Surviving and Moving with the Times” \(2 June\) presentations now online](#); Also see the [video of Deb and Ngahau Davis’ inspiring presentation](#)
- [Southland Regional CLD Forum report](#) (10 May)
- [Bay of Plenty Regional CLD Forum full report](#) (14 April)

***** Community Economic Development (CED) updates *****

If you want to follow the progress since the February CED conference in Waitakere, keep an eye on the [CED conference website](#). It is regularly updated with Di Jennings’ **monthly CED bulletins**, which you can **sign up** to receive by email. Also now live on the site is a **five minute documentary video from the conference**, made by UNITEC students. “It cracks a great pace and is a wonderful reminder of the key messages from the conference.”

***** 2010 Dynamic Community Learning Awards: entries sought *****

Entries are invited from groups who are learning together and meet the Award criteria. Entries close on 2 August. Read more and [download the entry form from our website](#).

IN THE MEDIA

*** **Te Kaha Gold Kiwifruit and sustainable employment project featured on TV ONE's Country Calendar*****

View the [programme online at the TVNZ website](#).

*** **19 June [Rotorua Daily Post: Homes get Matariki makeover](#)** ***

NEWS YOU CAN USE

*** **The website Community Gardeners have been waiting for!** ***

<http://ecomatters.org.nz/category/gardening>

Community gardeners in Waitakere now have this one stop website full of useful information, including guidelines to start a community garden, a list of community gardens in the Auckland Region, different garden models that can be used and a large collection of resources, from books to local workshops. "We hope that these pages will also be used by gardeners outside of Waitakere as a lot of the information is transferrable" says Brooke Walker, Ecomatters Environment Trust's Community Gardens Facilitator.

*** **Leaderful language** ***

Inspiring Communities uses the term "leaderful communities" to describe what we want to see in New Zealand – local leadership being drawn from every corner of our communities. At a recent regional forum this was "the quote of the day" for one key funding partner. We thought we'd share where this term originated:

Dr. Joseph A. Raelin, a US professor and management consultant coined the term in his 2003 book: *Creating Leaderful Organizations: How to Bring Out Leadership in Everyone* (Berrett-Koehler, San Francisco, 2003). The key concepts, including his four C's of leadership are covered in [his article 'The Leaderful Community'](#), and you can find more of Dr. Raelin's resources at [the Leaderful Institute website](#).

EVENTS

*** **[Standing together - Kia Tutahi Hui](#)** ***

Regional Hui are being held in July and August to discuss the development of a Relationship Agreement between the Community and Voluntary Sector and Government. See details in our [Events Calendar online](#).

The Steering Group is now also consulting online at: <http://bangthetable.com/kiatutahi>

*** **[24-25 August Towns & Cities Conference](#)** ***

Raising the Bar - A New Decade and New Issues for town & city centres

*** **[September conference: Small Towns, Big Futures](#)** ***

LEARNING LINKS

*** From Tamarack: [Review of collaborative community projects targeting poverty](#) ***

As background for a strategic review of its efforts in reducing poverty, Tamarack and other partners in the Vibrant Communities network commissioned a review of recent literature, designed to “analyze and synthesize the most recent reports, research and evaluations of place-based, comprehensive efforts to reduce poverty and other complex issues”. The resulting report, “*Comprehensive Community Initiatives: Lessons Learned, Potential and Opportunities Moving Forward*”, has many lessons and reminders for us here in Aotearoa/NZ also. At the link above you can download the backgrounder as a PDF, and the [Tamarack website has more on the strategic discussions](#) that followed this report.

*** [Innovation Driven Economic Development](#) ***

This 64 page publication (download PDF from the link above) provides some excellent messages about innovation in practical details. The importance of collaboration comes across strongly. Some very useful US case studies are provided.

*** [You Tube posting of Peter Kenyon’s presentation at International ABCD Conference](#) ***

ABOUT THE INSPIRING COMMUNITIES EXCHANGE

The Inspiring Communities Exchange is a ‘virtual’ team of six individuals (based in Wellington, Auckland and the Bay of Plenty) or around 3 full time equivalents; with many decades of community development and community change experience in Aotearoa.

Our mission is to support initiatives that strengthen communities of place. Primarily this is a networking function, connecting people and communities together to reduce ‘reinventing the wheel’ and encourage open sharing and learning together. We are closely connected with our [Core Learning Cluster](#) of eight initiatives, and we are seeing increasing interest in [regional networks](#) developing around the country.

We aim to be a conduit of news about community-led development activity in New Zealand (and overseas) and are grateful to all who share their stories and thinking on our website alongside our own updates stories from our Core Learning Cluster.

We also actively seek to influence policy and practice in NZ through building relationships with local government, central government, funders and academics.

Inspiring Communities is a non-profit organisation, operated by the Community-Led Development Trust. We have a management group and a strategic guiding group that reflect multiple sectors.

The work of the Inspiring Communities Exchange is funded primarily by The Tindall Foundation with support from The Todd Foundation, the J R McKenzie Trust, Community Trust of Southland, BayTrust, Call Plus, and others who generously contribute time, skills and resources.

You can read about our approach to learning, our framework for Community-Led Development, and more, on the [Inspiring Communities website](#).