

Update No. 11 November 2009

Whale Watch Kaikoura has been named the supreme winner at this year's International Responsible Tourism Awards in London. This is well earned and wonderful. Why are we mentioning it? Because hapu-led and community based, Whale Watch Kaikoura is a highly successful example of community-led development. The international judges noticed this too when they commented that it is rare to see a tourism initiative "*developed from the ground up by a local community to such a successful and grand scale*".

Whale Watch Kaikoura is owned and operated by Ngati Kuri, a hapu of the South Island's Ngai Tahu iwi. It was formed in response to Kaikoura's declining economy in the late 1980s, when hapu leaders realised that a tourism venture based around the area's sperm whales could hold the key to solving unemployment problems amongst local people. These are issues relevant today in other towns throughout New Zealand.






Creating community spirit, pride, hope, health, connectedness, and employment feature in the stories in this newsletter. There is definitely 'something in the air' about fostering vibrant communities. Lots of things are happening. A couple of themes emerge in this update:

Why and how do we connect with others in our community? The first Neighbours Day in Auckland, an award for Taita's Great Start because of the way Great Start brings the whole community together in everything they do with families; 'super communities'; the collective and participatory approach of Ngati Whatua Nga Rima o Kaipara and the flourishing of community gardens.

How do we take notice of what is happening and then learn and share together to foster vibrant communities? In this issue we feature some learning from the South East & City PHO and research from Sustainable Advantage. You have also let us know from our survey that you are keen for more evaluation and lessons learned about community-led initiatives. We're excited about making this happen next year, when our newsletters may look a little different. Watch this space...

Mary-Jane Rivers

In this issue:

	✘ A Super City needs Super Communities – our September Auckland Forum
	✘ Neighbours Day off to a successful start
	✘ Calling all community gardeners
	✘ Reader Survey Results
	✘ Community Trust of Southland – champion of community-led development
	✘ Research proves it – kindness happens
	✘ Great Start in Taita recognised
	✘ South East & City PHO – the story of a uniquely community-driven PHO
	✘ Ngati Whatua Nga Rima o Kaipara Trust – supporting wellbeing of whanau
	✘ Learning Links
	✘ Auckland City Community Safety Awards
	✘ An Oasis for families in South Roskill, Auckland

Inspiring Communities represents a nationwide group of communities committed to a new way of doing things. We support local communities to achieve their vision and goals by:

- ✘ Promoting the power of working collaboratively
- ✘ Supporting leadership and learning for community-led development
- ✘ Linking people, projects and places
- ✘ Developing and sharing resources, tools and new knowledge
- ✘ Being a catalyst for change in communities of place

The Inspiring Communities *Exchange* links communities with others who are involved in community-led initiatives: with a focus on learning together and leveraging change.

A Super City needs Super Communities Inspiring Communities Regional Forum, Auckland

'Each community is distinctly different' said the Manukau City Deputy Mayor Gary Troup as he opened the Forum: *The Super City needs Super Communities*, introducing a lively and thoughtful discussion facilitated by Alfred Ngaro.

The Forum was an opportunity to hear about the distinctiveness of communities and also about things communities hold in common, especially with the new Auckland Council in mind. It was also an example of groups working together. Hosted by Manukau City Council and organised by the Council, Inspiring Communities, the Social and Civic Policy Institute and Community Waitakere, it's focus was on the relationship of locality based planning and community governance to local government in the new Auckland.

Several speakers presented a range of perspectives with short and snappy presentations and close to 80 people worked through questions in smaller groups.

David Robinson from the Social and Civic Policy Institute (www.scpi.org.nz) talked about citizen participation. He made a distinction between community groups as providers of services and active citizenship. He told a great story of active citizenship with the Pukerua Bay Residents Association and local Iwi working together, with little funding but great intention, to create a rahui (a temporary closure for conservation) for fisheries protection within Pukerua Bay. Tony Mayow from Community Waitakere emphasised the importance of communities working together and the value of collaboration... giving examples from Waitakere and the national Comm Voices approach www.communitywaitakere.org.nz.

RaWiri's Liz Kiriona and Lynne Mehana (and Bronwyn), in fantastic purple T-Shirts, spoke from raw experience and the heart as they described their community revitalisation. Too modest to call themselves leaders, their leadership shone through as they described moving from a community problem to developing huge pride and progress through partnership with others.

Deeply concerned about their community they saw that alcohol and a new liquor licence to a local store were the key.

Lynne said there was a local message that:

- It was OK drinking outside the shop
- It was OK to intimidate other people in the community
- It was OK for people to drink on the streets.

Lynne, Liz, Bronwyn, the RaWiri Residents Association and others decided **It was Not OK**.

With others in the community and the local Sisters of Mercy they organised a petition for a liquor ban in the park. They worked with local community members, Housing NZ, Police, the Wiri Central School, and Manukau City Council to re-claim their community. They have worked with young women and supported them as they turned from heavy drinking to being hip hop 'stars' performing in front of a 3,000 strong audience... and saw the school grades go up for 75% of the girls.



Colin Dale (pictured left) praised the go-getting approach of Lynne, Liz and RaWiri, saying that RaWiri's approach to community development was at the heart of the issue for the new Auckland development. Colin, retired CEO of Manukau City Council, talked about his focus on community services and Maori engagement in his new role in the Auckland Transition Agency (ATA). The Agency was established by the Government to amalgamate the councils across the Auckland Region into the new Auckland Council by October 2010.

Colin also mentioned the sense of local boards' responsibility growing in Auckland governance design and the upcoming No.3 Bill to Parliament. Saying the time is right he invited people to come up with community approaches that will really work for Auckland communities and the greater Auckland. See www.auckland.govt.nz for more information about ATA.

Inspired and informed by local action and regional possibilities, people were ready to go and talk about three questions. Here is a taster of ideas emerging from the small discussion groups:

1. Creating super communities: what roles should local government play to support Auckland's diverse super communities? What will make or break the new relationships?

- Genuine representation of diverse elements that generates, empowers, and encourages active citizenship and community
- A Social Policy Forum and Taskforce to influence and advocate
- Communication strategy across the region – 'connecting the dots' and sharing resources.

2. Being yourself: how do community governance organisations maintain their independence while collaborating with local government?

- Regional funding with, for example, something like a regional Community Organisation Grants scheme
- A funding advisory body to the new Auckland Council
- Development model and transfer of assets into community organisations rather than private organisations.

3. Creating a new regional network of super communities: as we prepare for the super city, what practical things would help us to talk, share and learn together more across communities?

- Finding out what already exists and sharing that, then building on what we already have without losing local flavour
- Organising and coordinating at a regional level, so administrative and strategic tasks do not overly tax those working in the community but also so we can be effective regionally
- Retain independence: ensure resourcing is from a range of sources so no one source can dictate direction. Resourcing may come from existing TAs, businesses, philanthropic organizations...
- Engage with the ATA, this is the organisation now. Work with it, don't wait for the Auckland Council – take Colin up on his invitation for people to come up with community approaches.

The Forum finished with James Samuel. James is an independent community builder who brings a wealth of experience from his facilitation of the early growth of Transition Towns in Aotearoa (www.transitiontowns.org.nz). Active on the ground in his own community on Waiheke, he shared his thoughts about gradual, compared with sudden transition in communities. A report from the forum will be circulated to participants in the next few weeks.

Mary-Jane Rivers



Neighbours Day off to a successful start

Neighbours across Auckland have seen just how easy it is to lean across a fence, say 'giddy', and get to know each other during Auckland's first, and very successful, [Neighbours Day](#), held on Saturday 17 October.

Research has shown that 81%¹ of Aucklanders would like to get to know their neighbours better, and Neighbours Day is about just that: It's a celebration of neighbourliness and, it is hoped, will herald the creation of supportive, healthy and connected neighbourhoods across Auckland.

LIFEWISE initiated the celebration day and were joined by a coalition of willing supporters across the region who helped get the message out. John McCarthy, General Manager at LIFEWISE says they took action because "one special day of 'celebrating the importance of neighbours' can foster and strengthen friendships in our streets and reduce the need for more formal social services by making our neighbourhoods healthier, safer and more fun places to live."

The activities of the day ranged as widely as the weather – from story reading about neighbours at Glen Innes Library, to street barbeques in East Coast Bays and Grey Lynn, street clean ups and sausages in Otara and lots, lots more.

Neighbours Day 2009 reminded people about the value of strong neighbourhood connections and encouraged people to take action in the streets where they live. Megan Courtney, of Inspiring Communities, and her children (pictured below, bottom right) delivered cookies to 14 neighbours, some of whom they knew, and some they didn't.

Megan says "Everyone was totally rapt to receive them...We now know names of people we've been smiling at for 5 years and faces and names for people who we didn't know were behind fences."



On Neighbours Day, clockwise from top left: Neighbours have fun with eggs in a Neighbours Day Browns Bay street party; Neighbours from a Sunnynook street played sports at the local school together; Finn and Jess Heale deliver 'Happy Neighbours Day' cookies in their street; Meadowood neighbours held a neighbourhood picnic.

In Panmure, the gift of Neighbours Day muffins to an elderly woman brought much joy. She returned the kindness on Sunday with loaves of freshly made bread.

John McCarthy says “Based on the success of this year, we think Neighbours Day has a bright future. Similar initiatives overseas have started on a small scale and become successful country-wide campaigns. We hope Neighbours Day will be a catalyst to get everyone thinking more about neighbourhoods.”

The Neighbours Day Champions Group, formed to support this year’s Neighbours Day, agrees. In reflecting on this year’s successful launch, the coalition wants to start exploring how to promote a wider message that ‘every day should be neighbours day!’

A number of other New Zealand communities already have some wonderful “neighbourly” initiatives. In Lyttelton, Christchurch, new residents are [welcomed into the community](#) with a cloth shopping bag full of home baking and helpful information as part of [Project Lyttelton](#). Established six years ago, the Project has helped to make Lyttelton a desirable place to live, and a community which is attracting people from all over the world.

In Taita, Lower Hutt, newborn babies are welcomed with a gift pack delivered to the family: just another way the local community - which already offers expectant mothers access to midwives, facilities such as a toy library, and heaps of pre- and post-natal support - says “we’ve noticed and we care”.

If you’d like to know more and help explore how to bring Neighbours Day to your part of Aotearoa, please email kiaora@neighboursday.org.nz.

We look forward to a growth of neighbourhoods who know and support each other throughout the country: watch this space!

¹Results of [The State of Our Neighbourhoods](#) study (2008), commissioned by Network PR on behalf of Nescafe NZ, and carried out by Colmar Brunton.

Aimee Whitcroft

Calling all Community Gardeners

Have you noticed that community gardens are popping up everywhere? And so they should be! Community gardens provide a fantastic way to grow healthy, affordable, locally produced food and to build stronger neighbourhood connections in the process.

But if you wanted to start a community garden where would you go to find out how they work, what the different options are and who might be able to help you get started?



Preparing a garden bed in the Nathan family back yard, for a garden shared by six families in the street.

There are many regional community gardening networks now established and District Health Boards are also helping fund many school and early childhood based garden initiatives. Many local authorities have information on their websites. However in our discussions around the country, there seems to be interest in a New Zealand community gardens guide or resource that captures the essence and stories of the many different models in use and gives people some ideas, connections and tips for getting started.

Inspiring Communities is keen to work with others to explore this idea. If you’d like to join a conversation to scope up what might be useful, who could help and next steps; or if you have some ideas or resources you’d like to share, please email us at exchange@inspiringcommunities.org.nz. We’re keen to help to co-create something that aspiring community gardeners right across the country can benefit from.

As a starter, here are some links to helpful community garden examples, resources and tools we've come across, from here and abroad:

- http://www.ecomatters.org.nz/16_Gardening/CG_03_Community_Garden_Set-up_Guide.htm
- http://communitygarden.org.au/category/getting_started
- <http://communitygarden.org/learn/starting-a-community-garden.php>
- http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/building_stronger/safer/commgard.html
- <http://www.mrsc.org/Subjects/Parks/comgarden.aspx>
- <http://aucklandcity.govt.nz/council/documents/gardenpolicy>
- <http://good.net.nz/magazine/community-gardens>



The Nathan children and their neighbours enjoy a Seed Propagation and Mini Garden Making workshop just for them.

Megan Courtney and Mary-Jane Rivers

Inspiring Communities Network News Reader Survey Results

Huge thanks to those who responded to our reader survey in September, especially those who offered constructive criticism and suggestions on how it might be improved.

Overall our learning from the survey is that the newsletter is well received, enthusiastically shared, *and* that you expect more from us to really support the growth of community-led development in New Zealand.

A strong message was that many respondents would like to read more evaluation of the community-led initiatives happening and of the lessons being learned. We heartily share this desire to do more to support learning, as a core element of our community-led development framework.

Here are some findings from the survey that stood out to us:

- Most of you responding (90%) enjoy Network News a great deal.
- Most are looking for content related to:
 - Inspiration and ideas you can apply in your community (81%) and
 - Knowing what communities around New Zealand are doing (75%).
- Almost two thirds of respondents (63%) value the reference material and links.
- 68% of respondents forward our newsletter on to others – lots of others in fact, since almost a third of respondents received the newsletter 'forwarded' by someone they know.
- Half our respondents are involved in their neighbourhood community and/or an interest group and/or a voluntary organisation (each selected by 53% of respondents)
- Local government accounted for 40% of respondents, followed by the Pacific community, business people and central government (each around 20%).

We've appreciated learning more about you, our readers, and what you want to receive from Inspiring Communities. We hope to bring you more meaningful information alongside positive stories in future editions – and we're planning some adjustments in how we present the newsletter too – we hope you'll continue to find it valuable and to let us know what you think.

Leigh Strange (Inspiring Communities Communications Manager)

Research proves it – kindness happens

Coinciding beautifully with Neighbours Day in Auckland, Inspiring Communities was delighted to receive some research which demonstrated that New Zealanders are generally the kind of folk who make good neighbours and strong, resilient communities.



The *Sustainable Priorities Monitor* survey undertaken in February found that New Zealanders are not only good at giving; we often do it right where it is needed to build a strong community – that is, over the neighbourhood fence. Whether its five minutes of time for a friendly chat, helping out a neighbour with a practical need, or volunteering in the local community; up to 69% of respondents had given in some way in the six months before the survey.

The *Sustainable Priorities Monitor* is conducted by Sustainable Advantage, a research and strategy consultancy with a special area of focus on community. It aims to survey 500 – 1000 people from around the country twice each year for the Monitor.

The survey respondents were also asked what frustrations they have - in terms of our society, the environment and people's well being - that cause them concern or stress, and what could be done about these. Nick Jones, Director of Sustainable Advantage suggests the responses said a lot about a desire for strong communities.

“What really stood out was the fact that when asked what else frustrated them and what could be done about it, 400 out of 500 people were willing and ready to share their thoughts and ideas. The things that frustrated them were especially around community issues – feeling safe in their homes, seeing a lack of care and respect in community, and even planning and public service issues – these came up often.”

When asked what could be done in the next five years to improve things, creating community spirit through caring about each other and community activities was a recurring theme.

“This says to us that there is a huge opportunity for greater consultation to learn about what a community needs – and to harness their ideas for potential solutions,” said Nick.

“Overall my favourite result was that 40% of respondents had received a random act of kindness from a stranger – we know people are out there being kind and generous.”

Another notable result from the Sustainability Monitor was that 26% of respondents had helped organise a community event. Food for thought: Is that lower or higher than you would have imagined? What would we like this number to be?

It seems New Zealanders are ready to contribute to communities and keen to see more community activity – and it's timely to see initiatives such as Neighbour's Day creating the opportunities for this to happen. So for each of us, how can we inspire and encourage another member of our community to respond actively to their frustrations and bring their ideas skills, talents and to the table – or our fence?

To find out more about this research see the website www.sustainableadvantage.co.nz or you are welcome to contact Nick: nick.jones@sustainableadvantage.co.nz.



Leigh Strange with thanks to Nick Jones for sharing both his research and insights

Great Start recognised with Award

In the December 2008 Network News we pictured a group of Lower Hutt school children meeting with the Hutt City Council to present their ideas and desires for a planned park in the suburb of Taita. This unique and highly successful approach was instigated through Great Start Taita, a community force that has been successfully building better connections and outcomes for the Taita community since it began getting to know residents in 2007.

Fast forward to September 2009: The Great Start team were surprised and honoured to discover (only a few days before the Awards evening), that Great Start had been nominated in the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards 2009. The nomination was in the Education and Child Youth Development category, for their ongoing work with families in Taita.



Great Start's Karen, Saline, Heather and Helen receiving the Hutt City Supreme

On the night, the team were “delighted and astonished” to not only win this award, but also to receive the Hutt City Supreme Award.

Karen Clifford from Barnardos has led Great Start since its inception, which began with a door knocking survey to learn what the community wanted for Taita. She says the awards night was full of surprises.

“When we learned about the nomination we just were excited about the opportunity to get dressed up and to listen to all the wonderful community work that is being

done in Lower Hutt. To our surprise we won... then when the Supreme Award for Hutt City was announced, we were still so excited about the first award we didn't hear the call.”

While delighted with the acknowledgement, Karen is not focussed on awards. “It is important to recognise the work being done but also being humble and knowing, hey, we'd be doing this anyway. And it's not about us; it's the whole community that is making this happen.”

Candy Murison, Community Development Officer for Hutt City Council was on the judging panel and explains why Great Start stood out as the Supreme winner.

“The park project was a big part of the nomination, but what came through repeatedly was the way they have brought the whole community together in this and in everything they do for families.”

The final regional awards were held with a gala dinner on 29 October at Wellington Airport, where E-Learning Porirua Trust was named the overall winner for the region. Special attention was however given to Great Start's presentation on the night, which was delivered by two of

the children involved in that first visit to the Hutt City Council. Kaisa Fa'atui and Danielle Tafili, along with Sue Rei of Great Start, told their story about the park using a 'story sack' of props, including a model of the park crafted by Kaisa's Dad.

Great Start Taita is a community-led development initiative “held” by Barnardos NZ. It aims to increase community engagement, activity and participation amongst local residents (adults and children), volunteers, church leaders, people from non-government, local government and government agencies – people, who live, work and have an interest in the Taita / Pomare community.

Walter Nash Park Project

The park is now in its first stage of formation, with landscaping and planting completed – with help from not only many members of the community of all ages, but also 100 Council members who donated their time for a working bee, inspired by the children's work with the Council throughout the planning process. Playground equipment is expected to be added early 2010



Danielle and Kaisa with Paula Bennett, Minister for Social Development

Leigh Strange, with thanks to Karen and Sue at Great Start

Champion of Community-Led Development

Community Trust of Southland

September's Network News mentioned the Community Trust of Southland and its trialling of a community-led development approach to funding. Here we look at this in more detail.

John Prendergast is Chief Executive of the Community Trust of Southland. In 2007 he was sent by the Trustees on an exploratory excursion to Canada, led by Mary-Jane Rivers of what is now Inspiring Communities (then an idea and a broad network of parties interested in or simply curious about the concept of community-led development). John admits he boarded the plane with some scepticism, unsure how community-led development was relevant from a funder's perspective.

"Before Canada I really didn't understand what community-led development meant in practice. Afterwards, as I thought about the people we'd met and what we'd seen, I realised a funder can have a pivotal role to champion the idea."

The Community Trust of Southland lost no time finding a way to apply the new way of thinking, adopting a proactive approach. The same year, community leaders of the Southland town of Mataura had received some concerning research about the health of the community, and rallied

the locals to come together to do something about it. The Mataura Taskforce was born. John met with them and expressed that the Community Trust of Southland (CTOS) was keen to help and support - asserting that the ownership would always remain with Mataura and the Trust was not offering an open cheque book.

Indeed in the 18 months or so since that first meeting, there has been no big building project, no ribbon cutting or grand opening. What the Trust has provided is possibly more powerful in terms of supporting long term community resilience – namely, access to information and inspiration: CTOS has supported Mataura Taskforce members to attend networking conferences and Inspiring Communities Core Learning Cluster forums, and enabled facilitators to visit Mataura to impart ideas and experience. A CTOS employee is also on the Mataura Taskforce. All this has provided the taskforce with sources of expertise, encouragement, and importantly, a network of other communities walking similar journeys.

This approach is quite different to the business-as-usual grant making activity of CTOS, and the markers for success are almost unrecognisable. This requires a lot of trust and buy-in from the Trustees – which has been readily forthcoming. That said, the actual funds invested in Mataura to date would be far less than some large projects CTOS has funded, which, while meeting a need, may have had less impact for the community as a whole.

The Mataura Taskforce

While the planned revitalisation of Mataura's main street may become the most visible improvement to visitors to the town, locals would no doubt argue that the most powerful successes of the Mataura Taskforce have not been of bricks and mortar.

The town's positive achievements to date have included forming productive partnerships with Council, government agencies, local health and social service providers and funders; Increased participation from the many sectors of the community (with children, Maori, Pacific Island and elderly people involved in a Planning Day); Community initiatives including community gardens, a Mataura gala and community market, arts development and a revitalisation of kapa haka; involving school children in environmental restoration work on the riverbank, new early childhood education options... and behind it all: a focus on creating visions rather than fixing problems.

"It's a totally different approach - instead of funding a project we are funding the *process*,"

"The success to date in my mind has been very good – in that the Mataura Taskforce is still totally owning and driving the work, and they have sustained enthusiasm. There may not ever be a 'report' on the 'results', since they are not tangible, but I expect our involvement will continue for probably 10 – 15 years".

CTOS has recently provided funding for a facilitator to work with the Matura Taskforce on revitalising the town's main street (perhaps a ribbon cutting is in the future - for a whole street).

CTOS is in the early stages of supporting an initiative on Rakiura/Stewart Island, and they expect to end up working 'alongside' many other communities in the same way as Matura - while not departing from traditional grant making.

John also presents on his experience and findings from the Canada trip regularly "to anyone who will listen", including government departments, conferences, and recently Deputy Prime Minister Bill English, along with Mary-Jane Rivers and David Hanna of Inspiring Communities. He is finding, along with healthy doses of the same scepticism he had at first, that the concept of community-led development and how funders can support it, is gaining traction. It may even be helped by the recession, which he says is forcing many to question the traditional ways of doing things.

John is optimistic about the uptake of the message and says "the time is right for this approach."

Leigh Strange

Celebrating the story of a community-led PHO:

South East and City Primary Health Organisation

As an example of true community-led development, this quote from a CEO says it all: "We are so community-driven that I know, if the community didn't want me in this role, I wouldn't be here!"

These words were said with humour, humility and total sincerity by Justine Thorpe, Chief Executive of SECPHO (South East and Central Primary Health Organisation) at the launch in September of a unique publication telling the SECPHO story. *Doing Difficult Things Differently; the community development approach of South East and City Primary Health Organisation* follows the story of SECPHO's development since its formation as a Charitable Trust in 2003.

SECPHO is committed to providing accessible, affordable primary health care services to its populations and aims to reduce health inequalities and overcome barriers to accessing health services for Maori, Pacific, Refugee and low income peoples in its area. The non-profit PHO comprises 36 member organisations ranging from health centres and pharmacies to a vast array of social service and community support groups serving groups of different ages, ethnicities, backgrounds and those living with physical and other challenges.

Doing Difficult Things Differently is primarily a compilation of interviews with staff of SECPHO or the member organisations, and their clients in the community. Its creation was the result of collaboration between SECPHO, The Families Commission and Inspiring Communities, and was written by Frances Hancock and David Epston.



The true community leadership Justine Thorpe referred to above is key to SECPHO's effectiveness, and is evident in the principles threaded throughout the book;

- the importance of seeing individuals, whanau and communities through eyes of respect and working to grow relationships of trust
- being warm and approachable and using language that people can understand
- looking for leadership from within communities and supporting the role of community messengers
- inviting community participation and ownership through respectful engagement
- embracing challenges by pursuing a strategic approach.

The event to launch the book was well attended, with many of SECPHO's staff, families and member organisations present, along with local MP Annette King and several senior Families Commission staff, notably Families Commissioner Gregory Fortuin who delivered a passionate address endorsing SECPHO's approach of respect, value and care of its community.

The formalities concluded with a group of children releasing multi-coloured balloons into the Newtown sky, representing the diversity in SECPHO's community population and the importance of many peoples and organisations journeying together in one direction. This spirit was reflected throughout the event including in the following shared meal, provided by local groups including the Somali, Assyrian, Pacific and Indian communities.

SECPHO, the book telling its story, and the launch event were a shining example of unity in diversity, of which all involved could be proud. A copy of *Doing Difficult Things Differently; The community development approach of South East and City Primary Health Organisation* can be obtained by emailing kellie@secpho.org.nz.

Leigh Strange

Promoting health, wellbeing and culture for whanau

Ngati Whatua Nga Rima o Kaipara Trust

Ngati Whatua Nga Rima o Kaipara is uniquely a tribal Maori, ancestral marae-centred example of a community-led development that is improving the wellbeing of its immediate and wider communities – through community health engagements, environmental and local government planning for an improved economic development base.



Jane Sherard
Kaiarataki CEO of
Ngati Whatua Nga
Rima o Kaipara

Nga Rima o Kaipara is the collective and participatory voice of the five ancestral Marae in southern Kaipara – Reweti, Haranui, Te Kia Ora, Te Aroha Pa and Puatahi. Its vision and purpose is to protect and uphold the customary cultural rights and ownership of the protocols, values and beliefs of the five marae of southern Kaipara.

A central purpose of Ngati Whatua Nga Rima o Kaipara is engaging and/or promoting programmes and services for cultural, environmental, health, social, educational, economic development and community engagement. Much of this is done with other organisations in various sectors operating within the southern Kaipara takiwa (region) of the overall Ngati Whatua tribal area. There are five takiwa regions within Ngati Whatua – Whangarei, Northern Wairoa, Otamatea, southern Kaipara and Orakei.

Partnerships are key

Ngati Whatua Nga Rima o Kaipara Trust has established various partnerships, all of which are entered into on the basis of reciprocity. Portfolio work streams are created from political relationships through to either training and/or employment opportunities.

Central to the Trust's programmes promoting health and wellbeing for whanau is its partnership with ProCare Network North Primary Health Organisation, with whom it has jointly written a Maori Health Action Plan soon to be approved by Waitemata District Health Board. Other partners include the Ministry of Social Development (Labour Market), Family and Community Services (FACS), Genesis Energy, Todd Properties, Kawai Purapura (Wellpark College, North Shore) and various central and local government authorities, with whom the Trust works proactively on Resource Management Act matters and security of supply infrastructure issues for



Celebrating Helensville Heritage Day with community members

north Auckland under its Environmental portfolio. This also involves roading, energy, digital broadband, rail, wastewater and water supply.

Te Awaroa Lifestyles

Nga Rima o Kaipara and ProCare Network North PHO work collaboratively to deliver the various strands of the Trust's overall hauora marae programme, Te Awaroa Lifestyles. These include:

- **Toku Oranga Pai (A New Me)**

A marae-based programme that facilitates diverse opportunities for whanau to participate in programmes for their health and well-being. Each of the five marae chooses its Marae Arataki to coordinate programmes based on whanau feedback, ensuring autonomy for each marae and as a result, a diverse range of activities.

All marae are also collectively involved with the Kaipara Marae Hakinakina inviting Orakei over to Te Awaroa Helensville to have a whanaungatanga day of several activities.

- **Hei Whiwhi Ora (Kaipara Outreach)**

This programme seeks to improve the access of whanau to primary health services. It encompasses an online health & wellbeing portal with an interactive self-management tool, incorporating incentives designed to help with the family budget and create whanaungatanga opportunities.

- **Heartland Services**

The Te Awaroa Heartland Services centre is one of 36 centres of its kind in New Zealand (set up by The Ministry of Social Development Family and Community Services) – but one of only two that are Maori operated. It is a focal point for the community to meet with representatives from 20 different government and community agencies, and greets around 300 people every month.



- **South Kaipara Emergent Leadership Development Project**

During 2007-2008, Nga Rima o Kaipara completed this co-production project funded by Te Puni Kokiri. This project worked to enhance initiatives such as the Marae Sports Challenges, Toi Kaipara Arts Exhibition, Hakinakina and Marae Development.

Nga Rima o Kaipara has already commenced its next phase which seeks to identify and match whanau skill sets and interests with training and employment opportunities offered by partners.

The Trust works as part of a tribal collective to support the Ngati Whatua Heru Hapai project led by the iwi authority, Te Runanga o Ngati Whatua in Whangarei. Focused on the rediscovery, recovery and protection of the Ngati Whatua cultural identity amid an ever increasing and diverse population is indeed a task requiring innovativeness, integrity and a willingness to engage with others willing to learn and work together.

To know more about Ngati Whatua Nga Rima o Kaipara, visit the website, <http://ngarimaokaipara.maori.nz/> or visit their Hakinakina Taiohi (youth) www.bebo.com/kaiparamaori site to view series of photographs and become friends.

Compiled by Leigh Strange with Jane Sherard, Kaiarataki CEO of Ngati Whatua Nga Rima o Kaipara



Learning Links

A shortcut to some of the ideas, tools and inspiration that others have found useful when taking a community led development (clid) approach. The theme of this Learning Links is *Collaboration and Partnership*.

- www.thepartneringinitiative.org

The Partnering Initiative is a global programme of the International Business Leaders Forum (IBLF), working in association with the European Partnership for Sustainable Development, Overseas Development Institute, United Nations System Staff College and University of Cambridge Programme for Industry. It is “a global hub for learning about partnerships, enabling the sharing of practical experience, contributing to cutting-edge knowledge, offering support, training and advice as well as setting standards in what constitutes good partnering practice”.

- <http://www.communityoutcomes.govt.nz/web/coutcomes.nsf/unid/TCAO-7UC26F?openDocument>

A 2009 New Zealand report looking at themes, experiences and learning about interagency collaboration, based on the observations of people involved in 'healthy homes' initiatives. Provides useful ideas for strengthening partnering practice.

- <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/986579.pdf>

An evaluation of several Neighbourhood Management initiatives in the UK and an exploration of the overall effectiveness of the Neighbourhood Management model. Sets out the details of a deliberate process of community engagement to achieve community involvement and joined up neighbourhood services.

- <http://crs.uvm.edu/ncco/collab/wellness.html>

Explores community based collaboration. The section entitled “Collaboration Multiplied” is especially interesting.

- <http://www.communitycollaboration.net/>

Entitled “Coming together - building collaboration and consensus” it offers plenty of practical information for building collaboration and partnerships. The site was created by one individual but is now supported by [Tamarack - An Institute for Community Engagement](#).

- [http://www.communityoutcomes.govt.nz/web/coutcomes.nsf/files/pptp/\\$file/pentopaper.pdf](http://www.communityoutcomes.govt.nz/web/coutcomes.nsf/files/pptp/$file/pentopaper.pdf)

For those needing some helpful advice on when, if and how to incorporate partnering and collaboration into written agreements.

Compiled by Jenny Blagdon

Community News

Auckland City's Community Safety Awards 2009

Several community-driven initiatives were recognised at Auckland City's annual Community Safety Awards – this story from Auckland City Council:



“The Auckland City's annual Community Safety Awards evening was held on Wednesday 9 September in the concert chamber of the town hall and was a great success. The Awards ceremony has become an important event on the council calendar and gives us a great opportunity to celebrate some of the excellent work that is happening in the communities.

This year, the number of categories was increased and by the closing date in early July, 31 diverse nominations had been received in 6 categories. Then began the big job of getting to know all the nominees so we can

represent them fully to the judging panel and on the awards evening by displaying their activities.

All 31 nominees, their family, friends and nominators were invited along to the town hall ceremony to meet the Mayor and receive a certificate from him in recognition of the great contribution they make to the safety of their communities. In all, we received around 200 guests on the night.

A judging panel, headed by Cr Goldsmith as Chair of the Community Services committee, selected five nominees as being outstanding in their categories and decided to give two meritorious awards in addition to these five.

Outstanding in their categories

- **Peter Lett** – Individual Community Volunteer Award for promoting the eradication of graffiti vandalism in Newmarket and surrounding areas
- **Glen Innes Drug and Alcohol Group** – Innovation Award for building community resilience by raising the awareness of alcohol and drug issues
- **Elizabeth Binning** – Media Award for her honest and provocative published series in *The New Zealand Herald* on child abuse
- **Tableside Charitable Trust** – Not-For-Profit Organisation Award for engendering tremendous community spirit through coordinated volunteer activities in the community
- **Keith Hay Park Users Group** – Environmental Safety Award for their successful, coordinated response to crime and safety issues

Meritorious awards

- **Grace Ikenasio & the Avondale Christian Centre Youth Group** – for writing a song and producing a DVD against graffiti vandalism
- **Outreach Therapy pets programme** – for ongoing animal safety education and animal therapy for children and adults across the Auckland region.

An Auckland metalwork artist was commissioned to create 7 sculptures to be awarded to the outstanding entrants from each category. Chris Moore sculpted these beautiful bronze pieces (pictured above) to be our 2009 awards.

Denise Krum from Tableside Charitable Trust says they were delighted to receive their award. “We are simply doing our bit to add value to our neighbourhoods, and to be recognised by the Mayor and the council was a great boost for us,” she says. “We felt like the small bit that we do to make our neighbourhoods better was really important to them and to the city. It makes us want to do more.”

Supplied by Sheena Ablett,

Safety Coordinator - Arts, Community and Recreation-Services, Auckland City Council

An Oasis for families in Roskill South, Auckland

The Roskill South Oasis Early Years Services HUB has as its vision “Healthy Lives and Transformed Communities.” They have kindly sent us this article outlining the great community strengthening work the Hub is doing.

“The centrality and availability of our premises in the heart of Roskill South enables our community to have easy access to a ‘one-stop-shop service provision’. Although our focus is primarily on families with children 0-6 years it does not stop there; we are naturally conscious of the needs of the wider family and community as well.

When we first started our HUB June last year, we gave our community the opportunity to write out ‘a wish list of the things that they wanted to see happen in our area’. Since then new initiatives have sprung up. A mum’s coffee group has embraced an active music and movement programme to



enhance their children's development. The Craft and Sewing class is drawing out the artistic abilities of many, while DIY & First Aid classes are bringing educational empowerment for others, not to mention the Homework club for children which has become another big bonus.

Regular Health, Educational & Social Services are freely available also, these include: B4 School Checks, Plunket & Public Health Well Child Checks, Antenatal classes, Lactation sessions, Budgeting services, Learner Licence classes, Housing New Zealand appointments, J.P. and Advocacy Services along with the hosting of the Three Kings Roskill Network that pools together a large segment of the Communities Service Providers enabling them to connect more within our community. Next term we will be adding Parenting seminars, Safety workshops, and other educational workshops. During the Sept /Oct school holidays we have a 2 week holiday programme for children in the area.

"People in your Neighbourhood Roskill Community Day" drew on 270 volunteers who serviced a fun day and concert in a local park for over 2000 participants. The whole community got involved; kindergartens, schools, youth groups, businesses, community groups, voluntary groups, ethnically diverse groups, young and old alike. This is only the beginning and we are really excited about what Roskill South will do next!"



*Provided by Zena Wrigley (Co-ordinator) and Bronwyn Guptil (Manager)
Roskill South Oasis Early Years Service HUB*

Information and Events

Planning By and With the People (Melbourne)

A National Conference on Community Conversations, Engagement and Collaboration.

**10 and 11 December 2009. Optional pre-conference workshops on December 8 and 9
Rydges Bell City, Melbourne**

Focuses on the critical processes of conversation, engagement and collaboration, and tools that demystify their application. Four international presenters/ workshop facilitators (Paul Born (Canada), Kathy Tweeten (USA), Amy Scott (New Zealand) and Anne Pullar (New Zealand) will compliment national contributors.

Visit the website www.bankofideas.com.au for a [copy of the brochure](#).

For information contact Peter Kenyon 0061 41 7183719 or pk@bankofideas.com.au. To register for the Conference and/or pre-conference workshops contact the Municipal Association of Victoria on 0061 39 6675525 or email jHennessy@mav.asn.au.

Strengthening Auckland from the Streets Up

This is the last Auckland Community Led Development network gathering for 2009 and will be co-hosted this time by LifeWise, the Waitakere HotHouse and Inspiring Communities.

**10 December
Henderson, Auckland**

For information email: megan.courtney@inspiringcommunities.org.nz

Community Economic Development Conference,

9 to 11 February 2010

Waitakere, Auckland

This inaugural New Zealand community economic development conference is aimed at people from not-for-profit organisations, government agencies and councils who wish to explore international best practice in the fields of community-led local economic development, social enterprises, social finances, asset transfer and enabling support mechanisms. International and New Zealand presenters will challenge conventional approaches to community economic development, and inspire you to engage in actions that will enhance communities' well-being.

Prior to the conference two specialist two day workshops will be run on Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) and Cultural Planning led by two leading overseas specialists.

For further details and to register for the conference and workshops see the conference website www.cedconf.org.nz

Graduate Diploma in Not-for-Profit Management 2010

A qualification for managers, coordinators and board members working in community, voluntary and Tangata Whenua organisations.

For information visit www.community.unitec.ac.nz or phone 0800 10 95 10



This Network News has been produced by Leigh Strange and Mary-Jane Rivers. Thanks to contributors Jenny Blagdon, Karen Clifford, Megan Courtney, Bronwyn Guptil, Nick Jones, Barbara MacLennan, John Prendergast, Sue Rei, Jane Sherard, Aimee Whitcroft, Zena Wrigley. The next newsletter will be February 2010.

Website: www.InspiringCommunities.org.nz **Email:** Exchange@InspiringCommunities.org.nz.

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 and others who generously contribute time, skills and resources.