

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD

09 July 2015

REPORT 8

REPORT BACK ON ATTENDANCE AT NEW ZEALAND

COMMUNITY BOARD CONFERENCE, 14 TO 16 MAY 2013

## 1. Purpose of Report

To report back on attendance at the New Zealand Community Board's Conference which was held in The Bays Of Islands from Thursday 14 to Saturday 16 May 2015. The report includes the subjects covered and an opinion of the value of attendance by the Tawa Community Board representatives Alistair Sutton and Jack Marshall

## 2. Details on the Conference

**What was the name of the conference?** NZ Community Boards' Conference 2015

**What was the subject of the conference?** Influencing Change

**When was the conference held?** Thursday 14 to Saturday 16 May 2015

**Where was the conference held?** Copthorne Waitangi, Bay of Islands

**Who attended from Tawa Community Board?** Alistair Sutton and Jack Marshall

**Who were the main speakers?**

- John Carter, Mayor, FNDC
- Tania McInnes, Deputy Mayor, FNDC
- David Hammond, CEO, Thames CDC
- Lawrence Yule, President, LGNZ
- Gerard Linstrom, Industry & Communications Manager at Chorus
- Malcolm Alexander, CEO, LGNZ
- Mick Lester, Chair, CBEC
- Hone Mihaka, Owner, Taiamai Tours
- Alex Hannant, CEO, Akina
- Peter Winder, Commissioner of Kaipara District Council.

### 3. Guest Speakers and Concurrent Session Presenters

*Malcolm Alexander*



Malcolm leads LGNZ's management, relationships with its members and other stakeholders, and strategy and policy development. Operationally, he leads the day-to-day work of the organisation, human resources management and financial management.

Malcolm was previously at Genesis Energy where he held the position of General Manager, Corporate Affairs. He was a member of the Board of the New Zealand Council for Infrastructure Development between 2008 and 2012 and was the Independent Chair of the Telecommunications Carriers' Forum between 2002 and 2008.

*Bonita Bigham*



Bonita is a current councillor on the South Taranaki District Council, in her second term. She is also serving again on Te Maruata, LGNZ's national council of Maori elected members for the second time.

Bonita is actively involved in her community, serving on marae committees, whanau trusts, iwi and hapu organisations, sports clubs and school boards of trustees during the past 20 years. She is managing director of Taniko Communications which specialises in cross-cultural communication, public relations and project management.

*Denise Bijoux*



Denise works with Inspiring Communities as Learning and Outcomes convenor as well as convenor in Auckland. In these roles she works with communities and

organisations in Te Tairāwhiti, Whanganui and Wellington as well as across Auckland to awahi community-led development and assist local people to notice the differences they are making.

Denise also runs Catalyse Network and manages the Neighbourhoods work for Beacon Pathway and in these roles has recently worked in Southland, Canterbury and Taranaki. She was a Winston Churchill Fellow in 2012 and has worked as a researcher and evaluator in the health and disability sector as well as in housing and city planning. Much of Denise's work is at a neighbourhood level and takes a strengths-based approach to local change and development, partnership, resilience and place making. She is active in her local neighbourhood as well.

*Michelle Blicavs*



Michelle is the CEO of IAP2 Australasia and encourages community engagement practice across all sectors both public and private. Michelle is also a Councillor with Wollongong City Council, based in NSW, Australia.

*Mayor John Carter*



John represents Zone One on National Council and is the Mayor of the Far North District Council.

John was the Member of Parliament for various iterations of the Northland Electorate for 24 years, and became Minister of the Crown after the 2008 general elections. He served as Minister of Civil Defence during the Christchurch Earthquakes, and as Associate Minister of Local Government, was instrumental in the reform of the Auckland governance. John was also Minister for Racing, and Minister for Senior Citizens before taking up the post of New Zealand's High Commissioner to the Cook Islands. He was awarded the Queen's Service Order in 2011.

*Dr Justine Cornwall*



Dr Justine Cornwall was appointed Deputy Children's Commissioner in March 2013.

With her appointment she brought to the Children's Commissioner's Office, leadership skills, understanding of public policy and research and evaluation experience. Justine has led reviews of the Domestic Violence and Victim's Right's Acts for the Ministry of Justice, and she was involved in the significant development of services for victims of crime. Justine also led the initial phase of the Family Court Review, and participated in critical projects including Supporting Child Witnesses in Court, and Victims of Sexual Violence. She has undertaken considerable work with Non-Government Organisations addressing vital issues involving children, young people, and families. Justine's commitment to giving a voice to the rights of children is evidenced in the many requests the office receives for her presentations and speaking engagements.

*Monique Davidson*



Monique currently works for the Horowhenua District Council, based in Levin. She takes pride in being one of the youngest Senior Managers in Local Government, as well as being a young woman working in the sector. Monique has learnt a lot in her time working with Horowhenua District Council and in Local Government. She is also currently a member of LGNZ's Economic and Social Advisory Group.

Since graduating from university four years ago, Monique is now Horowhenua District Council's Group Manager – Customer and Community Services, leading a team of 80 staff, all of who engage with the local communities on a daily basis. Monique has previously presented at the 2013 Community Boards Conference in Wanaka, and feels privileged to be invited back to the 2015 Conference.

*Peter Gentil (MC)*



Peter has had a broadcasting career of over 35 years, the majority of which was spent as a breakfast show host in both Rotorua and the Bay of Islands. He has, for the past 15 months, been a team member with REAL Property Kerikeri as a sales consultant. After his time in broadcasting he's enjoying working in a team atmosphere with a group of like-minded people under the co-op structure.

Peter is involved as an MC at events for the Bay of Islands community and is also a marriage celebrant which keeps him busy, especially during the summer months. He is married to Sharon and they have brought up five wonderful children with only one of them still at home. So Peter is hoping now there will be a little more time for his interests which include boating, fishing, diving and travelling.

*Laurie Gabites*



Laurie has 35 years of experience as a sworn Police Officer with the New Zealand Police including 10 years managing projects associated with alcohol harm reduction and community safety at Police National Headquarters. From 2001 - 2010 he worked for Wellington City Council as the Manager City Safety. The role included managing all the community safety initiatives in the city with reducing alcohol related harm a significant part of that work. Laurie has experience in managing city wide campaigns and interventions aimed at reducing alcohol related harm which includes evaluating data to determine a way forward. He is a member of the Local Government Alcohol Reference Group and has been called on to provide advice to Hon Sir Geoffrey Palmer; Local Government NZ and Wellington City Council in relation to the Law Commission's review of alcohol and the subsequent development of the Alcohol Reform Bill which recently became the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

Laurie is well versed in the provisions of this new Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act and understands the role of local authorities and other statutory agencies in both enforcement and administration. He has good written and verbal skills having worked in a variety of roles requiring a close working relationship with communities and key stakeholders. Laurie is a CPTED practitioner and a qualified

site assessor for WHO International Safe Communities. Laurie is also a Regional Advisor for Safe Communities Foundation of New Zealand.

*David Hammond*



David is the Chief Executive of Thames-Coromandel District Council since January 2012. On appointment he, with his elected Council, completely changed the model of governance and staff operations to a new devolved service delivery and leadership model. Major changes led to Community Boards receiving decision-making and budget delegations for all local services, including more powers around the methods to fund locally. The net result of a 6% rate reduction for the newly elected Council's first term surprised many. The change also led to the highest ever public satisfaction ratings in a number of core services, and the public returning the elected council in entirety in 2013, showing that ratepayers are willing and able to become more involved in the decisions about services that affect their lives. The Council continues in its second term to further develop its systems to more smoothly run the community empowerment model.

*Alex Hannant*



Alex is the CEO of the Akina Foundation – a charity focused on the support and development of social entrepreneurs and enterprise across New Zealand. Previously, Alex was Director of Programmes at LEAD – a global network focused on leadership and sustainable development. He was also Head of Partnerships at the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) – a global initiative providing technical advice and services on climate change and development to decision makers in developing countries. Alex's work has evolved to focus on the design and delivery of initiatives that facilitate cross-sector partnerships, enterprise, and social innovation. He has worked in Africa, Asia and Europe.

*Carol Heyward*



Carol is the Community Engagement Manager at Waitemata District Health Board and a Director of IAP2 Australasia. Carol's recent experience includes working at Auckland Council on regional plans and strategies such as the Unitary Plan and the Auckland Plan. Carol's experience also includes a wide range of digital engagement approaches to broaden community engagement for organisational led approaches.

*Mick Lester*



Mick has been on the Hastings Rural Community Board since 2001, when he was elected as a councillor and appointed to the Community Board as one of two Council representatives.

He put his name forward to be the Zone 3 representative in 2010 as it seemed vital to achieve some co-ordination of boards in the zone so that they could share experiences and learn from each other. Being Chair of Community Boards Executive Committee since 2010 further enabled him to lead the Community Boards nationwide to achieve better relationships with their parent councils, a more constructive way of operating and through the zone meetings and the Community Boards Conference a chance to share experiences and achievements they have made.

*Gerard Linstrom*



Gerard is the Industry & Communications Manager at Chorus. Chorus is currently rolling out a once in a generation network upgrade bringing fibre broadband services to 80% of New Zealanders, one of the largest scale infrastructure projects the country has ever seen. At the same time Chorus has been involved in the delivery of fibre-optic broadband to rural schools, health centres and libraries.

With thirty years of experience in the Telco and ICT industries, Gerard has not only witnessed a great deal of change first-hand, but as a keen advocate for the application of technology in business and in our personal lives, has also been a party to making some of that change. With several years of industry stakeholder engagement within the telco industry Gerard now spends a lot of time helping regional, community and business stakeholders around the country to understand the opportunities presented by the rural and urban fibre networks that Chorus is building.

*Wendy McGuinness*



Wendy is the founder and chief executive of the McGuinness Institute. Originally from the King Country, Wendy went on to study at Manukau Technical Institute (gaining an NZCC), University of Auckland (BCom), University of Otago (MBA), Massey University (completing a range of environmental papers) and Harvard (completing the Executive Programme on Driving Corporate Performance). In 2009 she received a fellowship from the NZICA, becoming a Fellow Chartered Accountant (FCA) for outstanding contribution to the accountancy profession and service to the community. Specialising in risk management, she prepared the 1988 report Implementation of Accrual Accounting for Government Departments for the New Zealand Treasury. Wendy has worked in both the public and private sectors specialising in public sector reporting, risk management and future studies. In 2004 she established the Institute as a way of contributing to New Zealand's long-term future. Since then she has, with her team, published a range of reports under the title Project 2058, written the book Nation Dates: Significant events that have shaped the nation of New Zealand and attended four World Futures conferences. She continues to be fascinated by the development and implementation of public policy, in particular how New Zealand might secure its future in the long-term and in doing so, how New Zealand might become an exemplar for the world.

Since 2013 the Institute has been exploring how we can create a talent-based economy in New Zealand through their TalentNZ project. TalentNZ builds on Sir Paul Callaghan's vision of making New Zealand 'a place where talent wants to live'. For more information see the TalentNZ project page on the McGuinness Institute website.

*Hannah Steiner*



Hannah is the Project Manager at the McGuinness Institute. She has worked at the Institute since November 2012 and is responsible for the TalentNZ project. She is currently working on the Institute's 2015 TalentNZ Journal: Grow talent edition which will showcase grassroots initiatives that aim to grow talent in New Zealand. Hannah has a Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours in Politics, and is passionate about human and social development, with a focus on both education and inequality indicators. Her other academic interests include the politics of human rights and animal welfare.

*Deputy Mayor Tania McInnes*



Tania is Deputy Mayor of the Far North District Council. A director of GBT Ventures Ltd, trading as Eating the Elephant. (A consultancy business with a focus on 'making it happen - one bite at a time'). Described by Mayor Carter as a 'highly motivated change agent with an impressive record', Tania has had a varied and interesting career to date. She is one of the instigators of Focus Paihia, a successful community Trust, which is becoming famous for what can be achieved when communities come together ([www.focuspaihia.org.nz](http://www.focuspaihia.org.nz))

Born in the Waikato, Tania grew up in the Bay of Islands, where she now resides. She has a passion for empowering communities, believing in servant leadership. She will share some of her insights into being a change agent, challenge your thinking and encourage you to step outside your comfort zone - as the rewards are often life empowering.

*Hone Mihaka*



Hone is a partner in a close relationship that began more than 150 years ago when the first European settlers making their way up the Kerikeri River were greeted by the Ngapuhi tribe of the Kerikeri basin at their ancestral home on Kororipo Pa. Hone's contribution to that partnership arises from his commitment to raise awareness and understanding on the area's Ngapuhi cultural heritage and Maori perspective on the Treaty of Waitangi.

Hone left school with no qualifications, was employed at the local freezing and meat processing works, has been a truancy officer and has trained and worked as a Te Reo Maori teacher, all with periods of unemployment in between. He set up Taiamai Tours to offer tourists an authentic experience in Ngapuhi culture, from traditional welcoming ceremony to re-enacting the first contract with European settlers. His role in mentoring and supporting the community's children has elevated him to the status of role model, his communication skills learned along the way are used now to develop partnerships with community groups, entrepreneurs, public service organisations and government ministers.

*Deborah Morris-Travers*



Deborah is the National Advocacy Manager at UNICEF NZ. Previously, she managed Every Child Counts – a coalition of non-governmental organisations and individuals working to improve the status and wellbeing of New Zealand children. Over the past 11 years, Deborah has worked for Plunket and Barnardos, as well as working on the Every Child Counts team. In 2007, Deborah received a Vodafone World of Difference Award to support her work with Every Child Counts.

Deborah is passionate about the place of children in our lives and how we build strong, connected families and communities to nurture them.

She has a degree in political science and a Masters of International Relations;

was elected to parliament in the first MMP parliament in 1996 and was the youngest ever Minister of the Crown. As Associate Minister of Women's Affairs she presented New Zealand's periodic report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in New York in 1998. She has also worked as part of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, in Thailand, Afghanistan, Kenya and at the UN in Geneva.

*Dr Mike Reid*



Mike is a Principal Policy Advisor at LGNZ. He has worked at the association since 1996 and been involved in the review of local government's core legislation since that date. His role in LGNZ involves providing governance advice to elected members and officials and general advice on the LGA 2002, Local Electoral Act 2001 and other key statutes. Mike's PhD is on the subject of community governance and he has recently published on the subject of decentralisation. He also lectures on local government in Victoria University's Master of Public Policy degree.

*Peter Winder*



Peter is currently a Director of McGredy Winder & Co Ltd and The Sound of Music Education Ltd. He is also the Chairman of Manukau Institute of Technology and Commissioner of Kaipara District Council.

In the past he has held the following roles: Chief Executive, Auckland Regional Council; Director, Transport, Auckland Regional Council; Chief Executive, Local Government New Zealand and General Manager Industry Strategy, Tourism New Zealand.

*Lawrence Yule*



Lawrence is the President of Local Government New Zealand and the Mayor of Hastings District Council.

Previously, he represented the Provincial Sector on the National Council. He has been Mayor of Hastings District since 2001 where he also won the honour of being Hastings District's youngest-ever Mayor. He continues to be at the forefront of not only district, but regional initiatives.

Lawrence has particular interests in transport, water and waste water issues. He was recently made a Fellow of the Institute of Professional Engineers NZ.

#### **4. Concurrent Sessions**

A copy of the presentations from most of the guest speakers can found on the Local Government New Zealand Website. <http://www.lgnz.co.nz/home/nzs-local-government/community-boards/community-board-conference/2015-cbec-conference/>

- **TALENT NZ: Creating a place where talent wants to live**  
Presenters - Wendy McGuinness and Hannah Steiner, McGuinness Institute
- **Local Government – spectators or players in Community wellbeing?**  
Presenter - Monique Davidson, Horowhenua DC
- **Building strong relationships with Community Boards and Maori**  
Presenter - Bonita Bigham, South Taranaki DC
- **Coromandel: turning good examples into everyday normal**  
Presenter - David Hammond, CEO, Thames CDC with a CB member
- **Time to step up for our kids - the need for leadership in our communities**  
Presenter- Dr Justine Cornwall, Deputy Children's Commissioner
- **Growing great neighbourhoods**  
Presenter - Denise Bijoux, Inspiring Communities

- **Another liquor licence application? Yeah nah!**  
Laurie Gabites, Trustee for SCFNZ
- **Community or Local - what's the difference?**  
Presenter - Mike Reid, Principal Policy Advisor, LGNZ
- **Influencing change through fair and equitable public participation**  
Michelle Blicavs, CEO, and Carol Heyward, IAP2 Australasia
- **Creating Child and Youth Friendly Cities**  
Presenter - Deborah Morris-Travers, UNICEF NZ National Advocacy Manager

The concurrent sessions that Alistair attended were

### **TALENT NZ: Creating a place where talent wants to live**

#### **Alistair's Key take outs**

New Zealand needs a shared vision, so decisions would be easy to make and understand. Eg 'A place where Talent wants to live'. To be successful as a country is not hard, if we another 100 entrepreneurs with 100 companies it could create an additional \$45 Billion per annum in exports. (doubling present exports) .

Something around Talent is  
 Talent likes talent  
 Talent wants to be best in the world  
 Talent enjoys being recognised  
 Talent thinks and acts globally  
 Talent hates completing forms  
 Talent gets frustrated with delays  
 Talent needs human capital  
 Talent grows through investment  
 Talent follows talent  
 Talent is key

I think Talent like Talent and Talent follows talent are the key to a successful city, if you can create or retain Talent, then by default that Talent will attract more Talent.

## **Time to step up for our kids - the need for leadership in our communities**

### **Alistair's Key take outs**

That we need to invest in our kids, if a community helps, develops and invests in their children through the age of 21. Those Children will return to their communities.

Why give to kids?

Poverty has serious consequences for a child experiencing it day by day. Poverty also impacts the country as a whole, with increased pressure on health and education services and a less productive workforce.

Poverty affects children disproportionately, as they have no power to change their circumstances. They are completely reliant on grownups for their food, shelter and care. Costs to individual children and young people may include:

- Poor physical and mental health
- Unstable friendships and schooling
- Stigmatisation
- Stress about basic needs
- Poor educational achievement due to poor brain development and poor health
- Family stress
- Being victims or perpetrators of crime

We need to look at the state and location of our playgrounds in our community as they the quality; cleanliness and access can be significantly different throughout our community depending on what area of the community these playgrounds are.

### **Creating Child and Youth Friendly Cities.**

#### **Alistair's Key take outs**

We need to take a proactive role in engaging with children in a way that they want, We should be going to talk to Children at the place they feel comfortable for example going to the local schools/groups and talking to the children to get their ideas rather than expecting them to engage in an adult process with formal submissions

Child and Youth Friendly Cities are places where children can:

Influence decisions about their community / city.

Express their opinions on the community / city they want.

Participate in family, cultural, community / city and social life.

Be safe and protected from exploitation, violence and abuse.

Meet friends and have places and spaces to play and enjoy themselves

Have green spaces for plants and animals.

Live in a clean, unpolluted environment.

Be an equal citizen, with access to every service regardless of their ethnic origin, religion, income, gender or ability

The concurrent sessions that Jack attended were

### **TALENT NZ: Creating a place where talent wants to live**

#### **Jack's Key take outs**

New Zealand needs to work hard to ensure that 'talent', primarily in the form of young people who have just finished their university studies, are retained in New Zealand, so that our economy can fully benefit from what they have to offer.

Additionally, Wendy spoke about her wish to have an ocean monitoring body established, to cover all of the different industries that use the ocean in New Zealand, which she sees as operating in silos – not communicating with one another.

### **Time to step up for our kids - the need for leadership in our communities**

#### **Jack's Key take outs**

This workshop was presented by Justine Cornwall, the Deputy Children's Commissioner. In this workshop, she spoke about the need for local government, and community boards as a part of the process, to step up and begin to make decisions that help and assist children that are missing out currently.

## **Creating Child and Youth Friendly Cities.**

### **Jack's Key take outs**

Cities, big and small can work towards becoming a 'child friendly city', which is an international accreditation that assesses the city's performance in a variety of areas. The process looks at inclusion of young people in city life, including in areas of participation in formal processes.

Wellington is currently in the process of becoming accredited. I feel that we should support this process as we can, as this accreditation will be a good aid to assess how Wellington is serving its young people, and where we can improve.

## **5. Conference Dinner and Best Practice Awards**

The Conference Dinner and Best Practice Awards took place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May. There are three categories to which Community Boards are able to submit entries to; the categories are Leadership, Engaging Communities & Enhancing Communities.

There was a mix-up at the award ceremony so a lot of confusion around who won which award and for what category. But what we do know is

### **Supreme Winner**

Winner – Turangi-Tongariro Community Board.

### **Enhancing Communities**

Winner – Kaiapoi Community Board

I have asked both our Zone 4 Representative and LGNZ to supply a list of winners. I have had no response from either parties, I do understand that the list of winners will be published on the LGNZ website as some stage.

## **6. Benefit to Council/Elected members**

**How do you feel the conference benefitted the Council?**

- Networking with other Community Board Members and the sharing of ideas around what works well in each Boards Communities.
- Gaining new skills and ideas through the appropriate Concurrent Sessions that take place over the course of the Conference
- Spending time with other Zone 4 Community Board members

**Did the conference add to your ability to perform your job and increase your understanding of the subject area? How?**

- The conference certainly gave as some new ideas and skills to practise when trying to influence change in communities and for the people we are charged to advocate for.
- The concurrent sessions attended delivered any increased understanding of the subjects being covered

**Was there an opportunity to network with other attendees? Was this a useful opportunity?**

- There were three formal networking opportunities to engage with other Community Board members the Welcome Function, Conference Dinner & Post Conference BBQ.
- Networking opportunities will always remain the most integral part of any conference and would be one of the biggest benefits of attending a Community Board Conference.

**Recommendations or suggestions for the Council**

- Community boards have an untold benefit to the communities they serve and should be seen as more a community asset and n not as a cost.
- Continue to plan/budget for sending two members of the Community Boards to the Conferences
- Work with CBEC on trying to host a Conference in Wellington

Report was created by Alistair Sutton & Jack Marshall

