

Inspiring Communities April-May 2010 News – email newsletter

Kia ora tatou

Welcome to our fourth email newsletter of 2010.

It may be autumn in the southern hemisphere but in terms of community-led development for New Zealand, April felt like spring! It's been an inspiring, educational (and packed!) month of new shoots from Inspiring Communities' point of view, and we have seen the [Community-led Development Framework](#) in action around the country

In this email newsletter...

- **Inspiring Communities Exchange and Core Learning Cluster news:** our first Bay of Plenty forum; the first Auckland community development alliance forum; and Opotiki learning about the news media
- **Community Led and Community Driven:** asset transfer for communities; sharing the Village Planning approach; Judith Timpany on paving the community road for grantmaking; community gardens
- **News you can use:** Grantmaker's toolkit and unsung heroes nominations
- **Events:** Community-led development in Southland, community gardens workshop, regional funders forums and more
- **Learning Links:** community conversations, story telling, *youtube* videos of developmental evaluation interviews with Michael Patton and more.
- **Careers:** The Methodist Church is seeking a Social Justice Practitioner

COLLABORATING + COMMUNICATING = CO-CREATING!

Our annual learning forum with our Core Learning Cluster initiatives was truly awe-inspiring on many levels: the stunning location of Rakiura/Stewart Island, the people gathered and their stories (equally the locals and the 30-odd who joined us from other parts of NZ) laid a rich bedding for ideas to flow, changes and developments to notice and understand, and connections to form.

Hearing how people from every sector of the community designed and built the Stewart Island Community Centre was community-led development at its finest; a small community creating a dream that took eight years of innovation, co-operation and determination to realise. Now the Community Centre's maintenance is funded through equally creative ways e.g. proceeds from sales of locally-grown mussels and bottled Stewart Island rainwater. It is now the local gym, sport centre, meeting place, wedding and concert hall, and able to host national and international acts from Suzanne Lynch to Billy Connolly. Stewart Island with a population of 400 has 40,000-50,000 visitors a year.

Full reports from the forum will be posted on our website asap.

Other highlights from the Inspiring Communities Exchange calendar in April...

14 April: Just days prior to our Stewart Island forum, Barbara McLennan of Inspiring Communities, in partnership with BayTrust and the Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust hosted

the Bay of Plenty's first forum on Community Led Development. See the link below for more or [go straight to the full article online](#).

27 April: The *Beyond the Cycles of Debt in Porirua* innovation forum was co-hosted by Porirua City Council and Wesley Community Action's Good Cents initiative, with support from the Todd Foundation and Inspiring Communities. The questions were asked: **What would it be like if there wasn't a high level of crippling debt in our community? What is it that we could create together for our future that we can't create alone?** The forum successfully brought together people, and thinking, from all parts of the Porirua community to share, learn and act positively on how they might answer these questions and create a resilient, well-resourced community. A summary can be downloaded from the [Wesley Community Action website](#). This workshop follows Kay's story of moving from debt to savings mentioned in our [March e-newsletter](#).

28 April: The Auckland Community Development Alliance convened its first – hugely positive – gathering. See below or [go straight to the full story online](#).

Next up: May 10, Maitua. We are looking forward to another first with the *Community-Led Development in Southland* forum (details under Events below). We are thrilled to have the Community Trust of Southland and the Maitua Taskforce partnering and Sir Stephen Tindall coming to share his insights with those attending.

And in **June** the Community-Led Development Auckland Network has a forum on *Surviving and Moving with the Times* - aiming to encourage positivity, creativity and community resilience in the face of change (details under Events below).

One other highlight in the links below (see **News You Can Use**) is the launch of *The Grantmaker's Toolkit*, produced by Philanthropy NZ and created by highly experienced grant maker Genevieve Timmons. Inspiring Communities was privileged to contribute in a small way to its development.

And lastly, just as this newsletter was being compiled we heard the fantastic news that Opotiki District Council has been nominated in the [2010 IPANZ Public Sector Excellence Awards](#) for its Opotiki Harbour Development work.

This very full email is the April-May edition of our newsletter. We'll regroup and be back with plenty more in June!

Mary-Jane Rivers
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.

LATEST FROM INSPIRING COMMUNITIES and our CORE LEARNING CLUSTER

*** [Highlights from our first Bay of Plenty forum on community-led development](#) ***

*** [Opotiki's visit from media relations veteran Anna Kominik](#) ***

*** [140 attend new Alliance forum to support communities in a 'Super' Auckland](#) ***

*** [Moving Beyond Cycles of Debt for Porirua – the community comes together](#) ***

COMMUNITY LED AND COMMUNITY DRIVEN

*** [Asset transfer as a means for community empowerment](#) ***

Kindly contributed by Di Jennings of Community Waitakere.

*** [Porirua's Village Planning Programme visits North Shore and Waitakere](#) ***

Mary-Jane Rivers interviews Moira Lawler from Porirua City Council.

*** [Judith Timpany on community development pathways for grantmakers](#) ***

Mary-Jane Rivers interviews Judith Timpany, Chief Executive of the Whanganui Community Foundation.

*** **Community Gardens – UK and NZ** ***

Heard on [Radio NZ Sunday Morning with Chris Laidlaw](#) (2 May), conversations about Todmorden, Britain's greenest town and Wellington's (NZ) newest community gardening project, the Owhiro Bay Community Garden.

See below for a Community Garden two day workshop coming up in Lyttelton in late May.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

*** [Grantmaker's Toolkit Launched](#) ***

Philanthropy New Zealand's Grantmaker's Toolkit was launched in Auckland in March 2010, and was immediately put to good use providing the basis for two seminars on the Essentials of Grantmaking. Inspiring Communities

*** [NZ Herald P&O Cruises Unsung Heroes programme 2010](#) ***

The NZ Herald is seeking nominations for folk who are unsung community heroes. Nominations can now be made [online](#) or in the entry form published from time to time in the NZ Herald.

EVENTS

*** **7 May Hui: [Koru International Network](#)** ***

From endangered peoples to endangered worldviews: the place of indigenous being in restoring ecological health.

*** **10 May ICE forum: [Community-Led Development in Southland](#)** ***

Brought to you by Inspiring Communities and the Community Trust of Southland

*** **29 May workshop: [Community Gardening & Collective Food Action](#)** ***

***** 2 June Forum: [Surviving and Moving with the Times](#) *****

This Community-Led Development Auckland Network forum is packed with inspiring stories, practical workshops and shared thinking from Inspiring Communities and others.

***** June: [Regional Funders Forums – Effective investment in our communities](#) *****

LEARNING LINKS

***** Resource: [The Grantmaker's Toolkit](#) *****

Produced by Philanthropy New Zealand, this Toolkit contains ideas, observations and challenges, as well as practical information and resources, to support any grant maker, whether a beginner or a seasoned player, whether staff, trustee, personal donor or advisor.

***** Video: [Explaining Developmental Evaluation](#) *****

In 2009 Michael Quinn Patton an international evaluation practitioner and writer met with some of us involved with community-led development. The discussion was packed full of handy-hints and practical examples about approaches to evaluation for place-based, community-led developments. You can now [hear some highlights in video](#) via youtube.

***** Website: [A Small Group](#) *****

Committed to the creation of a restorative and reconciled community.

***** Website: [Telling stories: the Most Significant Change \(MSC\) technique](#) *****

***** Website: [Youth Mentoring Network](#) *****

Established to promote effective youth mentoring opportunities for young New Zealanders and to provide professional development initiatives for individuals and organisations working in youth mentoring. (Formally The Youth Mentoring Trust) See their website for useful information, resources, and to join their mailing list.

***** Website and Resources: [Bankofideas.com.au](#) *****

Peter Kenyon talks about The Sharehood as being an amazing living example of neighbourhoods getting together in Victoria. Here are just three of the reasons to visit the [Bank of I.D.E.A.S website](#):

-- see [their beliefs about community development](#):

-- download their [Guide to Hosting Community Conversations](#):

-- and other fabulous [resources](#).

***** E-book: [Hatched: The capacity for sustainable development](#) *****

Hatched is an eBook of research findings, stories and tools exploring five key areas of capacity required for New Zealand's long-term success published by Landcare Research. You can [download it free](#).

CAREERS

***** Social Justice Practitioner Opportunity *****

The Methodist Church of New Zealand is looking for a talented person to coordinate a nation-wide public questions network. An opportunity (Wellington-based, full-time) to support people at the grass roots to contribute to social, environmental and economically

just communities. Applications close 7 May 2010. For more information or to apply contact Amy Scott: amys@methodist.org.nz phone 03 366 6049.

ABOUT THE INSPIRING COMMUNITIES EXCHANGE

We are a 'virtual' team of six individuals (based in Wellington, Auckland, the Bay of Plenty and also Brisbane); or around 3 full time equivalents; with many decades of community development social entrepreneurial 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 are seeing increasing interest with several [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.

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 and others who generously contribute time, skills and resources.

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.

You can read more at our [website](#) including our [approach to learning](#), our [Framework for Community-Led Development](#).