



THE TURNING POINT CONFERENCE

Marton Memorial Hall 10 February 2017



"Every Community that is getting stronger has at its centre an effort to build up a wider circle of people who choose to take action for the common good"

Mike Green, Asset Based Community Development Institute,
Canada

OVERVIEW

The 7th Rangitikei Path to Well-being conference was held at Memorial Hall, Marton on Friday the 10 February. The Path to Well-being is Rangitikei District Council's partnership programme and the conferences aim to facilitate community conversations about key issues and provide opportunities for multi-agency collaboration.

This year, the theme was community-led development.

- To provide an opportunity to learn about Asset Based Community Development from experts in the field
- To develop a common agenda/understanding for community-led development in the District

It was attended by 81 community minded individuals, including from a range of organisations. A delegates list is attached.



The conference commenced with an outstanding cultural performance from the Samoan Methodist Church Youth Group. Another highlight of the day was having Robbie Magasiva as MC. Robbie is a Samoan New Zealand actor who has appeared on television and theatre, was the co-presenter of New Zealand's Tagata Pasifika and a member of the Naked Samoans comedy troupe. He is known for his role on Shortland Street as Dr. Maxwell Avia and as Will Jackson on the prison drama series Wentworth.

WELCOME DEPUTY MAYOR, NIGEL BELSHAM

Councillor Belsham welcomed delegates to the conference. He acknowledged the experts who were sharing their insights to support the discussions and thanked all delegates who have taken time out of busy lives to strengthen the relationships and networks which already exist within the District.

Particularly, he welcomed the members of the newest community, from Samoa, who are making the Rangitikei their home – he looked forward to hearing their stories to nurture the District's journey from a bicultural past into a multi-cultural future.

In every community something works. Instead of asking 'What's wrong, and how to fix it', ask, 'What's worked, and how do we get more of it?' It generates hope, energy and creativity. (Peter Kenyon)

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

ZIZI CHARIDA AND ERENA MIKAERE-MOST

Zizi Charida is the founder and director of Community Minds in Sydney Australia. Community Minds is a not for profit organisation founded in 2014, with the aim of developing community based initiatives that are sustainable and bring to life the aspirations and assets of communities.

Erena is the manager for Ruapehu Whanau Transformation Project Implementation and has a background in strategy development.

Both speakers gave an overview of their experience of Asset Based Community Development.

In her keynote speech, Zizi focussed on an inherent drive to be 'community minded', with a need to feel connected to others. This sense of connectivity can be lost – the sense of 'we' being overwhelmed with the sense of 'me'. Zizi and her organisation aim to remind people that they have the power to create the communities they want.

Asset Based Community Driven Efforts (ABCDE) is a guiding principle applied to the programs at Community Minds. This involves a shift in thinking from needs and deficiencies to assets and capacities and involves mapping and celebrating these assets in order to best harness them.

Zizi also highlighted the importance of community intelligence and community minded thinking in young people and children at a young age, in order to help create a 'we' society as opposed to a 'me' one, and we ought to steer young people away from promoting individualism, modelling privilege and excusing responsibility.



IWI-OWNED RECRUITMENT & TRAINING SERVICE

169 EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT
HOME WOF PROGRAMME
REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE & WHARE FACTS



RUAPEHU TOPTOWN
STREET BY STREET
TECHNOLOGY & LEARNING HUB

In her keynote speech, Erena highlighted the key features of the project which was developed to address the realities that were facing the Ohakune/Raetihi area: low incomes, poor housing and poor employment prospects.

Overcoming and altering these confronting statistics was the centre of the Ruapehu Whanau Transformation Project, and it was tackled with a bottom up, solution focussed plan. Opportunities were identified in the focus areas of education, employment and housing, and then specific projects implemented to harness these opportunities.

LEARNINGS

The six key assets are locked within communities

- Individuals – everyone has gifts of the head (what we know), the heart (what we feel passionate about) and the hand (what we can do) to contribute
- Power of association - who do I know who can help with that?
- Institutions - what resources can we call on from local institutions to help us?
- Land/ physical assets
- Exchange/trading/sharing - what is the local economy and how do local communities do business?
- Stories– what stories do we tell that define who we are, and can show us how we can do things?



ABCD is the process of making these assets visible and connecting them. Successful ABCD practice:

- Is sustainable and brings to life the aspirations and assets of communities
- Reminds people that they have the power to create the communities they want
- focusses on bottom up transformation rather than top down.
- shifts thinking from needs and deficiencies to assets and capacities
- involves mapping and celebrating these assets in order to best harness them

Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Framework

- Shifting the development mindset from-
 - needs and deficiencies to assets and capacities
 - from consumer, customer and client to co-producer, co-owner and citizen
- Discovering, mapping, connecting and celebrating the diverse range of community assets, and harnessing the connected assets for action that strengthens caring and inclusive communities.



WORKSHOPS

Zizi Charida- Shared Local Visions / Goals to Drive Action and Change

Zizi's workshop outlined Appreciative Inquiry: a way of approaching visioning to find the powerful question for the relevant phase of a project. Instead of a deficit based approach (asking questions such as "what are the problems?" Or "what needs to be fixed?"), Appreciative Inquiry instead asks open ended questions that provoke positive, imaginative thoughts to find out what is working well.

Examples of powerful questions are:

- What was great about being a kid in your community?
- What has allowed you to be part of your community?
- What do you value most?
- When do you feel most connected?

LEARNINGS



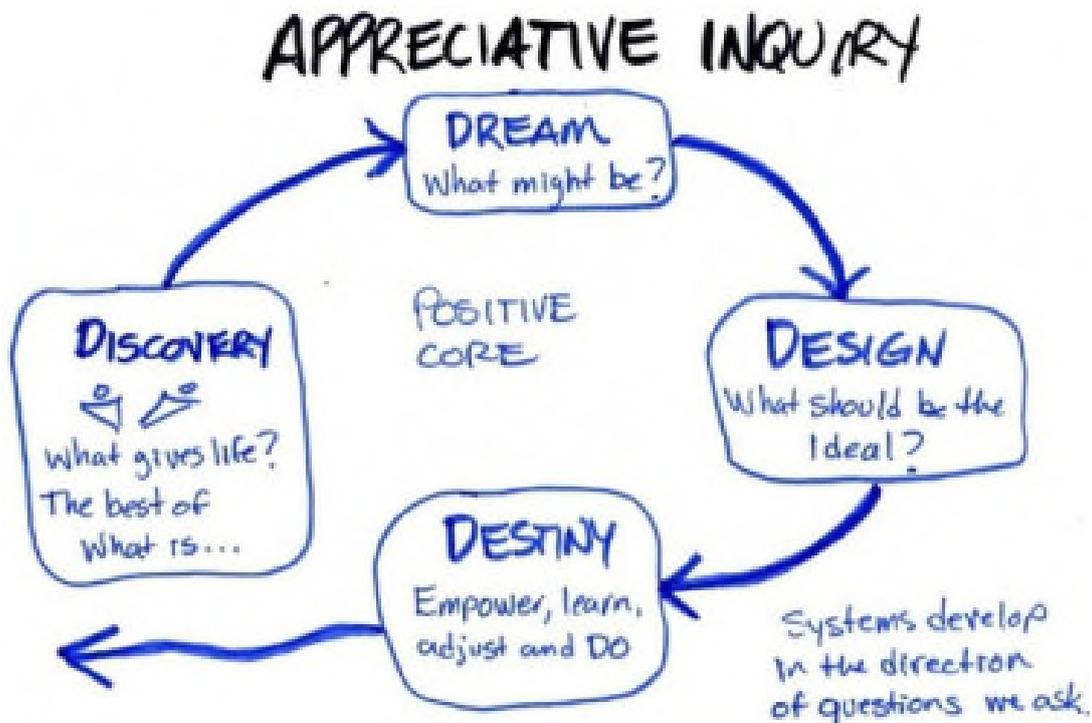
The four phases of ABCD project planning for Appreciative Inquiry:

Discovery: finding out the best about what already is

Dream: imagining how you see the community in the future

Design: planning and prioritising processes that would work well and involving key stakeholders

Destiny: implementation or execution of the proposed design



Source: Cooperrider et.al

Erena Mikaere-Most - Adaptable planning information and action informed by outcomes

As Erena specialises in strategy development, her workshop focussed on teaching participants a simple planning tool to maximise the impact of their projects. This planning tool consisted of three key questions, asking ‘what are we doing?’, ‘why are we doing it?’ and ‘what impact do we want to achieve? For those planning community based projects, the final question is of particular importance because it gets people thinking about the effects, both immediate and lasting that they want to see as a direct result of what they are doing.

LEARNINGS

“I found this useful as in an example like this there are many hurdles to overcome and funding will be an obvious one. By including detailed ‘community impact effects’ in your initial planning it helps to justify and sell your plan. So now instead of saying to people ‘I want to build a mountain bike track’ - I can now say ‘I want to build a mountain bike track and these are the positive effects it will directly have on you and our community’”



“Education is the powerhouse of modern societies.

To prosper, grow and innovate, New Zealand needs highly-skilled people — people with increasingly sophisticated skills and digital competencies.”

21st Century Learning Reference Group

Future Focused Learning in Connected Communities Report, May 2014

Bronwyn Meads – Using Existing Strengths and Assets



In her workshop, Bronwyn encouraged workshop participants to take an assets based approach when reflecting on their communities.

The closure of Turakina Maori Girls School was used as an example in the asset mapping exercise – although the school has closed down, the building and property are very much still an asset to the community, and this is a space that can be used for a multitude of things. Bronwyn encouraged her workshop participants to brainstorm ideas about what the space could be used for and they came up with ideas ranging from a training space for trade to a conference venue. Bronwyn iterated that after assets are mapped and recognised, it is crucial that the community makes the most of and drive the uptake of these assets, so that they can see the benefits of their use.

LEARNINGS

Rather than focus on what is wrong, focus on what is strong in the community, and what positive things we have within arms' reach.

Use Asset Mapping to identify all of the six asset types that are available to the community



'We are motivated by what we don't have, to use what we do have, to get what we want'.

(Rev Dr Moses Coody)

Professor James Liu – *Building Diverse and Collaborative Leadership*



James Liu is Head of School of Psychology at Massey University, Auckland. His research is in cross-cultural, social and political psychology, specializing in social representations of history and their relationship to identity, prejudice, and international relations.

In his workshop, James focussed on the importance of finding common ground, and communicated this through a three pronged approach – knowing yourself, breaking through stereotypes and building social capital.

‘Knowing yourself’ is a process of understanding the individual and collective elements of personal identity. “Breaking through stereotypes” identified the shared knowledge embedded across society to create stereotypes that we all buy into. The final segment of the workshop had a focus on building social capital, social capital can be described as “the collective value of all social networks and the inclinations that arise from these networks to do things for each other”. Social capital can be measured and mapped and grown through conscious effort.



LEARNINGS

*“Putting citizens at the centre of community life... and the urgent need for us to practice **RADICAL** inclusion in which we must welcome the stranger at the edge from within our communities and from outside our communities.*

- **Asset-focussed**
- **Citizen-centric**
- **Place-based**
- **Relationship-orientated**

“Simply being nice to people who talk like us, think like us and look like us is not sufficient, in fact to do that is to live an entrenched and impoverished life.” Cormac Russell, Nurture Development, Ireland

Andrew Tripe – Many People and Groups Working Together

In his workshop, Andrew demonstrated the ‘Aspirational Alignment Model’ he developed for changing culture in workplaces – this is the focus of his consulting company Same Page Group which exists to align an organisation’s people, culture and strategy.

This model focused on the back and forth relationship between the why (purpose), who (customer), where (vision), what (strategy), how (values and behaviours) and the which (capabilities and competencies).

The workshop demonstrated the importance of having a common goal but also the importance of having a common strategy to get there.



LEARNINGS

Andrew is implementing a regional project, Healthy Communities, which aims to better align the strategies of local agencies to develop ‘single more unified, integrated and co-ordinated approach’. Andrew asked the participants what, if this was achieved they would see in their community – to imagine what it would be like and provide some examples. Then to identify the big ‘rocks’ that they would have to be overcome. These workshops will contribute to this project - a report will be circulated in due course.

EVALUATION

	Great	Good	OK	Poor	Very Poor	No Comment
Overall how well do you think the day went?	47%	37%	10%			7%
How would you rate the pre-conference organisation?	37%	43%	17%			3%
Overall how would you rate the venue?	17%	20%	30%	20%	13%	
How would you rate the food and refreshments?	83%	10%	7%			
Presentations	43%	18%	13%	5%	3%	17%
Workshop session 1 (morning)	67%	13%	13%			7%
Workshop session 2 (morning)	57%	20%	13%		3%	7%
Workshop session 3 (afternoon)	53%	13%	10%			23%

Acknowledgements

Many thanks are due to our funders

- Rangitikei District Council
- Whanganui District Health Board

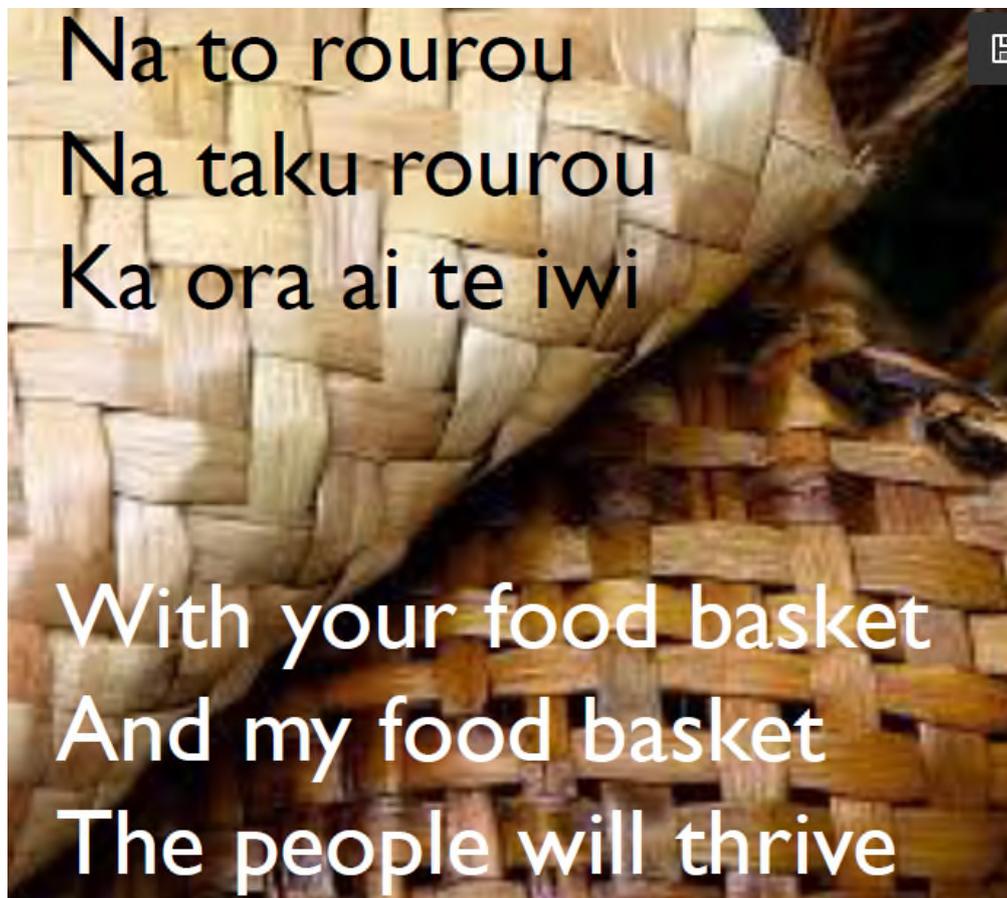
The Samoan Methodist Church in Marton for the entertainment and the catering and to Farani Vaa, Methodist Minister, for facilitating this engagement

Our fabulous MC, Robbie Magasiva – star of stage and screen

Our speakers and workshop facilitators

- Andrew Tripe
- Bronwyn Meads
- Erena Mikaere-Most
- James Liu
- Zizi Charida

The deficit approach or 'charitable' model promotes reliance on services and keep 'clients' in a state of dependency, constantly seeking 'help'.



And to our delegates:

Alison Rudzki	Ruahine Kindergarten Association
Amanda-Jane	
Andrew Shand	Rotary
Angela Coleman	Marton ICT Hub
Angus Gordon	Councillor, Rangitikei District Council
Annabel Sidey	Bulls & District Community Trust/Bulls Community Committee
Bruce Gordon	Horizons Regional Council
Carolyn Bates	Marton Community Committee
Cassandra Reid	Ngati Rangī
Cath Ash	Councillor, Rangitikei District Council
Chris Jurgens	
Chris Mullins	Creative Courtyard IDEA Services
Debbie-Jane Viliamu	Te Oranganui, Healthy Families WRR
Denise Servante	Rangitikei District Council
Desiree McLean	Whanganui District Health Board - Public Health
Ellen Webb-Moore	Rangitikei District Council
Farani Vaa	Samoan Methodist Church
Garreth Stevens	Te Takere (Horowhenua District Council)
Gayna Ryan	Jigsaw Whanganui
Gillian Bowler	Rangitikei District Council, Southern Youth Coordinator
Glenda Leitao	Horizons Regional Council
Grace Taiaroa	Te Runanga o Nga Wairiki/Ngati Apa
Gretta Mills	
Heidi Wright	Plunket
Helen Clare	Anzcofoods Ltd
Jan Harris	Bulls and District Community Trust

Janine Hawthorn	Manawatu District Council
Jenny Cobhan	Creative Courtyard IDEA Services
Jim Howard	Rangitikei Environment Group
Jo Rangooni	
Jodie Brunger	Sport Whanganui
Jolene Yandall	Public Health Centre; Whanganui DHB
Judith Tanlyn	Red Cross
Judy McConachy	Counselling Centre
Julie Herewini	Te Oranganui, Healthy Families WRR
Karen Kennedy	Hunterville Community Committee
Karney Herewini	Whanganui DHB
Katarina Hina	UCOL
Laura Richards	Project Marton
Linda Holman	Rangitikei District Council
Lydia Matenga	Te Kotuku Hauora Ltd
Lynne Sheridan	Councillor, Rangitikei District Council
Maaki Tuatini	Te Puawai o Te Ahikaa
Maria Potaka	Public Health - Whanganui DHB
Marie Kinloch	Sport Whanganui
Mary Strange	D and M Strange Partnership
Mayor Andy Watson	Rangitikei District Council
Melanie	Mokai Patea Services
Meretini Bennett-Huxtable	Te Oranganui, Healthy Families WRR
Michelle Cameron	James Cook School
Michelle Fannin	Taihape Community Board
Mollie Farrand	Community Member
Nardia Gower	Project Marton
Nathan Cross	Department of Internal Affairs
Ngawai Martin	Mokai Patea Services

Nigel Belsham	Councillor, Rangitikei District Council
Oliver Sanderson	Rangitikei District Council - Northern Youth Co-ordinator
Pania Millar	Whanganui DHB - Public Health Centre
Queenie Mitchell	Marton OSCAR Rangitikei
Ray Sisley	Rotary
Richard Aslett	Councillor, Rangitikei District Council
Roberta Williams	Te Puawai o Te Ahikaa
Ross McNeil	Rangitikei District Council
Ruth Rainey	Councillor, Rangitikei District Council

Samantha Kett	Rangitikei District Council
Sandra Morgan	Creative Courtyard IDEA Services
Sandra Stevens	Marton ICT Hub
Sharon Gordon	
Sharon New Zealand	Planet Replant
Sue Stuart	ACC
Te Ora Nyman	Whanganui DHB - Public Health
Terry Stillman	Community Images
Tony Booker	Rangitikei College
Troy Brown	Te Oranganui
Wendy	New Zealand Police