



AUCKLAND IC NEWS - May 2014

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## Kia ora ano, and welcome to our second newsletter for 2014!

We have had a really enjoyable start to the year with some fantastic locally-grown events such as the [Crowd-Grown Feast](#), [Weed-dating](#), [Neighbours Day](#) and many more. It seems that the city is full of innovative and creative locally-led enterprise and so this newsletter celebrates a few of those. Each article is written by someone, or a small group of people, close to the initiative and they'd love to connect with you so please follow the links to find out more!

As usual there are also a couple of listings to events that are coming up. One of these is a collection of events curated by [POP](#), which was initiated by the Waitemata Local Board and another is a public art festival that you can participate in as a volunteer if you like. Scroll down for details.

Our newsletter is small so the articles and events don't cover everything that is going on so if you would like to share what locally-led change you and your community are up to, please let me know by email and we'll happily run an article or advertise your event:

[Denise.Bijoux@inspiringcommunities.org.nz](mailto:Denise.Bijoux@inspiringcommunities.org.nz).

And don't forget to like Inspiring Communities on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/InspiringCommunitiesNZ>. Every few days we put up another interesting and useful post about community-led development somewhere in Aotearoa or the world.

*Happy Autumn! Denise.*

## Community News

### 1. Makaurau Sessions



**Makaurau Sessions engages the talents of creative Māori and Pasifika people; from poets and spoken word performers to singer-song writers; visual artists to vocalists; taonga pūoro musicians to tākarō exponents, dancers to actors.**

The Makaurau Sessions movement aims to foster a positive and creative Māori consciousness in Auckland City through creative expression. It's about giving voice to the distinctive imagination and experience of Tāmaki-makau-rau using creativity and the emerging New and Urban Indigeneity as the vehicle.

In 2013 the group met quarterly for a noho marae-based wānanga to communicate their ideas collectively and explore multi-disciplinary and unexpected creative collaborations. The ideas were then fashioned into performance items, refined and presented as a public showing to a wider audience.

The purpose of Makaurau Sessions is to give voice to 'Tāmaki-makau-rau' (not Auckland) through artistic expression. It asks the artists, "How does Tāmaki influence you as an artist?" It also asks, "How can Tāmaki find voice through you?"

Makaurau sessions are still at an experimental stage but there is growing interest from artists and audience. The inaugural Makaurau Sessions event was held at Galatos in November 2012. In 2013 Te Karanga Gallery (KFM) hosted two Makaurau Sessions events. In February 2014 Makaurau Sessions featured as part of the Whare Tapere<sup>[1]</sup> at Waimangō in Hauraki and hosted interactive workshops as well as performing a set of items on the Aotearoa Stage at Pasifika Festival 2014.

Project Coordinator, Eamon Nathan says "Te Karanga Trust has been hugely supportive of Makaurau Sessions recognising a positive synergy with their aspirations and the kaupapa of Makaurau Sessions. It is important for the success of this initiative that we collaborate with like-minded groups."

Pip Hartley from Te Karanga Trust adds, "It's always an honour for us to host Makaurau Sessions

here at Te Karanga Trust. The kaupapa and wairua of everyone present is a beautiful and inspiring experience. Weaving the strands of a multicultural community into an organically evolving piece of taonga."

"We are also exploring collaborative initiatives to integrate Makaurau Sessions with some of the projects being run by the Auckland War Memorial Museum as a means to engage with the diverse communities of Tāmaki-makau-rau,' explains Bethany Edmunds (Makaurau Sessions Working Group).

Having created good amount of material, one of the priorities for 2014 is to continue to mature the items further both through public performance and potentially some studio recordings. We are also looking to establish more collaborative opportunities with other community organisations and individuals, as well as continuing to grow our group of creative's.

For information on events and wānanga please visit them on [Facebook](#)

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[1] A 'house' of recreation: performance, storytelling, music, games and other creative pursuits. Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/orotokare> or [www.orotokare.org.nz](http://www.orotokare.org.nz) for more information, images and video from this event.

## 2. Roskill Coffee Project



**The Roskill Coffee Project is a dream come true for my husband Paul, our good friend Rowan and I. We had been dreaming together about a café that offered work experience and employment, that would celebrate and contribute to our local community and also care for**

## **our wider world.**

In conversations with unemployed neighbourhood friends we discovered that most of them wanted to work but did not have the experience, skills or 'desirable' background that employers were looking for – and as a result they struggled to find even entry level positions. We also found that it was hard to find places to connect with others from our community unless you had direct involvement with a natural hub, such as a school.

Coincidentally, Roskill Youth Zone – an Auckland Council community facility – was investigating the possibility of barista training for local young people. Over two years we kept the conversation going and in December 2013 the Roskill Coffee Project opened at Roskill Youth Zone. The Puketapapa Local Board was hugely supportive and funded improvements to the community kitchen that we use. Although working from a shared space can be challenging at times, our partnership with Auckland Council has been integral to getting the Project off the ground.

The work experience element is a three month programme to help young people to gain front of house hospitality experience as well as improving their self-confidence. So far five young people have participated in the programme. Of these, two have been (and one is soon to be) employed by us, another is about to start working in another café and the fifth is currently searching for paid employment.

Any profits that are made from the café will be reinvested into local community development projects. The hope is that this will support sustainable funding for community initiatives rather than being reliant on external funders. A further benefit to the wider community has been the creation of a new local 'bumping place' – to use Jim Diers' terminology. The Project is becoming a hub for local residents as well as others who work and serve in our community to meet one another.

As the impact of our consumption is also something that we are mindful of, we have endeavoured to use as many Fair Trade products as possible. We use Peoples coffee and source our other products ethically. We also want to respect and celebrate the diversity of our neighbourhood. For example, we ensure that the majority of our cabinet items and all of our baking is Halal.

There are still lots of other ideas brewing. To find out more about us and what we are up to, check us out on [Facebook](#) or email us at [connect@roskillcoffeeproject.co.nz](mailto:connect@roskillcoffeeproject.co.nz)

Anashuya Richards

## **3. Social Lab's 'Ales & Nails' initiative.**



**Social Lab are passionate about reducing waste. They want urban New Zealanders to realise the value of wood waste through creativity.**

**Ales & Nails is an event that combines two of Kiwi life's luxuries; good old fashioned DIY and quality craft beer. Social Lab provide the space, tools, designs and materials – attendees bring the enthusiasm and the banter. For the price of a ticket, 'Social Lab-ers' walk away from the experience having had a good time and built a well-designed, usable and sustainable piece of furniture in a space where the vibe is as chilled as the beer.**

Worldwide, people live in a throwaway consumer culture and as a result, an impressive 14% of waste in New Zealand is wood. At any local tip, for example, there are hundreds of used pallets just waiting to be dealt with. If the landfill staff get around to it, the pallets are turned into woodchips. This costs more to the landfill than the pallets are worth – so Social Lab thought something creative needed to be done.

Social Lab has developed a collaborative platform for designers and sponsors to work together toward the cause for environmental sustainability. It's about challenging perceptions toward waste wood amongst their target audience of 18 - 60 year olds living in urban spaces to influence attitudes through an experience, because doing something leads to a change in attitude which, in turn, leads to more changes in behaviours.

To support these changes, the aim is to build a community where urbanites can participate in a fun, focused space while learning to skillfully and effectively use wood. Thus Social Lab created *Ales & Nails*.

Although developed in Wellington, Ales & Nails has been run in Christchurch, Wellington and in Auckland too. These events were made possible by their sponsor, The Amazing Travelling Photobooth whose booths are made out of pre-loved wood. In Auckland the event was held at Unitec Mount Albert in the carpark. The space was kindly organised for us by the Architecture team there. The beer was supplied by West Auckland's Hallertau Brewery and we were proud to be a part of the Ecowest Festival – all in all a very collaborative effort!

While the Ales & Nails experience is still being perfected, the Social Lab crew know that already

they have empowered some urbanites to claim free pallets whenever possible to make really functional (and funky) furniture.

Social Lab are always on the hunt for more like-minded people to join the fray and help with running events in different cities, so if you're interested in finding out more, or you feel you have a skill to offer please email them at: [hello@sociallab.co.nz](mailto:hello@sociallab.co.nz) and have a yarn ( they're good at that). You can also check them out on [Facebook](#)

## 4. Hum Salon and Falling Apple Trust



**Rosy Armitage and a group of volunteers founded Falling Apple Charitable Trust and Hum Salon out of a desire to protect their built heritage and grow local community through a collective manifesto of restoration by creating an active community space to provide an uplifting welcoming creative environment for people to meet and cultivate all things art, cultural and innovative.**

The project is a social enterprise and is for social profit. That means that, “Stakeholders are our priority rather than shareholders. *People before profit!*” says Rosy.

Working with over 45 volunteers including Oska Miettinen, Michael Kean, Ruby Gill and many more alongside NZ business Sponsors like Cotec, Camelspace, Blactree and others, Falling Apple has completed the first stage of external restoration of the beautiful iconic historic villa on the corner of Grafton Bridge and Grafton Road. This work included full deck rebuilds, fixing structural areas, hand carving pillars, and other decorative features as well as a roof uplift.

**So far nearly half a million dollars’ worth of restructuring, repairing and restoration work has been volunteered.**

The restoration work is also supported by the Hum Salon, a volunteer based café operating on a cash-only basis from a hut on the front lawn. It sells the famous-in-Grafton ‘humonade’ as well as the usual café treats and offers relaxed garden and verandah spaces to enjoy.

Visitors can play the piano, have a game of ping-pong, chat on the couches or make use of the huge

meeting table and downstairs rooms, all of which are free to use from 10am till 6pm, 6 days a week. All the proceeds from the café go back into upkeep of the house.

Despite being only partially renovated, the house is already used for community, business and artist meet-ups, poetry events, music workshops, the Auckland photography festival, Art Exhibitions, Community Drawfest events, Creative Collectives and other such activities.

Visitors can make private bookings for evening events and include the backyard which has a traditional kiwi fire pit in it if you desire. Falling Apple will work closely with you to provide the environment you may need to create an enjoyable gathering. They also rent out upstairs rooms as accommodation for those individuals who hold to a similar ethos and wish to have a true kiwi experience; positive, community minded, kind and people conscious.

Sadly, further work is currently on hold until the foundations of the villa are sorted by the landlord but stage two is already planned - this will see decks built out the back of the villa, tiered gardens, a basalt wall, water and fire features, a restaurant, community workshop space and much much more. In the meantime, Hum will be closed until the last week in May. Reopening will coincide with the opening of the Photography Festival and a very special exhibition.

Contact Rosy for more information or if you would like to help the project out in some way at [info@fallingapple.org.nz](mailto:info@fallingapple.org.nz) and please like us on [Facebook](#) to get updates!

## Opportunities coming up soon!

**POP** has [9 different events or activities](#) scheduled in the inner city from April to June 2014. With a mixture of “happenings, things, spectacles, ideas, performances, and experiences” in local neighbourhoods, there is something for everyone! And POP is always on the lookout for new POP Projects. In the next few months they will be putting out a call for submissions for new projects so [join up](#) and let them help you create YOUR idea to make our neighbourhoods inspiring and enjoyable places to live.

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**All Fresco** is a four day boutique Public Art Festival that is focused on the role street art can contribute towards a community. It is a celebration of a creative culture that has a long history with 'K Road' and that has played host to many of the artists currently leading the field within NZ.

**All Fresco** recognises the special nature and traditions of K Road and is viewed as a means to protect the legacy of Auckland's most famous strip by building on the rich history of art, culture and commerce that has preceded it. You can volunteer to be part of or

simply enjoy watching. [More here](#)

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**Provocative Breakfast.** The next provocative breakfast is set for 7.30am to 9.30am on 6 May 2014 at the AMI Netball Centre, 44 Northcote Road, Takapuna, in conjunction with NSCSS.

The focus is on an outcomes related topic: *"Is what you achieve as important as how you achieve it? Why?"*

See below for more details:

info@nscss.org.nz or 094864820 by 30 April 2014 Limited places!', and 'NO EFTPOS! Please bring cash or cheque on the day, thank you!'."/>

**Inspiring Communities**

north shore community & social services

## A Provocative Breakfast Conversation

Outcomes: Is what you achieve more important than how you achieve it? Why?

MC'd by Rod Oram, with conversation from:

- ❖ Jennifer Gill, ASB Trust.
- ❖ Pauline Kingi, Te Puni Kokiri.
- ❖ John McCarthy, The Tindall Foundation, ex-CE Lifewise.

AMI Netball Centre, 44 Northcote Road, Takapuna, Auckland  
6 May 2014, 7.30am to 9.30am  
Cost: \$30 per person, including breakfast.  
RSVP to Ruth at [info@nscss.org.nz](mailto:info@nscss.org.nz) or 094864820 by 30 April 2014 *Limited places!*  
NO EFTPOS! Please bring cash or cheque on the day, thank you!