



## Kia ora from Inspiring Communities

While there's been a lot of genuine concern about the alarming rate of child poverty in New Zealand, it's also timely to reflect that communities also have assets and strengths that often go un-noticed and un-harnessed. This newsletter shares some examples about what gets un-locked when new collaborative relationships are creatively fostered in local neighbourhoods.

Connecting and leveraging from existing community assets and local expertise are also key messages that we shared in a recent [briefing](#) to the Incoming Government prepared jointly with community-led learning partners, Good Cents Porirua, Great Start Taita and Te Ora Hou.

Small, locally-led actions are often the key stepping stones for larger scale change efforts. With that in mind, don't forget to get your entries in for the [Good Neighbourhood Competition](#) launched by Neighbours Day Aotearoa and The Warehouse. There are nine fabulous outdoor fun packs to be won and entries close November 12<sup>th</sup>.

The [NEW Inspiring Communities web site](#) is now 'live'. We hope you enjoy our new look and we'd love to hear what [you think](#) and how we can make it even better!

*Barbara, Denise, David, Peter and Megan from the Inspiring Communities Team*

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# Inspiring Communities News



## The Z-Nail gang

***A film about community, made by community.***

The feature film "The Z-Nail Gang" which was inspired by a community in the Coromandel recently won Trustpower Supreme Community Award for its far-reaching impacts into the community of the Western Bay of Plenty.

Not only is the film ***about*** a community coming together, it was also ***made*** by a community coming together volunteering their talents, resources and creativity towards a shared vision.

[Read more.](#)

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## Neighbourly

### ***Connecting neighbours and promoting community development***

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Many of us want to know our neighbours better but sometimes connecting with them isn't as easy as it used to be.

Neighbourly aims to change that by providing a free, secure, and private online platform for neighbours to connect.

After less than five months and over 50,000 address verified members, the Neighbourly team has seen countless examples of how the tool leads to connections in the 'real world'. Neighbourly's [co-founder](#) Casey Eden says, "*We created Neighbourly as a way to re-engage people in their neighbourhoods. It's a privilege to be a part of inspiring thousands of residents to connect with others in their locality for the very first time.*"

[Read more.....](#)

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## Finding hidden treasure

***How Nelson (and other communities) are discovering hidden treasures.***

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When Nelson resident Marcia Griggs heard about the idea of a community treasure hunt at an Inspiring Communities training workshop she got excited and thought, 'I could do that!'

She's not the only one. More than 20 community treasure hunts have now been held in Kiwi communities. The success of treasure hunts has been hugely assisted by Violence Free Waitakere who have created the [Our Amazing Place](#) website and an online toolkit to

support people wanting to organise their own local events. They also support an online community of ‘treasure hunters’ to ensure resources, ideas and learning is shared and advice is readily at hand!

[Read more.](#)

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## Inspiring Communities Plans.

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With neighbourhood strengthening now identified as a key strategic priority for Inspiring Communities, we’ve been working on an action plan to add-value to change efforts already underway. Built around themes and ideas from stakeholder neighbourhood conversations held during 2014, our Inspiring Neighbourhoods Plan includes a number of collaborative projects that are currently being explored with a range of potential partners and funders. They include:

- New action-research on the role of primary schools as neighbourhood hubs.
  - ‘Neighbourhood Bootcamp’ weekends in mid 2015 to support, grow and connect leaders from diverse NZ neighbourhoods.
  - Inspiring Neighbourhood stories – capturing and communicating practical stories and examples of neighbourhoods leading change throughout NZ.
  - Master-classes to build skills and capacity of those working directly in local neighbourhoods.
  - Revamping neighbourhood focused resources and tools on the Inspiring Communities website.
  - A resource for funders on strengthening neighbourhoods, including matched funding models and case studies of innovative practice and learning.
  - A NZ Neighbourhoods Conference in 2016 to bring together all the various places, agencies, people and initiatives focusing on neighbourhood scale planning and action.
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## Community is the Answer

***A seminar with Margaret Wheatley and three communities sharing the wisdom and capacity of local diverse communities to grow their collective wellbeing.***

*The seminar will*

- Grow your knowledge of the effectiveness of diverse 'community-led' approaches in contributing to positive solutions
- Increase the understanding of the change of paradigm necessary for community led development to flourish.
- Strengthen a network of interested people and agencies keen to practice this approach

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November

**Wellington**

9.00-3.30

James Cook Hotel, 147 The Terrace. Wellington.

Cost: \$155.25 (incl GST) for seminar, lunch and materials.

For further information and bookings

[Email](#)

Margaret Wheatley is proudly sponsored by;



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## About Inspiring Communities

To find out more about Inspiring Communities, our approach to learning, our framework for Community-Led Development, and more, visit: [www.inspiringcommunities.org.nz](http://www.inspiringcommunities.org.nz)

The work of *Inspiring Communities* is currently being supported by The Todd Foundation, Tindall Foundation, Lotteries, ASBCT, Bay Trust, Rotorua Energy Trust, Call Plus, Ideas Shop, Wesley Community Action and many other generous people and organisations who contribute time, skills, meeting spaces and resources to help us grow the recognition, understanding and practice of community-led development in Aotearoa, NZ.

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