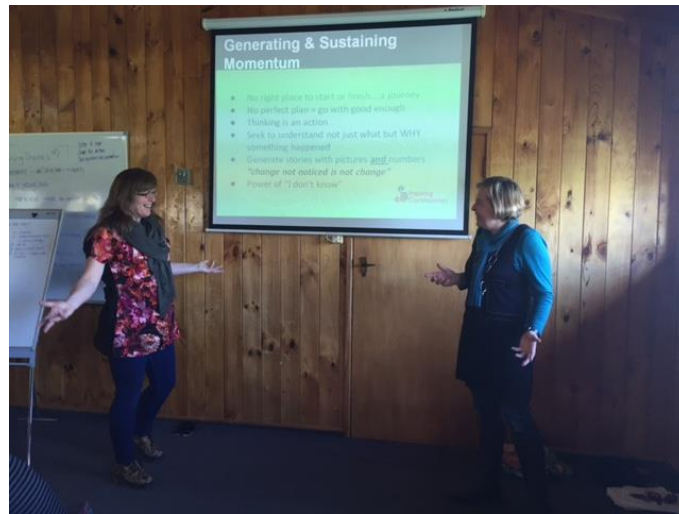


Inspiring Communities October Newsletter



Leadership

We are at our best when we are in the service of those with whom we share joy.

*Pat Snedden - Foreword, Learning by Doing
Inspiring Communities 2013*

Kia ora!

Effective leadership is pivotal to successful community-led development (CLD) and in our experience it often pops up in the most unlikely places.

CLD challenges old assumptions about leadership as a few individual heroes or heroines. It works to see the leader in everyone. Over the last few years, Inspiring Communities has championed the notion of leaderful communities – places where power is distributed and shared, and where diverse contributions from all parts of local communities are actively encouraged, supported and joined up.

In this issue we go deeper into the kinds of leadership that matter, with articles by our valued colleague Margy Jean Malcolm who has studied leadership extensively, we showcase a great new initiative in Christchurch – Leadership in Communities, and we share practical examples of local people leading in Marfell and Kaiwaka.

Leadership is about growing active citizenship and bringing out the best in all of us. When good leaders are nurtured, connected and given the space to grow, the flow-on effects can be exponential. Inspiring Communities places great value on pro-actively building local leadership. We run training programmes that teach theory and share practice. We're also keen to do more to support and mentor local people and collaborations stepping up to effect sustainable change.

Our recent Boost Camp is testament to our commitment and more importantly the commitment of those grass roots leaders who attended. You can read more about what went down at Tatum Park last month below.

We would also like to give you a heads up about an upcoming survey we are doing to help us form and plan our work over the next year.

We aim to send in out in early November so keep an eye on your inbox – your feedback is vital to ensuring we continue to work effectively to support and champion CLD in Aotearoa.

Let us know what you've been seeing so we can promote and share good examples of community-led action with others, email: exchange@inspiringcommunities.org.nz. First though treat yourself - grab a cuppa and get a dose of inspiration - read on.

Barbara, David, Denise, Megan and Rachel from the Inspiring Communities Team



Have you joined 800+ who are now connected to our CLD Learning links new each week on Inspiring Communities facebook?

Inspiring insights

Inaugural Boost Camp a Huge Success!



“My biggest learning was looking for strengths in others, and how these can be knitted together so that everyone is free to grow.”

Boost Camp participant

Working on leadership skills, and the mix of listening and hands on learning were just some of the positive outcomes participants pinpointed after spending two days together at Tatum Park, Levin recently.

A diverse mix of 32 neighbourhood focused people, armed with heaps of passion, came together from lower North Island communities. They brought and traded their knowledge about time banking, community gardening, supporting and connecting local families, creating local hubs, promoting community safety, growing local leaders, sharing local assets, encouraging generosity and transforming local environments.

We learnt from each other and were also inspired by amazing catalyst speakers. Trent Hiles from [Gap Filler](#) reminded us what's possible when you just get on and do things – and then invite people in to use and be part of locally created spaces and places. We also learned from Dave Tims about building and connecting local people and their assets - from the street up - in [Randwick Park](#), Manurewa.

We worked on ourselves, our leadership skills and made plans for what we will do next back in our local communities. And if that wasn't enough, there was a bonfire, a crazy flying fox and Sunday morning site visit with passionate [Waitohu](#) Stream Care Group members at Otaki Beach. Not only was their dune restoration programme impressive, so was their baking! [Read More.](#)

Building blocks to a better education



By Janet Wilson, Principal of Marfell Community School

Our school, Marfell Community School is located in a low socio-economic community in New Plymouth. Some of our families have real poverty and financial challenges. This impacts our students' ability to succeed - a significant proportion of our children are underachieving and their parents are not engaged in their children's learning.

It needs to change, but this is the situation we face, there is no quick fix – change is a long term commitment. But it is an opportunity for our whanau to be inspired to want something different for themselves and their children.

As leaders in this community we have a social responsibility to help provide those opportunities – this means doing it with our whanau not to our whanau. [Read More.](#)

Challenging our assumptions about leadership



By Margy-Jean Malcolm

Enabling the leadership of everyone to grow and flourish is at the core of community-led development. Research with Inspiring Communities in 2011 helped us articulate some new thinking about *leadership as learning* amidst complexity.

An inquiring learner's curiosity is at the heart of what we bring to our CLD leadership practice. We used metaphors of tides, waves and rip-currents to convey how we constantly adapt our responses to an ever-changing sea.

Surfing that sea as learners and leaders we work with paradoxes. Like the ebb and flow of a tide, we are always moving in and out between polarities of what seem like contradictory responses.

We are both strong and vulnerable. We offer decisive answers at times and more often facilitate inquiry with others to find answers and build shared vision together. We help put structures and systems in place and need to be equally comfortable with the messiness of emerging developments.

Leadership in CLD spaces highlights diverse ways of 'doing' leadership, as we listen, observe, learn and adapt. [Read more](#)

How a plan comes together



By Janine Boulton, Kaiwaka Cares

In a small community timing is everything. The same ideas may float to the surface again and again.

What makes the difference is having a person, or people, to take the ideas and keep them alive and from them create a reality. That's what's happening in the small township of Kaiwaka in the gateway to Northland.

A group of like minded citizens were brought together in late 2014 as part of an initiative to improve what Kaiwaka has to offer and how it works with its community. Some members felt called to take up the challenge.

This is how our group, Kaiwaka Cares, was born. [Read more](#)

Thriving incubators of leadership in communities



By Chris Jansen, Leadership Lab

In the 5 years since the earthquakes that rocked Greater Christchurch we have experienced an extreme range of difficult experiences, and an immense and surprising renaissance of grass-roots community connections, initiatives and innovation.

The prolific community level leadership that has emerged post-quake is also very vulnerable to collapse as the good will that has supported these efforts wanes. During 2013 a conversation began that led to a needs analysis and design of the unique LinC (Leadership in Communities) Project that is facilitated by a collective called [Leadership Lab](#).

This project is designed to run for three years involving three cohorts of 40 leaders including community volunteers, small NGO's and government staff who work alongside communities. The focus on the project is acknowledging this community level leadership with a view to supporting and growing their resiliency, skills and roles in their communities.

Each cohort is designed as a leadership incubator where participants connect with likeminded peers, share practices, explore frameworks and grow collaborative projects. The project is currently near the end of cohort 1 with applications being taken until October 23rd for a second cohort of 40 communities.

The following are the emerging design principles that underpin this project and the collaboration that is central to its effectiveness:

Reflection 1: Determined collaboration around a compelling purpose ignites possibilities

Reflection 2: Co-creation and co-design enables both innovation and ownership

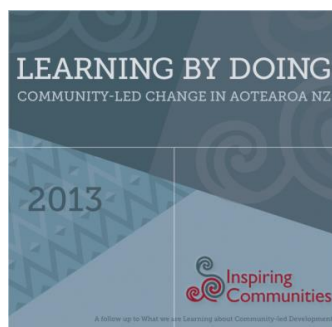
Reflection 3: Focus on growing networks of leadership rather than individuals

Reflection 4: Seeing, feeling, expressing and experiencing is more important than words

Reflection 5: Ripple effects are influential

[Read more](#)

Learning by Doing - Leadership Chapter



Leading in and leaderful communities is a comprehensive chapter from Inspiring Communities Learning By Doing publication.

It discusses the kinds of leadership that are critical for effective CLD, the concept of leaderful communities and talks about the rise of active citizenship - Everyone is a Leader.

[Download the full chapter from our website.](#)

You can also take the opportunity to accelerate your knowledge by purchasing a copy of [Learning by doing](#).

Events and Training Opportunities

Bank of IDEAS founder Peter Kenyon Workshop

Date: Wednesday 18 Nov 2015

Time: 9am-4pm

Venue: Burns Hall, First Church Dunedin.

A one day community development workshop for people passionate about social change, this is an opportunity to hear new ways to lead, engage, and transform communities.

Peter Kenyon is a social capitalist and community enthusiast. Over the last three decades he has worked with over 1600 communities throughout Australia and overseas seeking to facilitate fresh and creative ways that stimulate community and economic renewal. He is motivated by the desire to create healthy, caring, inclusive, sustainable and enterprising communities and local economies.

Peter is convinced that one cannot develop communities from the top down or from the outside in. It requires communities to build from the inside out, and for their members to invest themselves, ideas, assets and resources in the process.

Peter created the Bank of I.D.E.A.S. (Initiatives for the Development of Enterprising Action and Strategies) to promote such a paradigm shift and assist with the necessary facilitation, ideas and skills. For more information <http://bankofideas.com.au/>

You can register for this event at: <http://tinyurl.com/pqd4aut>

Imagine Better Assemblies

Connections, Community, Citizenship: How can we increase our community connections and gain the most value from them?

Guest speaker: Margaret Wheatley.

Facilitators: Jeder Institute, Future by Design and ImagineBetter.

Sponsored by: Think Differently and Te Pou.

ImagineBetter's annual conference will be run in a new way this year. Two-day events, called Assemblies, will be held in Auckland, Wellington and, for the first time, Christchurch. These events will feature group discussions, rather than traditional presentations, offering an interactive learning experience.

Local leaders, disabled people, family members, professionals and volunteers will share their ideas and experiences through activities that focus on the theme: "Connections, Community, Citizenship".

Each person will have the opportunity to raise topics for discussion and will leave with the skills and confidence to increase their networks and benefit from closer ties with their community.

Auckland: 9 & 10 November

Wellington: 12 & 13 November

Christchurch: 16 & 17 November

Detailed information about these assemblies can we found at

http://www.imaginebetter.co.nz/event_details/p/96/c/57/ImagineBetter%20Assemblies%202015