



LOOKING BACK TO MOVE FORWARD

Thoughts on taking a community-led
development approach in Aotearoa

FROM: Mangakino, Mt Roskill,
North-East Valley & Whirinaki



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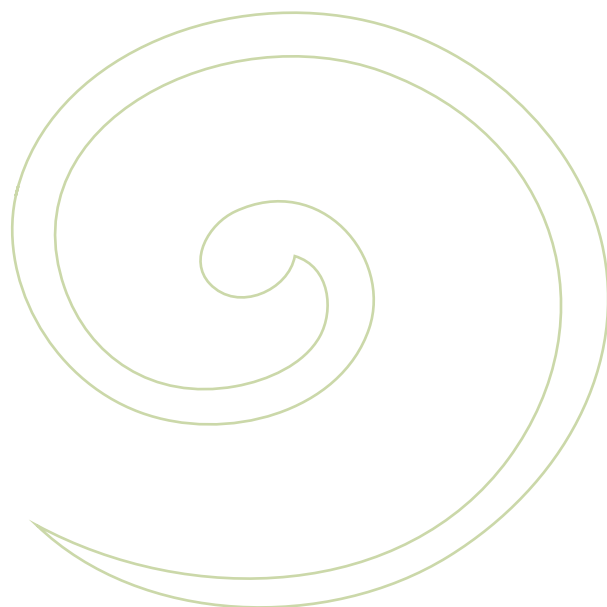
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The Department of Internal Affairs commitment to community-led development came from the determination of the then Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, Tariana Turia. Here she shares her thoughts – particularly in relation to a place dear to her heart: Mangakino.



Kupu whakataki Foreword: Hon Dame Tariana Turia

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**Tipu ai au i te kākano
Ka rapu mātauranga ki a mau
Hei manaaki, me te whakanui
Rātou e manaakohia
Ana te mātauranga**

**From a seed I grow
To pursue knowledge
To grasp knowledge
To nurture and empower
Those who seek knowledge**

I have always had a real love for Mangakino. There is something so inspiring about a community which has fared for itself, grown its own champions, created its own transformation.

In 2011, in my former role as Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, I was frequently shuffling papers on my desk which reported about the plethora of agencies based in some of our rural communities, begging the question as to 'what worked'?

But with Mangakino there was something different.

A community of families that had could achieve a turnaround in their situation simply by placing faith in one another. And so when it came time to identifying pilots for community led development, Mangakino seemed a logical contender.

The funding would be an investment in enduring, integrated change rather than money for isolated projects and activities. What we all know now from Whānau Ora is that the top-down approach, in which residents are passive recipients of services is not successful in addressing local needs, sustainable, or effective in achieving ownership.

This is about revitalising the spirit of a 'can-do community'. Mangakino and Whakamaru are literally on the map. Economic development has been a focus, as has tourism. You can't pass through the area now without

being dazzled by the new highway signage. There's a vibrant café culture; skills growth and industry training is helping create a wider range of options particularly for the young people and now there is even a new 'Heritage Trail' to attract visitors and locals to walk the river trails, hop on a bike, or spend some time at the new skate park designed and funded by their own rangatahi.

I'm so thrilled that what started out as a pilot project in community led development has turned out to mobilise Mangakino into a truly inspiring community. The key for me is in enabling the seed that was planted six years ago to flourish, to grow and for its transformative potential to be spread across Aotearoa and beyond.

**Ka tū kaha, ka tū māia ka
hīkoi kotahi ai**

**Stand strong, be brave and
journey as one**