ALL SAINTS BURWOOD,
ŌTAUTAHI CHRISTCHURCH

10 - 11 MARCH
2027

Hapori Aotearoa

People, place and practice



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Hapori Aotearoa 2027 brings together community practitioners, grassroots leaders, changemakers, local government kaimahi, and funders from across the motu. Grounded in people, place and practice the conference offers a welcoming space to reflect on where we have come from, share practical know-how, and weave a collective vision for community-led change.

THEMES

LOCAL WISDOM

A space for local knowledge, experience and practical wisdom held within communities. Hear about what has worked, what hasn't, and what they've learned along the way, including practical approaches, tools and ideas you can take back to your own mahi.

CREATIVE COMMUNITY

Creativity helps communities connect, imagine and act. Through storytelling, arts, performance and creative practice, this stream explores how creativity can strengthen relationships, invite participation and help communities turn ideas into action.

TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

Explores systems change informed by local experience, including how we can decolonise existing structures, foster collective wellbeing, address systemic trauma and create pathways towards a future grounded in Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

PRESENTED BY

Inspiring Communities

SEWN
SOCIAL EQUITY & WELLBEING NETWORK

Christchurch City Council

FROM THE GROUND UP: COMMUNITY BUILDING AND NATION BUILDING

8:00 - 9:00AM **ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION**

Mihi whakatau
Welcome led by MCs Cissy Rock and Solomona Davis

OPENING PLENARY:

Rebuilding the muscle: Social cohesion and a shared horizon

Dr Eruera Prendergast-Tarena
Kaihautū / Executive Director, Tokona te Raki: Māori Futures Collective

Trust is wearing thin, and good ideas rarely outlast the next funding round. Dr Eruera Tarena explores how communities can rebuild social cohesion by growing a shared capability to talk across difference and solve problems together, with 2040 as a shared horizon: far enough away to look beyond the next cycle, close enough to plan for together.

BREAKOUT 1: CHARTING A COURSE FOR AOTEAROA

Te Tiriti-responsive communities

Moko Morris and Gwyn John
Inspiring Communities

Mō Āpōpō future-makers

Briana Te Haara-Barr
Ngāti Māhaki, Poutini Kāi Tahu, Tokona Te Raki

Working collectively for community voice, local action and lasting impact

Ceri Macleod
Gore District Council / Former Manager, Hokonui Community-Led Health

Tukutuku taonga tuku iho – Strengthening mātauranga Māori through traditional Māori arts

Ariana Sheehan and Dr Maree Sheehan
Te Manawahoukura, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa

MORNING TEA

Ka mua, ka muri: Honouring our past, shaping our future

Mary-Jane Rivers, ONZM
Founding Chair, Inspiring Communities
Aaron Hawkins
Director, Inspiring Communities

A reflective conversation tracing the whakapapa and lived history of community-led development across Aotearoa. From the hollowing out of local communities in the 1990s, Mary-Jane and Aaron explore how neighbourhoods and towns responded by asserting themselves. Does a place-based lens still matter? What role can this work play in forging a stronger, bicultural future for Aotearoa? And what can the past teach us about confronting today's challenges?

BREAKOUT 2: ŌTAUTAHI STORIES

Championing our Pacific communities through arts, events and music

Tanya Muagututi'a and Josephine Mavaega
Pacific Underground

Social cohesion in action: Local community organising

Holly Griffin
InCommon
Noraini Abbas Milne
Sow a Lyttel Seed
Atarau Hamilton-Fuller
Tāhono Trust Inclusive Communities

Leadership Lab TBC

What we learn from each other

Helen Gatonyi and Ken Clearwater

LUNCH

After lunch energiser led by MCs Cissy Rock and Solomona Davis

BREAKOUT 3: GRASSROOTS CHANGE ACROSS THE MOTU

Co-design and community-led development in Tāmaki Makaurau's densest neighbourhood: Successful frameworks and tools

Denise Bijoux
Catalyse

Marae, manaakitanga and making sure no one is left behind

Teina Boyd and Kororia Webster
Tauranga City Council

Supporting taiohi voice, agency and leadership in climate: The Porirua Assembly experience

Conor Twyford
Future Unity Auntie, Porirua Assembly

The hard parts come after the 'yes': Lessons from the messy middle

Rachel Moffitt and Phoebe Quinlivan
Tapawera Connect

COMMUNITY TOUR

Riverlution Eco Park

Morgane Honorē
Community & Purpose, Richmond Community Garden

Growing food and community on red zone land
Explore how post-earthquake red zone land along the Ōtākaro Avon River has been transformed into a thriving community-led space. Visit the food forest, Fungi Farm, community gardens, Repair Café, Tool Lendery, Precious Plastic workshop and Riverlution Café.

PLENARY WRAP-UP:

Across generations:
An intergenerational panel conversation between community changemakers
TBC

Day 1 reflections led by MCs Cissy Rock and Solomona Davis

5:00 - 7:00PM **NETWORKING FUNCTION**

Share kai and kōrero

An informal, welcoming evening of whakawhanaungatanga, kai and celebration. Kai provided by our community catering partner Share Kai Cooks Collective.

DAY 2: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM | THURSDAY 11 MARCH 2027

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS FOR BIG PROBLEMS

8:00 - 9:00AM **ARRIVAL AND NETWORKING**

Welcome to Day 2 led by MCs Cissy Rock and Solomona Davis

OPENING PLENARY:

The power of connection: How relationships heal broken systems

Dr Nicola Atwool
Independent Researcher, Educator and Practitioner

When systems fracture, relationships are the key to repair. An exploration of how trauma-responsive practice and everyday communities of care create the safety, connection, and local solutions needed for collective healing across our hapori.

BREAKOUT 4: RESOURCING SYSTEMS CHANGE AND GETTING IT DONE

Funders panel: How do funders make life easier for communities?

Lani Evans (convenor)
Fundsorter

Leonie Matoe
Rātā Foundation

Trish Given
The Gift Trust / The Gift Collective

Christchurch City Council Community Team

Locally led, collectively enabled: Aligning physical activity and sport systems for community-led change

Junior Armstrong
Sport NZ Ihi Aotearoa

Lesley Wallace
Sport Northland

Goodhue-Wikitera
Ahipara Aroha Inc

Can we call ourselves community-led if young people aren't in the conversation?

Hattie Logan and Aiza Mustasam
Tautoko Mai / Hikitia!

Mobilising the music and entertainment community to lead the primary prevention of sexual and family violence

Rachel Axis-Taane
The Bassline Collective / Tautoko Mai

MORNING TEA

BREAKOUT 5: WHĀNAU-LED WELLBEING – FOSTERING COLLECTIVE CARE

What it takes: Back-boning community-led action

Makerita Makapelu and David Hanna
Te Hiko – Wesley Community Action

Pōkarekare Ana: Reclaiming whānau-led end-of-life care

Lyn Walmsley and Ruth Gerzon, MNZM
Te Atawhai Aroha Compassionate Communities Rotorua Trust

Tautua in action: Pacific mātua leading community change

Romana Fetu
360 Tautua Trust

TBC

COMMUNITY TOUR

New Brighton van tour

Hosted by Methodist Mission New Brighton Team

A guided visit to New Brighton visiting interconnected neighbourhood projects, the Methodist Mission Community Centre and Blanket Bank, illustrating everyday mutual aid and community resilience. See the new Village Green, a coastal community hub designed around connection.

MIDDAY PLENARY:

Creating communities of radical pluralism: Belonging, community power and democracy in divided times

Anna Powell
CEO, Collaboration for Impact / CFI

Anna invites us to rethink belonging and consider how conventional approaches to social change can reinforce divisions. Drawing on Australian community experiences, including First Nations nation rebuilding and local energy transitions, she explores radical pluralism as a pathway to building communities where people can belong, flourish and act collectively despite differing identities, values and views.

LUNCH

After lunch energiser led by MCs Cissy Rock and Solomona Davis

AFTERNOON PLENARY:

Getting creative with the Master's House

Jo Randerson, ONZM
Founder and Artistic Director, Barbarian Productions / Vogelmorn Community Hub

How working with the arts can power up change-making, including examples of creative change projects from Aotearoa. Jo will also share from their experience how to work with creatives to make affecting, impactful social change in local communities.

BREAKOUT 6: CREATIVE COMMUNITIES

From creativity to connection: How Auahatanga ki te Kainga fostered belonging, social cohesion and community transformation

Dr Aimee Anderson-O'Connor
Creative Waikato

Holly Snape
Community Waikato

Accessibility as community building workshop

Richard Benge
Arts Access Aotearoa

Open space unconference

A participant-led open space offering dedicated, self-directed time for attendees to dive into emergent questions, practical puzzles, and conversations arising across the two days.

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COMMUNITY TOUR

Youth Hub Christchurch
Hosted by the Youth Hub Team

A site visit exploring Te Hurihanga ō Rangitahi and its 15-agency partnership supporting young people. The tour showcases facilities including transitional housing for 22 rangatahi, medical and counselling spaces, drop-in and recreational areas, while sharing a collaborative vision for youth-led wellbeing in Christchurch.

CLOSING SESSION

Community insights workshop

A whole-of-room facilitated reflection led by MCs Cissy Rock and Solomona Davis, weaving together the insights, relationships, and practical commitments made over the two days.

POROPOROAKI AND CLOSING

Programme subject to change. Session times and room allocations will be confirmed closer to the event.