

Elected Members

Training and Conference/workshop Attendance report

Report to Community Board	Te Hiku Community Board
Member Name:	Adele Gardner – Chair Te Hiku Community Board
Subdivision:	Kaitaia
Date of Report:	28 April 2019
Name and date of Conference	11 – 13 th April 2019

It was my pleasure to represent the Far North District Council at the Community Board Conference in New Plymouth 11-13th April 2019

There were approximately 200 registered people from Community Boards, Councillors, Mayors and staff from various Councils. Upon registering on the Thursday evening it was into meeting, greeting and networking.

The Conference began on Friday morning and the general message this conference portrayed throughout was ensuring that the Youth are engaged and the youth voice is being heard. There were a diverse range of speakers who shared their wide and varied range of experiences, knowledge, advice and thoughts.

Darren Pratley who has over 25 years experience in marketing, branding, operational management, governance and systems implementation. Darren's message was looking forward, encouraging youth and talent.

Puna Wano-Bryant & Wharehoka Wano led a workshop (I attended) on Engaging with the Maori Community. Puna who was the Chairperson of the Parihaka Papakainga Trust and she lead their unique and unprecedented out-of-settlement reconciliation process with the Crown in 2017. She believes to build a community you need a heart for unity and doing so be compassionate to others but most importantly to yourself. Wharehoka is currently the CEO of Te Kahui o Taranaki Iwi, in is involved with a number of other organisations at a high level. He is committed to ensuring the voices of Te Atiawa pahake, taiohhi and mokopuna are heard and also has a passion for educational, cultural and te reo aspirations. Their message was to engage Maori in the decision-making process.

Sean Zeiltjes – who is leading the Taranaki Mouna Project. This project is a landscape scale ecological restoration project working to bring the mountains, ranges and islands back to life. The project area is 34,000ha of alpine, forest and coastal environment and it is about working with others in the region including the Kaitake

Community Board to inspire Taranaki Communities to pick up the challenge and create a step change in biodiversity restoration. Sean is making sure that they are on target to secure the Mouna from predators and weeds, and then restore species to it, revitalising the ecology across the landscape. This project is in its third year and is expected to take 10 years, he sees this as a lifetime opportunity for the community to restore ecosystems and are sustained in the long term promoting involvement and ownership by the iwi and the community. A great project that could have some merit in the Far North District.

Sarah Colcord – won her local body elections in 2016 and represents Manurewa Local Board. Sarah is the co-founder of the Auckland Youth Voice – a network that supports the development of Youth Voice groups/Councils in Auckland. She also voluntarily supports the Manurewa Youth Council within her capacity as a Youth Worker. Sarah's strong desire is to connect, support and empower the young people of Aotearoa and to ensure they are part of the decision-making process. Perhaps Sarah could be engaged to promote our Youth in the Far North District.

Malcolm Alexander – the CEO of Local Government New Zealand and Dave Cull who is the President of LGNZ both gave inspiring speeches. Both addresses were around ensuring the Youth are included in the decision-making process.

Shay Wright – founder of two social enterprises – Te Whare Hukahuka and Nuku Ltd. Shay established Teach First NZ, is a member of several Government Advisory Boards, a speaker, strategist and futurist. His leadership is around connection between entrepreneurship and community, strategies to grow youth leadership in our communities and how indigenous concepts can help to reshape our relationships. Shay was a very dynamic speaker and would be helpful for our Youth Groups in the Far North District.

Dr Natalie Jackson – has a PhD in Demography and Bachelor and Masters degree in Social Science. Natalie's address was on 'The implications of our ageing population'. Natalie's focus today is on regional population ageing, the subnational ending of the population growth, and the consequences of these trends for all levels of government, the labour market, the welfare state, education and health care policy, housing and business in general. This work depends on the accuracy of the Census figures.

Noa Woolloff – who is employed working for the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs. Noa spoke mainly about his experience being a young person today (he is 20 years old) and the complex challenges that are facing his generation. In his work he is aiming for zero youth unemployment.

Dr Mike Reid – Principal Policy Advisor at LGNZ – being the last speaker to wind up the Conference. Mike has worked with LGNZ since 1996 and has been involved in the review of local government's core legislation since that date. He also provides governance advice to elected members and officials.

Although Community Boards have to follow Local Government legislation on how they operate, I found that some Community Boards operated differently to others. We all had the same philosophy, that we all enjoyed working with our communities and making it a better place for future generations.

Overall the young people who spoke were absolutely inspiring and are our future leaders, we must encourage and engage them in all levels of decision-making.

Whangaroa-Bay of Islands Community Board won an award, being the Peoples Choice Award for the development of the Kaeo Playground.

Thank you for the great opportunity to attend this conference.