

## Community boards conference 2019

Devon Hotel;  
New Plymouth  
April 11-13

### Community board best practice awards

The New Zealand Community Board Conference is held every two years and each conference recognises the work of community boards through the best practice awards programme. There are three categories of awards:

#### **Leadership**

Awarded to a community board which has, exercised its leadership mandate, made an improvement to its community.

#### **Enhancing Communities**

Awarded for a project, programme or initiative which has been funded, commissioned and/or led by a community board which has enhanced the quality of life and/or environment of their community.

#### **Engaging Communities**

Awarded for a project or initiative in which a community Board has taken an innovative approach to consultation and engagement.

In addition there is a Peoples' Choice Winner, selected by delegates at the conference, and a Supreme Winner, selected from the category winners by the judges.

## Entries and winners for 2019

### **Hanmer Springs Community Board**

Combined Reserves and Conical hill Reserve Landscape Concept Plan Consultation

The Hanmer Community Board consulted with its community and a sample of visitors to get feedback on the development of a landscape plan for the Combined and Conical Hill reserves. An array of interactive and cost-effective consultation methods was used such as:

- An interactive website allowing people to vote on various options
- Interviews with people using the reserves
- Use of the Hurunui District Council's website and Facebook page
- A gazebo at the Saturday morning market in Hanmer and at the local Village Green.

### **Waipuna/Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board**

Halswell Junior Council

**Winner:** *engagement category*

The Halswell Junior Council was supported by the Waipuna/Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Board as an opportunity to teach civics amongst young people but has gone far beyond that with some great community projects. The Junior Council group identified and discussed issues that were relevant to them and, over a period of a year, identified solutions and proposed three projects that they could initiate themselves.

The projects included making a deputation to the Christchurch City Council about traffic speed and safety from a child's perspective; addressing a child safety outside of Aidanfield School; and creating a clean plastic-free environment in a local park.

Specifically, members of the Junior Council worked alongside staff from the Christchurch City Council to identify alternative routes to Aidanfield School, suggesting that a neighbouring local park carpark could be used by parents to park and then creating a walkway to the school. This initiative 'Project Park and Strive' is currently underway.

### **Inglewood Community Board**

#### Jubilee Park Redevelopment

The Council and Board members engaged with the Inglewood Community to redevelop its "tired" Jubilee Park into a "Destination playground" that was accessible to people of all ages and abilities. An initial Community meeting was held from which a local company agreed to help keep the costs down on items in the playground. Those involved included:

- Local skateboarders assisted in designing a skatepark that would offer something different from other local skateparks in the District, but would also fit the brief of being accessible for all ages.
- Pre-Schoolers and Primary School students' surveys were undertaken that were specifically aimed at the various ages.
- The Community were well engaged with this process and many ideas and feedback were implemented along the way

Surveys were offered through various online channels i.e. facebook, Council website to ensure that the Community were given as many opportunities to engage with the process

### **Te Awamutu Community Board**

#### Electronic Waste Day

In partnership with the Waipa District Council the community board organised an electronic waste (ewaste) collection day (3 march 2018) for people in the area. The day was designed to dispose of ewaste, provide an opportunity for residents to be environmentally responsible and provide the community board with greater exposure.

The day was more successful than expected with 19 tonnes of ewaste collected within four hours. The success has resulted in a decision by the board to launch a battery recycling depot and a decision to provide the service on a biannual basis with the Cambridge community board.

### **Cambridge Community Board**

#### Restoration of the 1942 Aviation Reserve 9 Secret Fuel Depot

The Cambridge Community Board restored a WW2 secret aviation fuel depot in the heart of Cambridge, regaining a piece of town history and enhancing the community's historical and heritage value.

The project started when the dilapidated state of an underground bunker was brought to the board's attention in 2017. Little was known of the purpose of the bunker but after research by the board it was discovered the bunker had been a pump house and entrance to a tunnel into the hill. Fuel in a 600,000 gallon fuel tank at the top of the hill was pumped through the tunnel out to the pump house and down the hill to trucks which transported the fuel to RNZAF sites.

With the support of local businesses, the Council's Parks and Reserves department, and local schools the depot was restored as a heritage site and opened for visitors in September 2018.

### **Raglan Community board**

Raglan Naturally – revitalising the community plan

Created in 2001 by the community as a shared vision of Raglan's future, Raglan Naturally community plan was designed to be a living document to guide and manage growth and development while protecting and enhancing Raglan's unique character.

Supported by the community board the Raglan Naturally Committee has undertaken a comprehensive engagement process, involving focus groups, hui and workshops to identify the community's vision for its future. The project has engaged with all parts of the Raglan community from tangata whenua to young people and involving all sectors, from housing to the environment and tourism.

### **Whanganui Rural Community Board**

**Winner Leadership category**

Rural Crime Prevention

Protecting people, property and other critical assets from criminal activity has been an increasing concern for rural communities and after the Wanganui Rural Community Board learned of rural property owners installing private security cameras to mitigate rural offending it made advocating for rural security and safety a primary strategic focus.

In collaboration with the Police the appropriate camera was selected and the board worked with Inspire Net to identify security weak spots in the rural roading network. Funding was found through the council's annual plan process and from independent donors and a subsidy provided to reduce the cost of cameras to rural residents.

Fundraising efforts have brought rural communities together and strengthened neighbourhood support. Contributions of both financial and manual labour (such as digging postholes) were willingly provided. The requirement for internet access has had the additional benefit of increasing rural broadband coverage in the District.

### **Cambridge Community Board**

**Winner Enhancing Communities category**

Armistice in Cambridge 2018

Supreme Winner

Cambridge is a sister city with Le Quesnay in France, which saw one of the last actions by NZ troops at the end of WW1, in which they liberated the town, which involved climbing over the historic walls. The board began planning in 2015 to mark Armistice Day jointly with the town of Le Quesnay with plans made to hold a light show in front of the Cambridge town hall, an art exhibition telling the story of WW1, large picture boards for the town plaza and a sculpture marking the liberation of the town in France.

The Cambridge quilting group made a display for the Hotel de Ville in Le Quesnay and the local brass band also travelled to France to take part in the town's armistice celebrations. There was an exchange of visitors from Cambridge and Le Quesnay. The event was extremely successful with hundreds of local residents taking part.

### **Bay of Islands Community Board**

**Winner Peoples' Choice category**

Small town, big spirit community uplift

The objective was to turn a dysfunctional recreation area into something that the town of Kaeo could be proud of. Not only did the playground need new equipment but the public toilets were in a bad state of dis-repair and there was a lack of facilities for families. Although the council had no budget for the project the board worked with the Whangaroa Community Trust which led both the fund-raising effort and the extensive involvement of community groups and local volunteers.

The outcome has been an amenity that is used by children of all ages and attracts tourists attracted by the murals on the toilet block. The Nga Purapura kids' festival in 2018 provided a range of activities and attracted more than 500 children.

### **Martinborough Community board**

Te Waihinga Centre

After the Martinborough Town Hall was designated Earthquake Prone in 2010 the decision was made not only to strengthen the hall but to develop it into a community hub, bringing multiple community services under one roof and revitalising the town hall as a performance and event space and incorporating the Library, Toy Library, Plunket, i-Site and Café. Funding came from multiple sources including the council, community board and fundraising efforts.

MCB championed this project, playing a crucial role, with representation on the working parties, steering group, communications team and construction team as well as the Charitable Trust (fundraising), helping with community engagement, funding and advocacy to the South Wairarapa District Council during the approval process. It opened in December 2018.