

MAYORS TASKFORCE

FOR JOBS

www.mayorstaskforceforjobs.co.nz

NEWSLETTER MAY 2009



SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Back Row (left to right) Mayors Gary McPhee, Brendan Duffy, Malcolm Macpherson and Jenny Brash, Hon Paula Bennett, Mayor Maureen Reynolds, Hon Anne Tolley, Mayors Penny Webster and Dale Williams

Front Row (left to right) Mayors Alistair Sowman, Frana Cardno and Jono Naylor, Hon Gerry Brownlee and Hon Tariana Turia

Taskforce Core Group Mayors signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Government on the 28th April 2009. Ministers Anne Tolley, Paula Bennett, Gerry Brownlee and Tariana Turia all attended the meeting. The MoU focuses on the intent of the Taskforce and the Government to work together on areas of common interest. At this time the core area of common interest is maximising local employment opportunities for young people and ensuring their successful transitions to education, training or employment.

Minister Bennett stated that the Government's focus is on jobs and young people.

However, in acknowledging the current economic situation and the request from the Job Summit, the Taskforce agreed to widen the focus to:

- Assisting communities that are disproportionately affected by the recession and
- Responding to local employment shocks as a result of the recession

Ministers acknowledged the status of Mayors in their communities and the need to widen the opportunities for young people. Minister Brownlee particularly saw the importance of local authorities and their role in communities to ensure local economic development saved jobs and grew the economy. He noted that where the local authority decides to have a role and to develop the local economy, significant progress is made. Small local programmes could also have a positive effect and local solutions were invariably the best approach.

Taskforce Chair Dale Williams said "the Taskforce is clearly on the same page as the Government – our key focus is ensuring opportunities for young people in our communities and providing local solutions to local problems. Mayors know their communities and are in a key role to facilitate action."

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

What a start to 2009! We hit the ground running with the Job Summit and haven't stopped since. With my participation in the Job Summit a range of ideas and actions have been developed. The Taskforce has been heavily involved in discussion with a variety of partners about progressing the ideas, which fit with our goals.

As you will see later in this Newsletter, Core Group Mayors have agreed to facilitate action on these priorities and will be reporting back to Government within a month and I am involved with a number of private sector initiatives which I am sure will bear fruit before the end of the year.

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Government means we will be working with officials to deliver at the local level. An action plan will be developed to sit alongside the MoU and will contain practical activities which can be delivered at the local level. In addition, we have developed our own strategies, which will be published with the annual report and ready to be actioned in July.

Along with Jan Francis, our Executive Officer, I have been meeting all our partners to renew the relationship and develop common areas of action in the current economic climate. We have enormous support from all players in the employment and economic development fields and are seen as having a clear role to play in facilitating local solutions to issues in our communities.

Young people remain our focus – the job is not finished and we must continue our commitment to transitions into our communities. Youth unemployment has begun to rise again and it is crucial that we retain our vision that:

“Every school leaver has the support to connect to opportunities within their own community.”

We must ensure that we develop skills and retain young people in our communities. We will need a highly skilled, flexible and dynamic workforce in the future. Our commitment to young people now will facilitate that. As Mayors and Councils we have a responsibility to these young people and need to maintain levels of funding to programmes, projects and staff that can make things happen.

We are doing just that as you will see further in this Newsletter with some fantastic projects championed by Mayors and building on the success of last year's Youth Week with twice the number of Councils taking advantage of the Taskforce funding this year. I look forward to seeing the publication of these wonderful projects after the event.

The widening of the focus from the Job Summit to working in communities disproportionately affected by the recession means we can work with whole communities, not just youth and on wider projects affecting local economic development, if needed.

We are in new times with insecurity around what will happen next on the global stage but I am certain with the commitment of Mayors and local authorities we will be in a great position to take up the challenges and reward our innovative and strategic projects.



Mayor Dale Williams
Chair
Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

MAYOR'S PROFILE

Southland District Council Mayor Frana Cardno is a woman who wears many different hats – Mayor, lobbyist, advocate, spokesperson, businesswoman, mother and wife – all with perfect poise and ease. Her involvement in local body politics began in 1980 and she is a strong supporter of local involvement in the way communities are managed with a particular focus on the need of Southland District's youth.

“Youth are our future. We must ensure they have a place and a voice.”

SOUTHLAND DISTRICT YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

Led by Frana's passion for the young people in her area, Southland District has developed a reputation for fostering exciting initiatives for its young people. The most recent initiative is the Southland District Youth Ambassador Programme to support skilled young Southlanders to act as ambassadors for Southland and develop a close liaison with other Youth Ambassadors. The programme offers young people the opportunity to contribute to the region's development while at the same time learning about other communities. The Youth Ambassadors work with various agencies in a broad range of areas including health, environment, rural development, gender, governance, justice, education and infrastructure development and uses their skills and expertise to actively contribute to community and economic development.

The programme was designed to foster the development of the Southland District Council Youth Council and support the implementation of youth led initiatives and the achievement of the Taskforce Youth Goal **“that all young people under 25 years will be in paid work or education, or in useful activities in our communities.”** Consistent with the Southland District Council Guiding Principle of People First, this Mayors Taskforce Programme is based on the following principles:

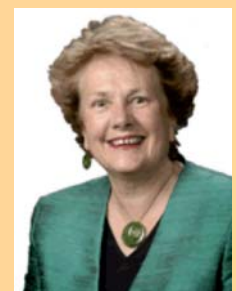
- Develop and increase their skills and qualifications appropriate to demand
- Become actively involved in their community and with community groups
- Support community engagement, enterprise and employment opportunities for Southland youth
- Support the retention of young people in the Southland District
- Develop youth pride in Southland and foster and promote career advancement opportunities in areas of need
- Acknowledge the various challenges facing Southland youth with the vast geographic spread of the region and its rural focus
- Encourage innovation and youth initiatives to foster social, economic and environmental sustainability in Southland's communities.

The present Youth Ambassador is Kristy Duncan, a born and bred Southlander, who has a fantastic passion and enthusiasm for the region, and is particularly interested in supporting the youth of Southland and developing opportunities for the young people in the district. She is keen to be involved in as many things around the region as she can and has also been talking to a local police officer about introducing a holiday camp for local 'twens' (those youth who are too old for the school holiday programmes, but too young for full time jobs) – similar to previous Blue Light camps and the current A.L.I.V.E. programme.

A.L.I.V.E. PROGRAMME (A Lifelong Inspiring Vital Experience)

The A.L.I.V.E. programmes targets young people between 16-24 who can't see any future in what they are doing right now or just need a kick start in life. They get to experience Abseiling; Kayaking; Rock Climbing; Caving; Tramping; Team Work and Personal Development. Following the outdoor component, they are mentored and supported for up to 12 weeks with personal development, further education and employment support. The programme also teaches them valuable life skills in Cooking; Leadership; Healthy living; Budgeting; Goal Setting and that's just for starters. Over the ten years it has been operating, it has an 80% success rate helping young people into jobs or further training.

“The Mayoralty has taken me to places and enabled me to meet people and learn so much about the world and how it affects Southland. Being Mayor has also allowed me to work in areas of specific personal interest such as Women's Affairs, Health and Education. I believe that being so involved in community activities and local government politics while still being a successful mother and wife has developed my communication skills, people skills, and especially my ability to manage time. I enjoy my people and communities and feel our best investment is in grass roots democracy.”



Mayor Frana Cardno
Southland District

WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL – Mayor Alex Familton “Youth Short Film Making Project”

The Youth Short Film Making Project aims to give young people in the Waitaki community the opportunity to explore their community through their own experiences and perspectives using the medium of film, and allow them the opportunity to reflect on their place in the community, their concerns and ambitions.



Film-maker Eric Shepherd with Alex Mabon (12) and Emma Cullimore (12), who are part of a team making visual submissions on Waitaki District Council's LTCCP

The finished short films, which give young people the opportunity to make a visual presentation of submissions of the LTCCP, will be viewed by the wider community at a public film showing. Playing the films at various proposed Council events, such as the planned public debate evening in the Oamaru Opera House and the Youth Council hosted Youth Forum, will help identify young peoples' issues regarding the Long Term Council Community Plan, recognising that young people in our communities inherit the decisions made today.

WAITAKI RESOURCE RECOVERY PARK

A film concerning the future of the Waitaki Resource Recovery Park



Project of Alex, Emma and Chris

“Hi, I’m Emma and I like playing guitar, athletics, soccer, basketball, touch, tackle rugby and swimming. I enjoy drawing all sorts of things. I hope to learn new skills from doing this project like how to make a movie.”

The 12 workshop course will teach a wide range of skills needed to make a short film; provide young people with the opportunity to explore their identity; increase their opportunities to participate in the decision making process via interactive and age appropriate mechanisms; engage a range of young people who usually do not get exposed to or participate in extra curricular activities to do so and provide some practical skills that could benefit their employment opportunities in the future.

"Hi, I'm Gabe and I am 12 years old. I enjoy drawing, sport, and hanging out with friends. The reason I decided to do this course is because a friend and I have a fantastic idea for a short film, but we had no idea how to do it. I found out some of the basics via the internet but was still not confident enough to film. This course is a great opportunity for me to get hands on with a camera and not just learn the basics but do the basics."

The young people are drawn from local schools, Waitaki Training, Aoraki Polytechnic with specific youth groups e.g. Ground Zero, Church run groups and sub-culture groups such as Skaters directly approached to allow a wide cross section of youth voice. Through a series of weekend workshops on short film making, up to 20 young people will complete the short film in small groups or as individuals. Each group will learn development of idea; scripting; storyboarding; filming; techniques of filming; movement breakdown; sound and editing.

FRIENDLY BAY AND HARBOUR REDEVELOPMENT **A film raising the question, What is Friendly Bay's Future?**



Friendly Bay as it was in times gone by



Friendly Bay as it is today

Project of Gabe, Gray and Tyler

"Hi, I'm Gray and I play saxophone and piano. I enjoy collecting comics, making parody songs and playing computer games. I hope that this course will teach me how to be a good director for films."

Interest in the Youth Short Film Making Project is high with good media coverage in both the local newspaper Oamaru Mail (article by Andrew McMartin, 20.01.09) and the Otago Daily Times (article by David Bruce, 24.01.09) – whose photographs have been used in this article.

The project is being jointly coordinated by Louise Day, Community Development Advisor, Waitaki District Council and local film enthusiast Eric Shepherd of Swampduck Productions.

This is a great opportunity for us to be part of what is a first for NZ. Until now no Council has accepted the challenge of taking submissions for their Long Term Council Community Plan in video form from the youth of its region. I see it as an exciting project that will give them an opportunity to learn new skills and at the same time have their say on the future of their region.

The Waitaki District Council is to be congratulated for taking this forward thinking step.

Eric Shepherd.

MAYORS TAKE LEAD ON JOB SUMMIT PRIORITIES



Malcolm Macpherson
Central Otago

Frana Cardno
Southland

Dale Williams
Otorohanga
(Taskforce Chair)

John Forbes
Opotiki

Penny Webster
Rodney

Alistair Sowman
Marlborough

Les Probert
Wairoa

The Taskforce has looked closely at the priorities that came from the Job Summit and has decided to scope the following priorities and go back to Government with ideas, which can be advanced further in our local communities.

The lead Core Group Mayor and Minister are noted beside the priority.

- Extend bonding arrangements to other occupations – Minister of Tertiary Education, Mayor of Central Otago Malcolm Macpherson.
- Arrangements to support the continuation of training, particularly for apprentices – Minister of Social Development and Employment, Minister of Tertiary Education, Mayor of Otorohanga Dale Williams.
- Look at incentives for young people to be in education and training rather than on a benefit – Minister of Tertiary Education, Mayor of Otorohanga Dale Williams, Mayor of Southland Frana Cardno and Mayor of Central Otago Malcolm Macpherson.
- Explore additional models for maintaining and strengthening training for young people – Minister of Education, Mayor of Otorohanga Dale Williams, Mayor of Southland Frana Cardno and Mayor of Central Otago Malcolm Macpherson.
- Kiwicorps: Recruit young volunteers to work on environmental projects using existing, funded programmes – Minister of Youth Affairs, Minister of Conservation, Mayor of Southland Frana Cardno and Mayor of Marlborough Alistair Sowman.
- Create a seasonal market-place using labour in NZ – Minister of Social Development and Employment, Mayor of Central Otago Malcolm Macpherson.
- Develop apprentice-like programmes in primary industries, e.g. fishing – Minister of Tertiary Education, Minister of Agriculture, Mayor of Opotiki John Forbes.
- Forestry training initiative, including information to employees on career support, assistance to increase training and skill levels and a central vacancy matching system – Minister of Tertiary Education, Minister of Forestry, Mayor of Wairoa Les Probert.
- Introduce a requirement for companies to spend a set percentage on training and development – Minister of Tertiary Education, Minister of Commerce, Mayor of Rodney Penny Webster.



Hon Simon Power
Commerce



Hon Anne Tolley
Education
Tertiary Education



Hon Paula Bennett
Social Development
& Employment
Youth Affairs



Hon Tim Groser
Conservation



Hon David Carter
Forestry
Agriculture

We are intending to get this information back to Ministers within a month so if anyone has information on any of the priorities please contact the lead Mayor or Jan Francis. Contacts details are on the website at www.mayorstaskforceforjobs.co.nz

E OHO

In October 2008 the Rotorua District Council received \$65,000 from the Ministry of Youth Development's Youth Development Partnership Fund to implement 'E OHO', a programme designed to focus on nurturing young people's potential.

E OHO is a partnership project between The Rotorua District Council, Te Waiariki Pura Trust and three groups of young people of the Fordland's, Koutu Western Heights communities. The entire project is influenced, planned and implemented by young people for young people; fostering both community and youth development. The young people receive direct mentoring through weekly meetings with their project mentor, monthly training workshops with relevant experts, as well as attending six training weekends throughout the year.

The youth will gain two NZQA unit standards in Youth Work over the duration of E OHO which will greatly enhance their chances of employment and foster civic responsibility. They are gaining excellent skills and knowledge that will positively contribute to their transitions through life and the ability to continue as a group long after E OHO is completed. They are consulting their communities and planning how they can meet the community's needs through implementing their own community projects.

They have been working with Council's Community, Parks and Reserves and Planning personnel to go through the relevant processes such as submissions and resource consent. They will then be involved in the establishment of their own project. This may be outdoor structures such as skate facilities, basketball courts, roofed structures on Council Reserves and may also be various programmes such as after school initiatives that may run out of local Marae for example.

SUBMISSION WRITING WORKSHOP



On the 8th April, the three E Oho groups combined for a Submission Writing Workshop at the Rotorua District Council. 18 youth attended and 11 submissions were written and submitted by the young people to the Council. Submissions ranged from fixing up parks and reserves in their communities to getting sport and recreation organisations to provide activities, coaching or mentors to encourage sport and usage of the parks. The young people will be invited to present their submissions in front of the Mayor and Councillors from the 19th-22nd May 2009.

For more information, please contact:

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E Oho Youth Development Worker
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www.mayorstaskforceforjobs.co.nz

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE - INFORMATION WEBSITES

www.teamup.co.nz

Team up Tertiary Study outlines options for continuing education
Team-Up Careers has information on how teenagers can get to the career they want

www.edcentre.govt.nz

Educational services and support for people whatever stage of their life

www.careers.govt.nz

Career choices and information on more than 650
different jobs and industries

www.intransit.govt.nz

Department of Labour site for young people

www.studenthub.co.nz

Student life in New Zealand – links to useful student
information

www.wot2nxt.com

Information and tools regarding career options

www.cab.org.nz/lowdown/

Information on youth rights

www.worksite.govt.nz

Your shortcut to everything you need to know about
work, skills and training in NZ

www.skillnz.org.nz

Practical information about workplace learning and
industry training

www.tec.govt.nz

Everything about tertiary education in NZ

www.transitions.org.nz

Transitions information and support for students
with special needs

www.youthlaw.co.nz

The law and your rights if you're under 25

www.sorted.org.nz

Get your money sorted and pay for your studies

www.studylink.govt.nz

Student financial support, allowances, loans, benefits
and scholarships

CAREERS EXPO 2009

CHRISTCHURCH (10-12 May)

Westpac Centre

DUNEDIN (17-19 May)

New Edgar Arena

AUCKLAND (6-8 August)

ASB Showgrounds

WELLINGTON (16-18 August)

TSB Bank Arena, Jervois Quay



For more information visit www.careers-expo.co.nz

LGNZ CONFERENCE 2009

CHRISTCHURCH CONVENTION CENTRE

July 26–29

For full programme and registration details contact www.lgnz.co.nz

For more information contact megan@conference.co.nz