



A YOUTH STATEMENT ON REGIONAL GOALS

An output of the LocalNZ workshop

16–19 NOVEMBER 2014

35

Participants aged
between 18 and 25 share
their thoughts on regional development

Introduction

The *LocalNz* workshop brought together 35 young individuals from throughout the country who are passionate about their local communities.

This workshop was a direct response to the *TalentNz* 2014 tour. During March the Institute visited 10 councils around New Zealand and found a growing disparity between rural New Zealand and the major cities. The workshop aimed to provide a space for young New Zealanders to identify opportunities and challenges and suggest policy options going forward. The Institute, in discussion with the New Zealand Treasury, tasked the participants to answer the research question: **How do regional goals align with national goals, and how might these goals need to change in order to aid regional growth?**

This workshop had five objectives:

1. To provide participants with a deeper understanding of public policy and the machinery of government.
2. To connect youth across New Zealand who have a shared commitment to local government.
3. To forge stronger relationships between youth and councils.
4. To raise interest in Antarctica among youth.
(In 2014 the Institute established a New Zealand Antarctic Youth Council; Christoph Kraus was the council representative at the workshop.)
5. To suggest ways to align national and regional goals (see recommendations on pages 5, 6 and 7).

To achieve these objectives we reached out to all councillors in New Zealand, asking them to nominate a young person between the ages of 18 and 25 who had demonstrated a commitment to local government. Of the 35 participants, seven worked at a local council and 18 were members of a youth council. Those attending the workshop did so at no cost but agreed to 'pay it forward' by providing 10 hours of voluntary service in 2015 to their local community.



Day 1: Tamara Lodge, Wanganui

The first two days were spent at the *A Place to Live* conference in Wanganui. Participants travelled up the Whanganui River, visiting Hiruharama Marae at Jerusalem. They were greeted by children at the only kura (school) on the river, Te Wainui a Rua in Ranana, and listened to local leaders at Koriniti Marae.

The third day was spent at the New Zealand Treasury in Wellington discussing issues facing our regions. On the fourth and final day, participants presented their combined thinking at two presentations; the first was to over 170 guests at Parliament and the second was a video call back to the *A Place to Live* conference. This booklet is one of eight outputs from the workshop (see page 10).

Thank you to everyone who helped make this workshop happen – see page 11 for a complete list of supporters and speakers. I would particularly like to thank Hon. Paul Goldsmith, the New Zealand Treasury Chief Economist Dr Girol Karacaoglu, the New Zealand Treasury Deputy Secretary of Strategy, Change and Performance Bill Moran, LGNZ Principal Policy Advisor Dr Mike Reid and Rotorua District Councillor Tania Tapsell, all of whom strongly supported this project from its infancy. I hope you find the output of the 35 young New Zealanders as refreshing and insightful as I have.

Wendy McGuinness
Chief Executive
McGuinness Institute

Kia ora

We are 35 young New Zealanders from throughout New Zealand that travelled up the Whanganui River (see map of Day 2 below), but our journey was more than that. We came from many walks of life and witnessed the disparity between our regions and our centres. We felt the unity and strength flowing through iwi of the Whanganui River and the connections they share with their river.

Together we discussed the goals of regional New Zealand and compared them with national goals. This led to three underlying themes. Theme one was the desire to create a better quality of life for our children and grandchildren. We came to realise one size does not fit all and not all communities are the same, which led to theme two: embracing diversity. Lastly, we appreciated the need for visionary leadership; we need strong leaders willing to engage, participate and collaborate.

We need a vision for a future that sustains the economy, environment, society and culture while acknowledging our differences. Through leadership we can move as one towards better qualities of life engaging wider communities and providing a healthier environment for our rangatahi. We found communication was key. This booklet aims to communicate our thinking as at 19 November 2014.

Heavenlee Bray and Shivani Makwana



Day 2: Map of the trip up the Whanganui River

The goals of national and local government

In trying to answer the question of how regional goals align with national goals and how these goals might need to change in order to aid regional growth, we must define what goals are. Developing infrastructure and systems that ensure the smooth operations of communities are important goals for local and national government, however, ensuring communities function should not be classified as a goal; rather, this is a minimum requirement.

Further, there is a common misconception that wellbeing is defined by economic factors. It is of vital importance that we do not confuse indicators with actual signs of wellbeing. Economic progress is generally good, but it is only important to wellbeing if it actually increases happiness or satisfaction.

Promoting the mana of the community as a great place, now and in the future, should be a goal for national and local government. This would see a shift towards a community-focused system of governance.

Sean Johnson and Jack Marshall

People think Wellington is about politics, but for me it is home because of the amazing natural backdrop we enjoy, from the waterfront to the bush-clad hills.

People think Wellington is the big, faceless, dying city, but for me it is home because of the close-knit communities that are the city's beating heart.

Participants

People think New Plymouth is a place recognised for the festival of lights and WOMAD (the World of Music, Arts and Dance), but for me it is home because of the people, the sense of community and the beautiful nature and scenery. From the mountain to the sea it is home for me. It's not about the fancy things in your area to make your town; it's the people that make the town for me.

People think Taranaki is about dairy farming and oil rigs, but for me it is home because there's nowhere else in the world you can surf some of the world's best waves, ski on the slopes and then enjoy local cuisine with family and friends, all in the one day.

People think the Marlborough Sounds are all about seafood and isolation, but for me it is home because of the strong sense of community and hospitality combined with those perfectly calm, sunny days that allow you to explore the area.

People think my Greymouth is about rain, ruggedness and coal mining, but for me it is home because of our friendly coaster vibe, vibrant green hills and the extremely rare Barber* on a winter's morning.

People think Christchurch is about ruin and rubble, but for me it is home because of the community spirit and people's commitment to the future of our city.

People think Christchurch is about rubble and dust, earthquakes and broken-down buildings, but for me it is home because a place is built of people, not just mortar, and those people are still there, together strong, kind and resilient.

People think Waitara is about the land wars (lease land issue) and fighting over the history of the Treaty of Waitangi, but for me it is home because you walk down the street and people smile, say hi and have an actual caring conversation. We care for each other.

People think Auckland is about traffic jams and self-absorbed people, but for me it is home because there is never a shortage of great quality restaurants, and great quality people.

People think Auckland is about smoke, suits and snobbery, but for me it is home because the diversity of the people creates a buzzing, vibrant culture, ripe for serendipity.

People think Northland is full of drugs and unemployment, but for me it is home because of the natural, untouched open spaces.

People think Tauranga is heaven's waiting room, but for me it is home because no other place in New Zealand offers such radiant beaches, summer sun, energetic cafes and golden sand as far as the eye can see.

Gisborne
Leah Wilkie, 23

Napier
Christoph Kraus, 22

Feilding
Heavenlee Bray, 22

Carterton
Rebecca Vergunst, 20

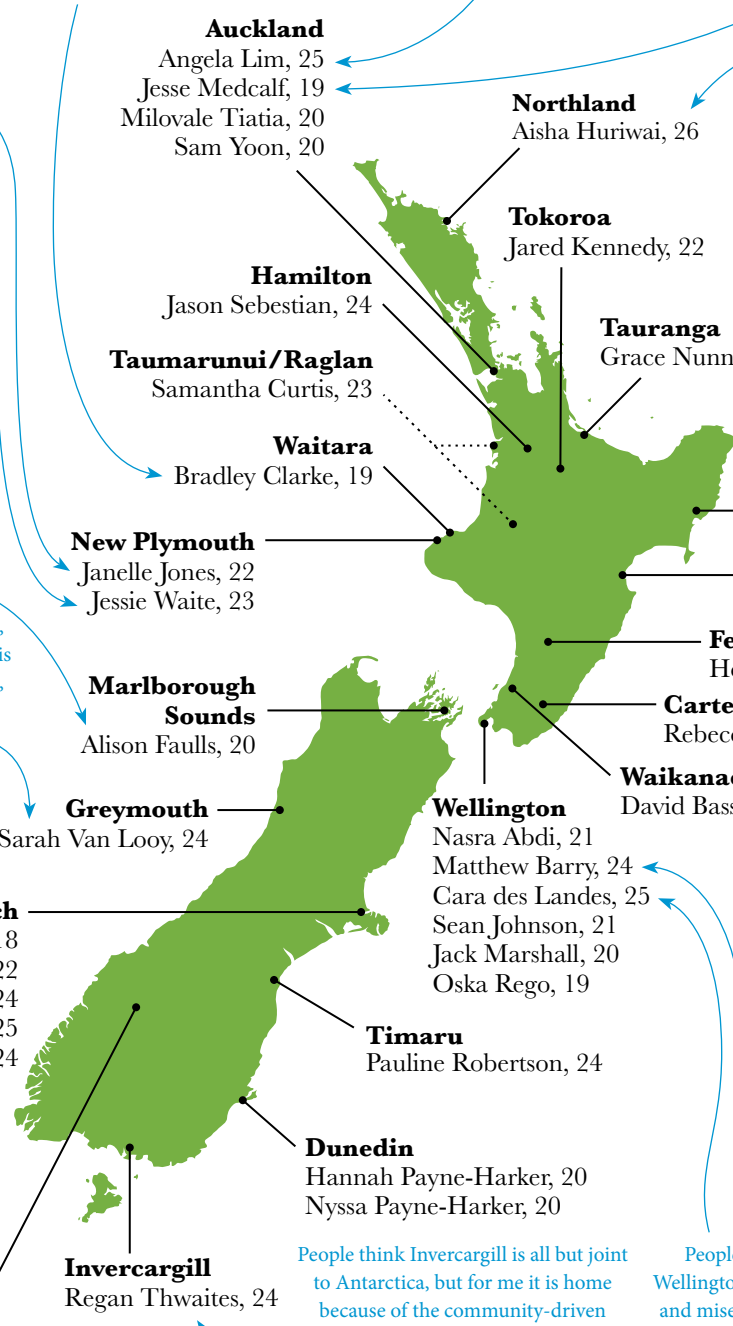
Waikanae
David Bassett, 20

People think Carterton is about farmers, child abuse and hot air balloons, but for me it is home because we have mountains and rivers in our backyard, we have an events centre with award-winning architecture, our volunteer fire brigade is the best in Australasia and we are the fastest-growing district in New Zealand.

People think Wellington is about hipsters, politics and the wind, but for me it is home because it is a vibrant combination of big-city culture and small-town charm, with a passion for all things creative and culinary.

People think Wellington is windy and miserable, but for me it is home because the culture makes up for it.

People think Invercargill is all but joint to Antarctica, but for me it is home because of the community-driven atmosphere with an affordable and uninhibited way of life that thrusts an individual into their future.



Auckland

Angela Lim, 25
Jesse Medcalf, 19
Milovale Tiatia, 20
Sam Yoon, 20

Northland

Aisha Huriwai, 26

Tokoroa

Jared Kennedy, 22

Hamilton

Jason Sebastian, 24

Taumarunui/Raglan

Samantha Curtis, 23

Waitara

Bradley Clarke, 19

New Plymouth

Janelle Jones, 22
Jessie Waite, 23

Marlborough Sounds

Alison Faulls, 20

Greymouth

Sarah Van Looy, 24

Christchurch

Yanni Cowie, 18
Hamish Keown, 22
Shivani Makwana, 24
Lauren McGee, 25
Mahoney Turnbull, 24

Timaru

Pauline Robertson, 24

Dunedin

Hannah Payne-Harker, 20
Nyssa Payne-Harker, 20

Invercargill

Regan Thwaites, 24

Wanaka

Lincoln Haworth, 24

During the workshop one of the speakers, Mark Baxter, discussed the importance of breaking down myths. You will notice participants share the myths and the reality of their hometowns in blue text, either above or throughout the booklet:

Nasra Abdi – Page 6
David Bassett – Page 7
Heavenlee Bray – Page 7
Samantha Curtis – Page 5
Lincoln Haworth – Page 3
Sean Johnson – Page 1
Hamish Keown – Page 10
Jared Kennedy – Page 9

Christoph Kraus – Page 4
Jack Marshall – Page 1
Lauren McGee – Page 8
Hannah Payne-Harker – Page 7
Nyssa Payne-Harker – Page 7
Oska Rego – Page 10
Pauline Robertson – Page 3
Jason Sebastian – Page 6

Milovale Tiatia – Page 5
Mahoney Turnbull – Page 9
Leah Wilkie – Page 9
Sam Yoon – Page 8

* A Barber is an enhanced katabatic wind that blows over the town.

Analytics

Analytics matter; an informed society is an empowered society. Data used effectively creates information, and information used with context creates strategic knowledge. The data on the next four pages provide an important but grainy view of what regional New Zealand looks like today. From this we can see that regional New Zealand could be described as aging, unhealthy, isolated, backward and (for the young) lacking in employment opportunities. However, in order to develop a clearer picture of regional New Zealand, we must continually think about, search for and seek out data that will help tell a more concise and complete story about the challenges and opportunities facing our regions. This will allow citizens to effect change. What we measure, we manage; so we need to ensure we measure what matters.

Overleaf, we can see that New Zealand regions are not alike; each region faces vastly different problems and qualities of life. The images present a number of issues facing New Zealand's regions. From these images, it is clear that some regions are healthier, richer and more innovative than others. Despite these differences, all regions must comply with the public policies created in Wellington. However, central and local government must accept that one size does not fit all and that while the tools might exist in central government, the knowledge exists in the communities. Both governments (i.e. central and local) must work together to deliver universal outcomes for all our citizens. If

People think Wanaka is about transiency, a tourist destination, but for me it is home because it is on the edge of the wild; our community's relationships are with the mountains as much as they are with the people around us.

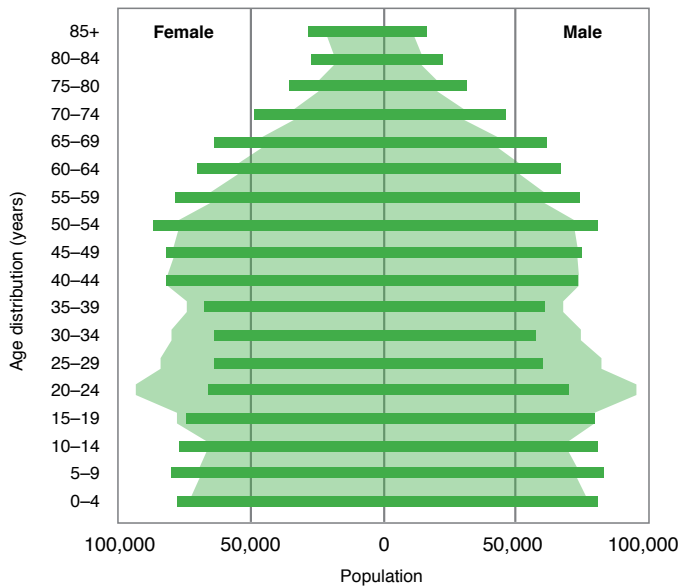
they do that, we might find that in the future all four maps (on pages 5 and 6) become a unified colour representing low deprivation, low levels of nitrate-nitrogen concentration in waterways and high levels of income and satisfaction.

Lincoln Haworth and Pauline Robertson

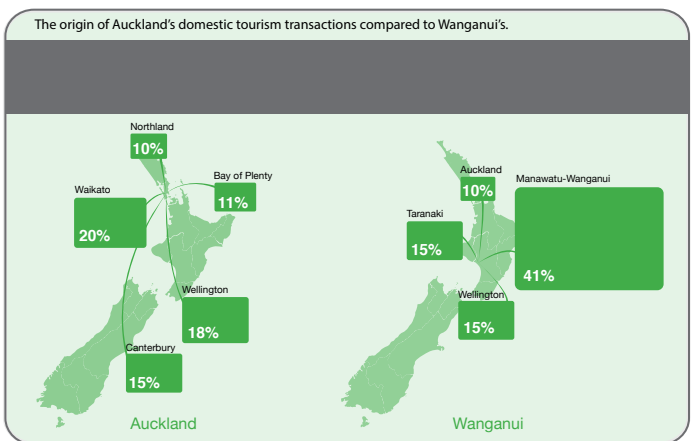
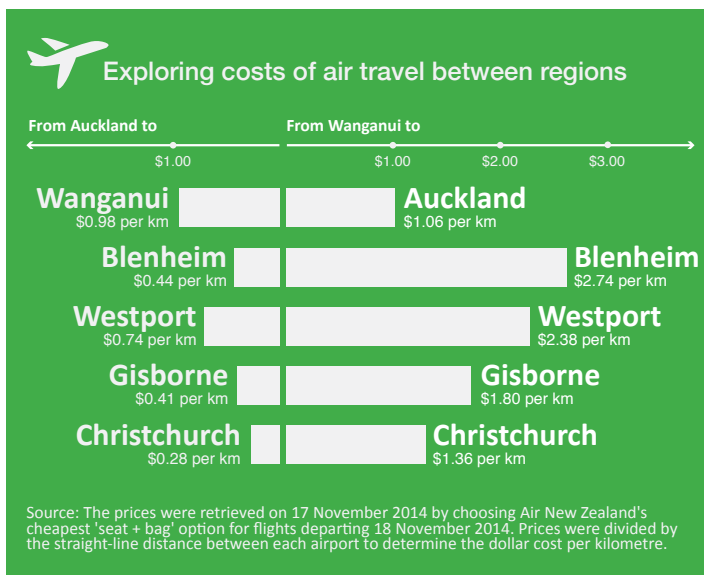
Comparing four major cities with the rest of New Zealand by age distribution as at 30 June 2014

Source: Statistics New Zealand, 2014.

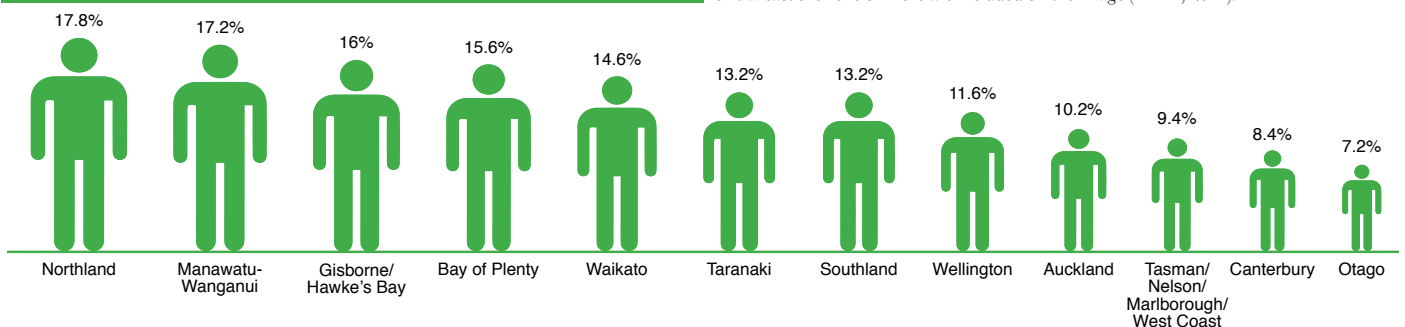
- Auckland, Wellington City, Christchurch City, Dunedin City (Population: 2,213,470; 49%)
- Rest of New Zealand (Population: 2,296,380; 51%)



People think Timaru is 10 minutes to drive through on SH1, but for me it is home because it has great, temperate weather and an awesome compact layout with a high street instead of a mall, and it is only a few hours away from the lakes and cities.



Comparing the number of electronic transactions between 30 September 2013 and 30 September 2014 by BNZ cardholders shows Auckland's tourist dollars are generated from cardholders throughout New Zealand whereas Wanganui's are generated from its own and neighbouring regions. Note: Domestic tourism is defined as all spending by cardholders with merchants outside of the territorial area in which the cardholder resides. Please note only percentages of transactions 10% or more are included on the image (MBIE, 2014).



Percentage of New Zealanders (aged 15-24) not in education, employment or training (NEET) within each region

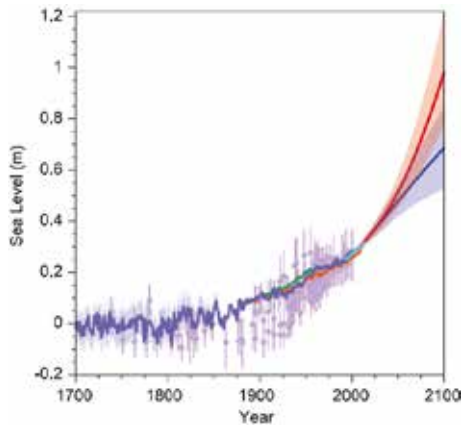
Source: Statistics New Zealand, 2014 (for the 12 months to September 2014)

Climate change and rising sea levels

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report suggested that under the RCP8.5 ('business as usual') scenario, sea level rise by 2100 is 'likely' to be up to 0.98m above present sea level (red shaded area below).¹ As the majority of New Zealand's population lives in coastal regions, sea level rise (both in its magnitude and rate) will pose a risk to the New Zealand economy, society and environment.¹

Historical data and IPCC predictions of sea level rise for the twenty-first century.

The red shaded area indicates the 'business as usual' scenario.¹



Importantly, the global distribution of sea level rise will vary, and recent projections suggest that New Zealand will experience rises 5–15% higher than the global average, depending on the relative contributions of meltwater from the ice sheets of Antarctica and Greenland. The magnitude of local sea level rise around New Zealand will also depend on local vertical land movement, coastal morphology, tides and ocean response to a changing climate, among other factors.¹ Thus, sea level rise will vary around New Zealand, though there is uncertainty as to how much the sea level will rise in different regions.

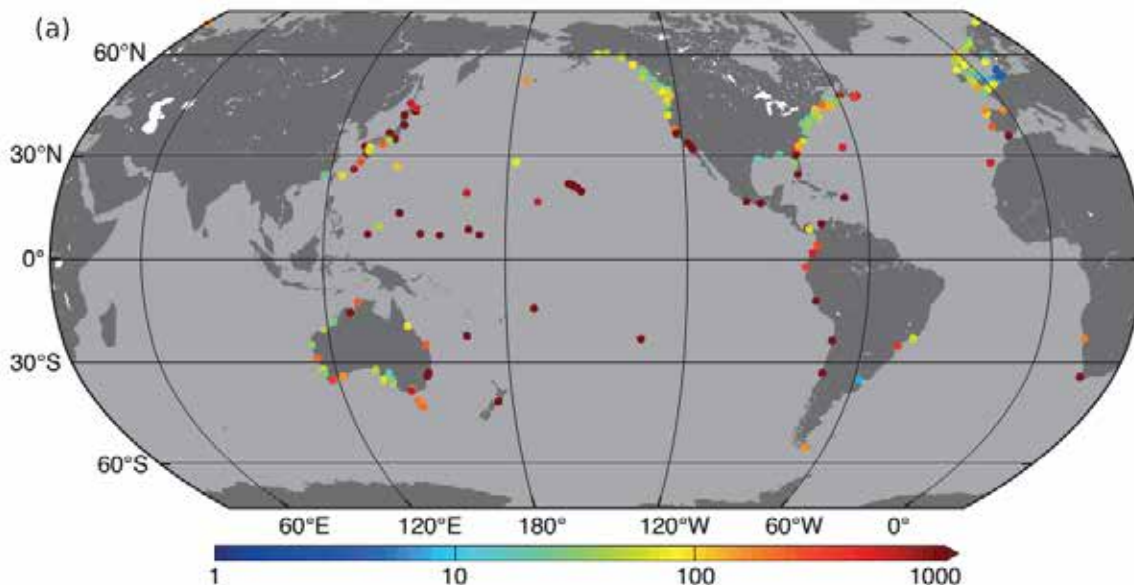
Another uncertainty is the rate of sea level rise, because of the uncertainty regarding the time frame of ice sheet response, especially the West Antarctic Ice Sheet (which is grounded below sea level and thus vulnerable to a warming ocean). Studies are now showing that marine-based sectors of the Antarctic ice sheets are showing accelerated melting due to the influence of a warming Southern Ocean.^{1,2} This is important as the IPCC report states that if collapses of marine-based sectors of the Antarctic ice sheet are initiated, sea level could rise beyond the range predicted in their reports for the twenty-first century.¹ With the onset of collapse of an ice sheet, the rate of sea level rise would invariably increase. Moreover, geological and model data have shown that the Antarctic ice sheets have contributed rates of sea level rise of up to 0.7 m per century in the recent geological past^{3,4} (cf. current average of 3 mm yr⁻¹). This suggests that the dynamic contribution from ice sheets may be underestimated in current sea level predictions. Despite these uncertainties, it is 'virtually certain' that sea levels will continue to rise beyond 2100,¹ meaning that this issue will be faced by several generations to come.

Furthermore, increasing sea levels will very likely be accompanied by an increase in flooding events.¹ Using calculations based on global tide gauge data, it has been estimated that for a 0.5m rise in sea level, flooding events of a given height in New Zealand could increase by a factor of 1000 (see below).^{1,7} As such, a coastal-storm flood with an approximate 100-year recurrence interval would likely occur several times in a single year under only a 50cm rise in sea level.¹

Both local regions and New Zealand as a whole face the issue of rising sea levels. There is currently not enough being done about the mitigation of the impacts and reduction of our emissions. We need to significantly reduce the aforementioned uncertainties, reduce our emissions and better prepare our nation, regions and cities for these changes.

People think Napier is about Art Deco and holidays, but for me it is home because of its beauty, great weather and people always make you feel welcome.

Christoph Kraus



An estimate of the factor by which flooding events of a given height will increase for a sea level rise of 0.5m.¹

1. IPCC. *Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.* (Cambridge University Press, 2013). 2. IPCC. *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.* (Cambridge University Press, 2014). 3. Pritchard, H. D. et al. Antarctic ice-sheet loss driven by basal melting of ice shelves. *Nature* 484, 502-505, doi: <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v484/n7395/abs/nature10968.html#supplementary-information> (2012). 4. Rignot, E., Jacobs, S., Mouginot, J. & Scheuchl, B. Ice-shelf melting around Antarctica. *Science* 341, 266-270 (2013). 5. Golledge, N. et al. Antarctic contribution to meltwater pulse 1A from reduced Southern Ocean overturning. *Nature communications* 5 (2014). 6. Weber, M. et al. Millennial-scale variability in Antarctic ice-sheet discharge during the last deglaciation. *Nature* (2014). 7. Hunter, J. A simple technique for estimating an allowance for uncertain sea-level rise. *Climatic Change* 113, 239-252, doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10584-011-0332-1> (2012).

Theme 1

Quality of Life

Throughout the course of the *LocalNZ* workshop, the right for all Kiwis to have a high standard of 'quality of life' was an overarching theme. Creating 'quality of life' is a typical Kiwi ideology that both local and central government strive to achieve. However, this goal varies significantly between regions (as shown below). We realise 'quality of life' is often assigned a dollar value (e.g. economic growth by region), however, others value regions in terms of more intrinsic or cultural values. The various similarities and dissimilarities between national and regional goals deliver different types of quality of life. It is central government's responsibility to realign goals so that all Kiwis have similar access to health, wealth and happiness.

Furthermore, the theme 'quality of life' is an overarching concept that affects each dimension of the Treasury's living standards framework (one's wellbeing). Therefore, we believe that improving Kiwi's 'quality of life' will create higher living standards for the people of New Zealand, further reiterating the importance of this theme.

Samantha Curtis and Milovale Tiatia

People think Taumarunui is rough, cold and archaic, but for me it is home because of its diversity, community spirit, history, culture and authenticity as a true-blue Kiwi town.

People think Auckland is about corporate heads who foster an inadequate perception of quality of life, but for me it is home because it has a remarkable sense of culture and community and enables me to live the life I aspire to live.

Recommendations 1-4

1. Introduce creative information flows between local and central government. Central government has the tools, while local government has the knowledge. Tension between levels of government is a distraction to creating better quality of life. Economic policy is created in Wellington and given to New Zealand's wildly dissimilar regions. We need the connection between regional ideas and central policy tools to be as seamless as possible.
2. Fresh thinking about how local government generates its revenue and matches its expenditure is needed. Pressures from central government upon regional expenditure need to be relaxed, and the task of revenue generation needs to be given to local government.
3. Develop a deeper understanding of nature in order to have a healthy economy. Economic activity that can be sustained into the future is dependent on a positive relationship between our society and the natural world. All economic and social activity is based on the ecological functions provided by healthy and dynamic ecosystems. We need to prioritise scientific research that will give our society the knowledge it needs to value and protect these ecosystems effectively.
4. Harness what regions offer to quality of life:
 - Community: Smaller cities and towns offer the opportunity to live in a place where everybody knows everybody, there are stronger connections between people and the community is more readily able to work together to take on projects and achieve goals.
 - Connection with nature: Regional New Zealand also offers people a closer connection with their natural environment. The benefits of lower population density include more 'green spaces', access to natural resources and less pollution from things like city lights and motors.

The 'small is beautiful' idea rests greatly on these benefits of small population centres. These should both be enhanced and advertised to attract talented people who can grow our regions.

Health (human + environmental), Wealth and Happiness

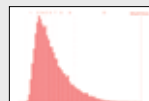
District health boards (DHBs) in New Zealand by population characteristics

Sources: Statistics New Zealand, 2014; University of Otago, 2014.

District Health Boards*	Population Size and Growth							Population Characteristics (2013)			
	Thousands	0	110	220	330	440	550	Over 75s	Māori	Pasifika	Most Deprived Quintile ** (Deciles 9 & 10)
1. Northland								7%	32%	2%	37%
2. Waitemata								5%	9%	7%	8%
3. Auckland								5%	8%	11%	18%
4. Counties Manukau								4%	15%	21%	36%
5. Waikato								6%	22%	3%	25%
6. Bay of Plenty								8%	24%	2%	25%
7. Tairāwhiti								6%	49%	2%	47%
8. Lakes								6%	35%	2%	34%
9. Taranaki								7%	17%	1%	15%
10. Hawke's Bay								7%	24%	3%	27%
11. Whanganui								8%	25%	2%	36%
12. MidCentral								7%	18%	3%	25%
13. Wairarapa								8%	16%	2%	20%
14. Hutt								6%	16%	8%	20%
15. Capital and Coast								5%	11%	7%	12%
16. Nelson Marlborough								8%	9%	1%	9%
17. West Coast								7%	11%	1%	10%
18. Canterbury								7%	8%	2%	9%
19. South Canterbury								9%	7%	1%	9%
20. Southern								7%	9%	2%	12%

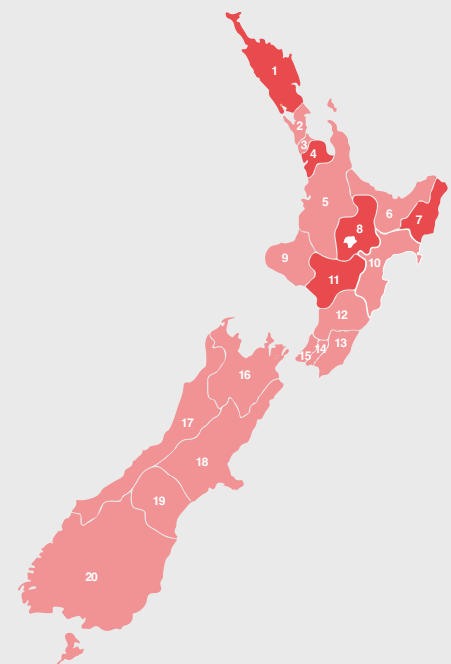
* Listed in geographical order from north to south.

** The 2013 NZDep Index of Socioeconomic Deprivation is comprised of nine variables from the 2013 census that reflect eight dimensions of material and social deprivation. The index provides a scale from the least deprived 10 percent of areas (decile 1) to the most deprived 10 percent of areas (decile 10) – see figure to the right. This means that in Tairāwhiti, 47% of the population live in areas ranked as decile 9 or 10 of the index.



District health boards (DHBs) by most deprived quintile**

Note: Unfortunately DHB boundaries differ from council boundaries.



29% and below 😊

30% and above 😞

Theme 2

Embrace Diversity

One size does not fit all

New Zealand is a vastly diverse country. Our regions are so different from one another; from remote Northland to cosmopolitan Auckland; from resource-rich Taranaki to the farming powerhouse of Canterbury. These places are special to us all because of their uniqueness. The *LocalNZ* workshop brought together 35 young New Zealanders from throughout the country. We represent the youth voice from our regions, and we are proud of our country's strong diversity (see page 2 for our hometowns).

The diversity between us as individuals led us to argue for fully embracing the diversity in regional New Zealand. We believe that there is no 'one-size-fits-all', 'silver-bullet' solution to regional problems; rather, we need to focus on region-specific solutions that will enable our communities to prosper. Some regions may have similar challenges, obstacles or opportunities, but just because the issues are similar does not mean the solution is, or should be, similar. We need to understand the unique nature of regional New Zealand and use this knowledge to advance each community, thus allowing each region to excel in what they are good at.

Policies must be customisable and easily adaptable to local communities. This does not mean that we should not have guidelines and regulations for New Zealand as a whole – just that we need to make sure local and regional governments are empowered to make decisions that work for each community. Finding solutions that work will only come about by listening to local communities and giving them the tools to do so. We need to treat each region as a unique opportunity that is diverse from one another.

Nasra Abdi and Jason Sebastian

Recommendations 5–7

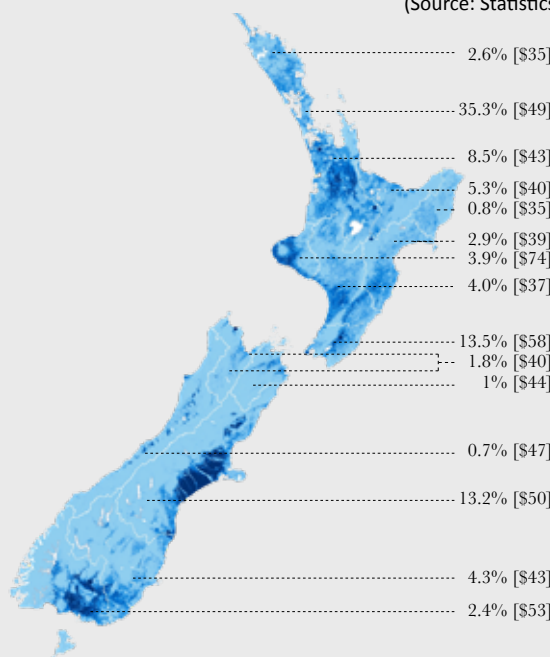
- Embrace the differences between regions and the unique qualities each region has to offer.
- Central government should work harder to enable local government to sustainably make the most of its resources. This can be achieved by:
 - Aligning policy between central and local government.
 - Enabling local communities to focus on what their local priorities are.
 - Sharing or delegating more responsibilities with and to local governments.
 - Further support for regional decision-makers. This could include introducing training and development programmes for local councillors.
 - Better collaboration between local and regional councils, for both mayors and councillors.
 - Providing sufficient resources to enable local government to deliver on their responsibilities and obligations.
- Tailor the education system for each region. The education system needs to meet the unique nature of regions so it can contribute to a better quality of life. This will also help youth learn the skills that are needed within their particular region.

People think Wellington is too windy and too small, but for me it is home because I live here with my family and it has a great sense of community which I value.

People think Hamilton is about farming and student drinking, but for me it is home because of our diverse communities, strong community spirit and beautiful Waikato River.

Average nitrate-nitrogen concentrations in waterways between 2006–2011

(Source: MfE, 2013)

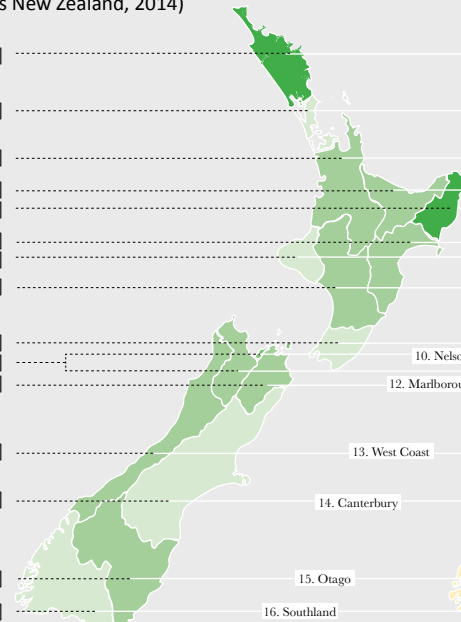


Lower 😊
Higher 😞

Regional GDP as a percentage of national GDP as at March 2013

Regional GDP per capita as at March 2013 \$(000) in brackets

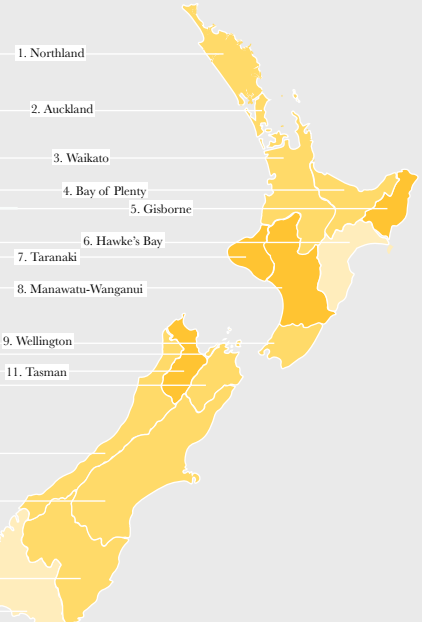
(Source: Statistics New Zealand, 2014)



More than 29,000 😊
25,000 – 29,000
Less than 25,000 😞

Median personal income by region as at 5 March 2013

(Source: Census, Statistics New Zealand, 2014)



Percentage of population feeling satisfied or very satisfied with their lives by region as at 2012

(Source: MBIE, 2014)

90% and above 😊
85–89%
84% and below 😞

Theme 3

Visionary Leadership

Visionary leadership is vital for creating a better future for the regions of New Zealand – for their communities and their environments. Visionary leadership is inclusive leadership. It ensures that diverse voices are heard and that the ideas and leaders in local communities are empowered. Visionary leadership thinks intergenerationally. It seeks to create a rich future for the nation's mokopuna (grandchildren).

Visionary leadership is needed in both central and local government. Local government has the insight into the needs of the community and leadership potential; central government has the power to steer the vision of New Zealand. We see it as an important challenge for these two bodies to work in a rich partnership, with central government acknowledging the insight and leadership potential of local government. Likewise, local government must acknowledge the tradeoffs that must be made centrally.

Regions should celebrate their differences and act as partners rather than rivals. Their diversity forms a rich ecosystem and is a strength to be harnessed. Regional uniqueness also needs to be maintained and affirmed by central government leaders. As local and central government partner together, New Zealand can be governed with vision. This way we will help to create a better future for all our mokopuna.

David Bassett, Hannah Payne-Harker and Nyssa Payne-Harker

People think Waikanae is about cheap housing and dreary commutes, but for me it is home because the river and the shore give us sustenance and remind us of nature's beauty.

People think Dunedin is about albatross, Cadbury's and the cold, but for me it is home because the community here are committed to connecting with nature and with each other, rain or shine!

People think Dunedin is all about Scots and scarfies, but for me it's home because everyone has a place – Scots and Southlanders; scarfies and centenarians.

Recommendations 8–10

8. Visionary leadership is needed to benefit the regions, both in central and local government.
9. Build stronger relationships between representatives (MPs and councillors) and government (central and local) through integrity, trust and mutual respect. This can be achieved by:
 - A requirement of MPs to report on council meetings.
 - A requirement of MPs to attend a quota of council meetings annually.
 - A requirement that councils consult with the relevant youth council upon request, ideally building collaboration into the decision-making process.
 - The establishment of a youth council association.
 - The introduction of a minimum full-time remuneration package for councillors in positions where the pay does not currently allow them to work full time.
 - The provision of better constitutional protections for local and regional councils in the implementation of all of these recommendations.
 - The provision of additional resources and tools to help local government improve collaboration and codesign with constituents. This gives local government a longer-term vision, led by the community and lasting beyond a particular council's term.
10. Introduce the mokopuna clause.

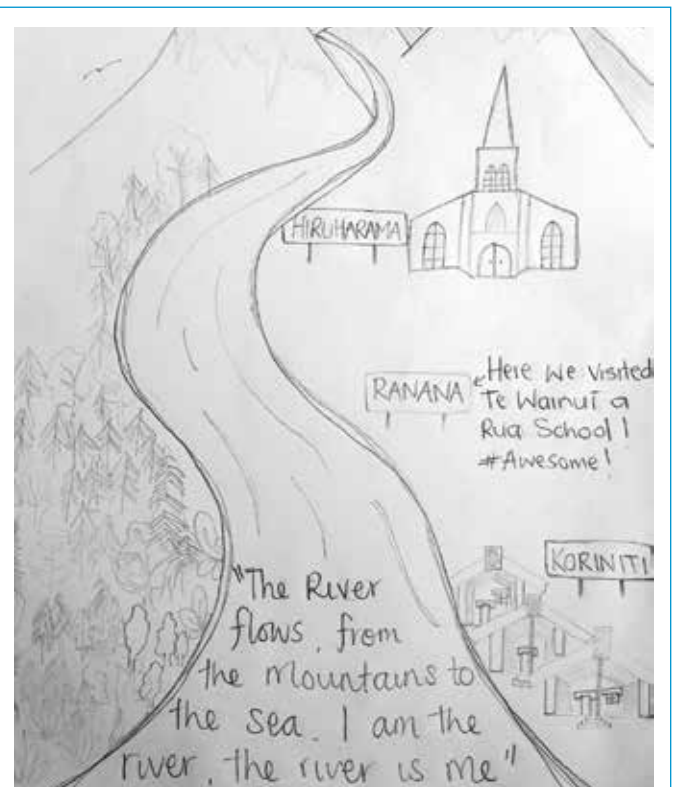
This clause is about recognising that decisions do not just affect our generations but could affect, and will affect, generations we may not even talk to. It is about planning; it is about visionary, inclusive leadership; and it is about selfless sacrifice. (See next page.)



Left: Participants Mahoney Turnbull (left) and Leah Wilkie (right) emphasising that similar ambitions can be achieved in different regions through a skit during the final presentation at Parliament.



Day 2: Participants entering Korinitū Marae, which rests on the banks of the Whanganui River. (Photo by Annie McGuinness)



The Whanganui River, drawn by participant Heavenlee Bray.

People think Feilding is a rural country town, but for me it is a town with prospering potential and my tūrangawaewae.

The Mokopuna Clause

Underlying challenges we face attaining regional and national goals is an absence of visionary leadership. Past leaders surely could have done more to ensure long-term success for our regions. This is where the mokopuna clause can play a role. 'Mokopuna' means grandchildren, and the clause is about making decisions with our descendants in mind.

The idea was inspired from a community project by a local iwi in Tolaga Bay, Gisborne. They transformed what was originally a typical surf-life-saving activity into a project that would benefit the generations that they may not even meet. They went the extra mile. This involved adding extra activities to the standard training, such as operating traditional waka and gathering kaimoana properly. The aim of their programme was to develop effective lifeguards and to teach rangatahi how to be safe and capable in a marine environment.

As technology advances, society suffers the instant-noodle syndrome. We expect results to show faster than ever; we are happy to fill ourselves with a quick meal – even at the expense of our health and happiness. We have lost the quality of patience. We are quickly moving towards a state where progress and urbanisation often comes at a cost of increased pollution, the exhaustion of natural resources, the ignorance of climate change issues and the despoliation of developing nations. However, decision-making cannot afford this lack of patience. Our world cannot. We need to reverse this societal trend that is working against the benefits of acting towards a vision of a better future.

People think Christchurch is about tradies, earthquakes and swamplands, but for me it is home because it is a quirky foodie's wonderland with mountains, rivers, beaches and a central-city lifestyle all within a 20-minute drive. There is no stereotypical culture of people here, so the whole city is ripe with opportunity to be unique and creative in how you express yourself. Our community is resilient.

People think Auckland is about inflated house prices and crowded streets, but for me it is home because it promotes diversity and it provides a preparation platform for today's international world.

The possibilities for how this clause will develop are endless. It could simply be a tool to be used in meetings to evoke visionary dialogue; it could be part of the terms of reference for council meetings, be in the job descriptions of our mayors and MPs or even become part of our national constitution, joining other pioneering nations in a legal commitment to the principle of intergenerational responsibility.

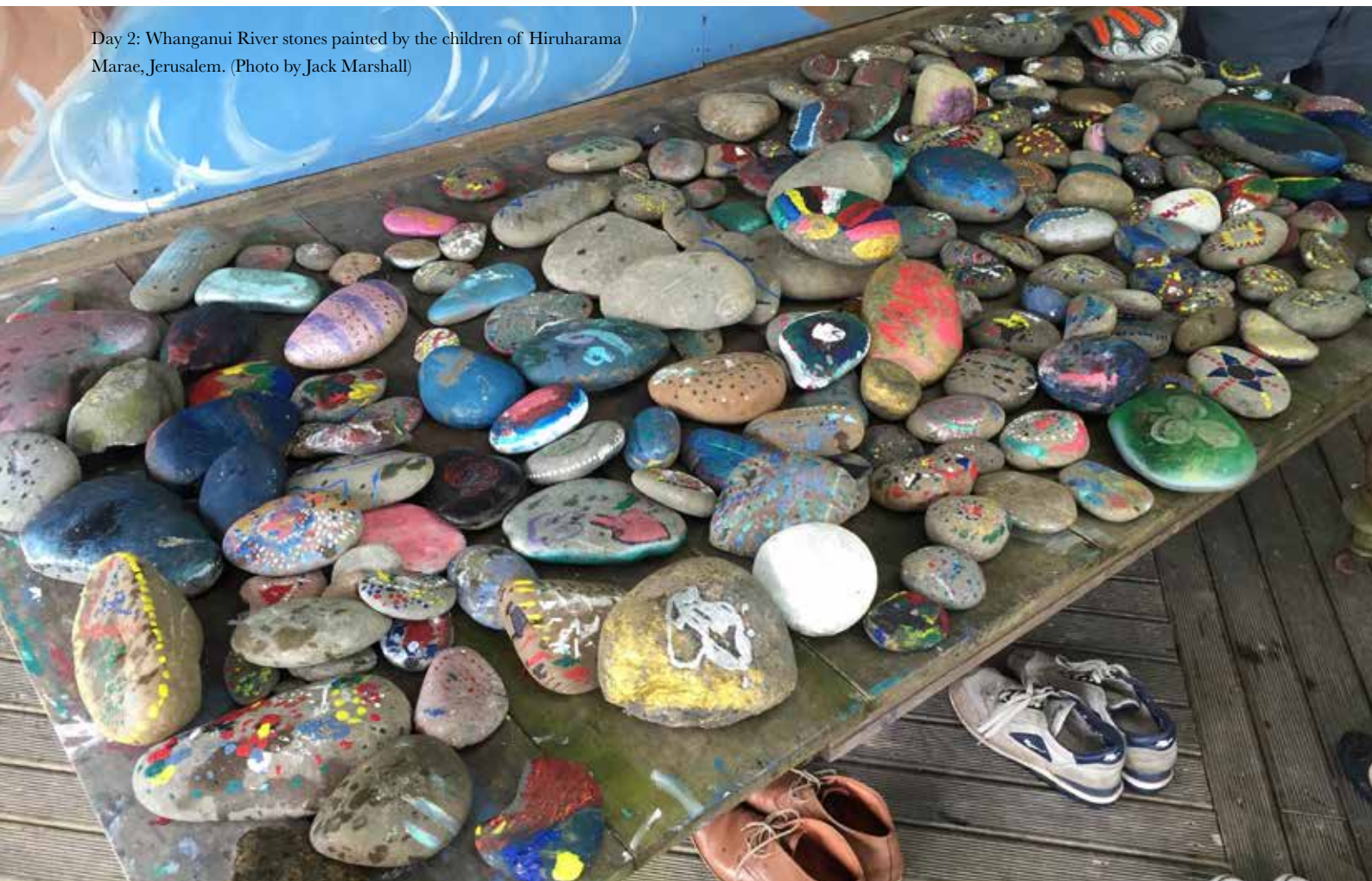
As in the case of Whanganui River, it could also mean the recognition of our natural environment as an entity significant not only in its own right but also to our very own existence. Working alongside the recognition of our connection to nature in institutions, regional areas and cities, New Zealand can once again lead the world forward, greening urban spaces and revolutionising the way we perceive our natural environment legally.

The mokopuna clause has the potential to close the inequality gap between present and future generations. It gives a voice to those who are not yet here to speak for themselves. It is about more than just considering the effects of actions on the future; it is about committing decision-makers to planning for the betterment of generations they will never meet.

Critics may doubt the utility of this clause. They may argue that humanity cannot fathom what is beyond the horizon. They may say that it is impossible to plan, let alone imagine, the future. What a cowardly excuse that is to give our mokopuna. The fact that we won't be around to see the effects of our decisions is no excuse to say 'We won't plan for your generation because we are afraid to imagine'. When you develop a country that keeps their mokopuna at the forefront of decision-making, you can envisage a future with innovative foresight-minded policies that throw partisan politics to the curb. You can truly create a beautiful place to live.

Lauren McGee and Sam Yoon

Day 2: Whanganui River stones painted by the children of Hiruharama Marae, Jerusalem. (Photo by Jack Marshall)



The OAR Metaphor

To live life 'above the line' is to follow the values of OAR. The guidance offered to us through OAR means that the decisions we make can be founded on affirming factors that breed a culture of empowered citizens. These attributes reflect an active choice to look at life as being above ground and openly progressive, as opposed to the 'below the line' alternative which rests on stagnant and negative values: blame, excuses and denial.

The 'O' in OAR stands for ownership, which reinforces the active opportunity to take control and steer life in the direction that we feel most inclined to follow. 'A' is for accountability being answerable to the choices we make and plans we decide to execute. The final letter 'R' is focused on responsibility and emphasises the need to ensure all New Zealanders are aware of our rights and corresponding obligations we owe to our local

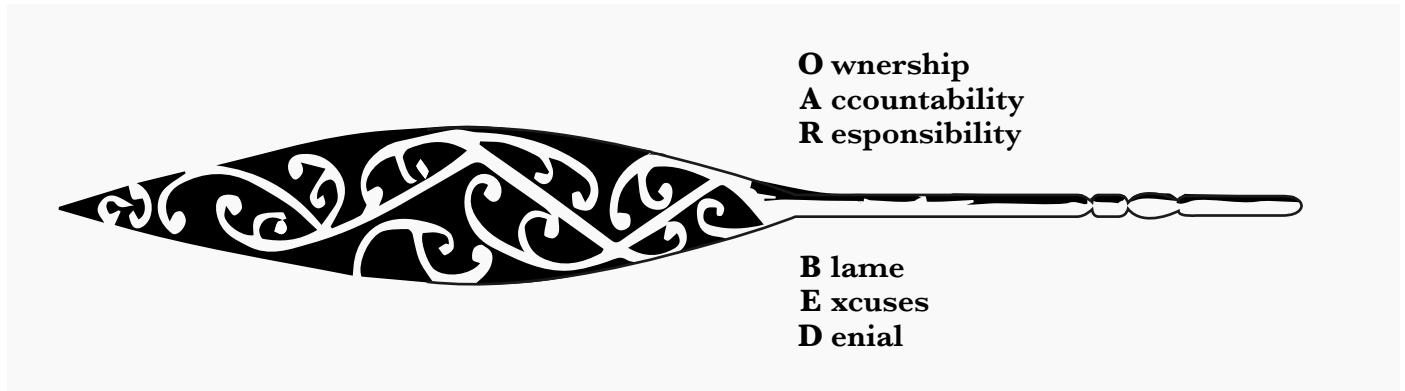
communities. This symbiotic relationship enriches the fullness and hauora of the nation, our environment and the kaitiakitanga we ought to demonstrate for the benefit of future generations.

We see these values as fundamental to the progression of New Zealand towards a future in which the rangatahi are all vested in the positive interconnectivity between regional and central control. This will strengthen the advancement of New Zealand's living standards and help build a stronger, more self-aware Aotearoa that realises the value in living above the line. Through harnessing the values of OAR, our regional waka will enjoy a unified sense of engagement. Paddling towards clear goals will enable our nation to forge new pathways into the future.

Mahoney Turnbull and Leah Wilkie

People think Gisborne is about beaches, sunshine, R&V and poverty, but for me it is home because it is a picturesque paradise, filled with people who travel life at their own pace, smiles painted on their faces and hearts bigger than life itself. The people in the Tairāwhiti community are family and home is where the heart is.

People think Christchurch is about tradition, flat streets and gentrified gardens, but for me it is home because of the beautiful bounty that sits between the Southern Alps, the Plains and the Pacific – and its fighting spirit which rises from rubble and continues to bloom.



We are a passionate group with ideas that are not a want but a need. We do not want you to row the waka for us; simply pick up a paddle. We as a nation are currently living on the river BED – thinking in terms of Blame, Excuses and Denial, whereas we should be reaching up and breaking through the surface with our OAR held above our head – taking Ownership, Accountability and Responsibility.

In Tokoroa we have a passion for the waka. Every person rows, and everybody knows that every person rows. However, if one rower is out of sync, we in the waka spin in circles.

As a nation, I think we are dizzy enough.

He aha te mea nui o te ao?

He tangata! He tangata! He tangata!

What is the most important thing in the world?

It is people! It is people! It is people!

Jared Kennedy

People think Tokoroa is a derelict town full of crime, but for me it is home because its a place full of proud, honest and caring people – a giant whānau of unbelievable diversity; a breeding ground for incredible talent.



Day 4: Girol Karacaoglu, Chief Economist of the New Zealand Treasury, with the LocalNZ workshop participants at the New Zealand Treasury. (Photo by Mark Tantrum)

Output and Next Steps

The development of the ideas and actions throughout this project have been profound and ever changing. The experiences have been the backbone to learning, retaining and acting upon the many ideas and actions that we, as a team, have developed. The identification of notable policy knots regarding one-size-fits-all policies, sweeping assumptions and disparity between lines of communication have all been identified as key areas that need to change. But what does this 'change' look like? Through the numerous outputs from *LocalNZ* (see below), there are a number of ways that the actions can be made a reality moving forward.

The documentary, *The Deep Country: New Zealand visits the Whanganui River*, can be a vital tool to show the real connection that New Zealanders have with the river. *The Deep Country* refers to the fact that the Whanganui River does not run clear and is therefore considered deep. This is a source of inspiration due to the fact we all aspire to have our local waterways enshrined in rights and protections that reflect the values placed upon them.

Of the many outputs, one of the biggest for the participants is the connections made – knowing that in the course of just a few days there is now a network of connected young people from the Far North to Invercargill. The cumulative knowledge and experience base will move New Zealand forward, connecting the district and city councils to central government. This may be through specific lobbying regarding a minimum number of days that an MP is expected to sit in on council business or through the development of youth councils that operate as a bridge between central and local government (through the Ministry of Youth Development).

Of the many discussions had, the topic of education was central to most. The ability to understand what is going on comes down to what we are told and taught as children and young adults. The lack of education regarding the political process is raising a generation ill equipped to face the numerous challenges that lie ahead. We were very enthused and vocal about the need for this, so this action is another expected outcome that will be delivered at council tables around the country.

Finally, being part of the process is key. As we had reinforced many times while on the workshop, the only way to influence and effect change is to understand how the system works and be entrenched in the decision-making process. Our goal is to inspire young people to be involved in these life-changing decisions that will affect them. This might be through the joining or development of a youth council or a social group that has interests in the public realm.

Growing living standards across a diverse nation

What success is in a region is found in its environment and its people

Four forms of capital inform a niche; that is special

1. *Physical; do we have cash, what are our spaces*

2. *Natural; the sun and water in our places*

3. *Human; the skills of our crew*

4. *Social; what does our community love to do*

What can be done in Gore is not what can be done in Gisborne

And nor do people want the same, in Reefton and in Raglan

These are not 'zombietowns', shuffling in the same or no direction

They can be nimble places, taking the opportunities new ideas give them

See regions as nuanced, fertile land

That can attract and grow seedlings of innovation

Arriving both by chance, and by plan

People think Wellington is about coffee and politics, but for me it is home because of its diversity, creativity and forward thinking. Oska Rego

People think Christchurch is about potholes, earthquakes and desolation, but for me it is home because there is hope, excitement and a new way of thinking about the future. Hamish Keown

This booklet is one of the eight initial outputs from the *LocalNZ* workshop. The other seven are listed below:

1. The photography competition winner's and runner-up's photos taken during the journey up the Whanganui River (the photos can be found on the front cover and on the right respectively);
2. The results of the *LocalNZ youth survey* (100 youths share their observations on local issues facing youth);
3. A YouTube video of the Q & A session with speaker Richard Louv;
4. A YouTube video of an interview with Karleen Marshall, principal at Te Wainui a Rua school in Ranana, Whanganui River;
5. A documentary: *The Deep Country: New Zealand visits the Whanganui River*;
6. A YouTube video of the participants' presentation at Parliament; and
7. A workshop paper outlining the process of the workshop.

In addition to the above, there are two other important outputs from the workshop going forward. Participants agreed to spend 10 hours 'paying it forward' in their communities in 2015. These hours will be managed under the guidance of the councillor who sponsored each participant. This means the organisations and councillors that agreed to sponsor the workshop are in practice providing 350 additional community hours to be undertaken throughout the country. The other output, and arguably the most important, is the young people themselves and what they might do as a group going forward.

More information can be found on the *LocalNZ* website at www.localnz.org.



Photo taken by Rebecca Vergunst at the convent in Jerusalem, Whanganui River, 17 November 2014 (runner-up of the photo competition).

Videos on the Institute's YouTube channel include (from top to bottom): Richard Louv speaking to the participants at the Wanganui War Memorial Centre, Wanganui; Interview with Karleen Marshall at Te Wainui a Rua school in Ranana, Whanganui River; Scene from the *LocalNZ* documentary: *The Deep Country: New Zealand visits the Whanganui River*; Rotorua District Councillor Tania Tapsell introducing the presentation at Parliament.

Thank you

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Parliamentary host

Hon. Paul Goldsmith MP

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Financial supporters

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New Zealand Treasury
Victoria University of Wellington
Wanganui District Council
Wellington City Council
Wellington City Council Youth Council
Whanganui River Māori Trust Board
Willis Bond & Co.
Woolf Photography

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Workshop speakers and guests

Gerrard Albert
Nick Astwick
Mark Baxter
Mayor Bryan Cadogan
Dr Jim Callaghan
Toby Cooper
Councillor Helen Craig
Professor Charles Daugherty
Dr Shamubeel Eaquab
Mayor Meng Foon
Kim Hill
Clodagh Jolly
Dr Girol Karacaoglu
Councillor Chris Laidlaw
Deputy Mayor Justin Lester
Richard Louv
John Niko Maihi
Mayor Annette Main
Ron Mark MP
Karleen Marshall and the children from Te Wainui a Rua School at Ranana
Ginette McDonald
Kura Moeahu
Bill Moran
Rod Oram
Ben Parker
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Simon Wright
Mayor Lawrence Yule

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'A Place to Live' conference organisers

Faith Atkins
Sarah Dadley
Professor Charles Daugherty
Glenda Lewis
Professor Kate McGrath

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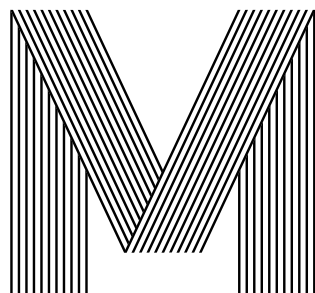
Participants

See names on page 2

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To learn more about the *LocalNZ*
workshop please see
www.localnz.org

For more information about the
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Having a broad and diverse audience interested in hearing the voices of youth is critical. We were very fortunate to have over 170 people attend the final presentation at Parliament, including:

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Her Excellency Virginia H Benavidez,
Embassy of the Philippines
His Excellency Laurent Contini,
Embassy of France
His Excellency Fernando Daniel Escalona,
Embassy of the Argentine Republic
His Excellency Peter Chan Jer Hing,
Singapore High Commission
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Ms Carol Stigley, Royal Danish
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Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Mr Joel Watson, First Secretary, British
High Commission

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Todd Barclay, National Party
Hon. Chester Borrows, National Party
Steffan Browning, Green Party
Hon. Paul Goldsmith, National Party
Peeni Henare, Labour Party
Brett Hudson, National Party
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Tracey Martin, New Zealand First
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