

Lyttelton News

A Project Lyttelton initiative in association with The Akaroa Mail

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Whakarauika o Whakaraupo

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Partnership the key in Lyttelton's future

Partnership is the key to Lyttelton redevelopment success say residents and community groups.

On Tuesday September 27, several representatives from various Lyttelton community groups including: Lyttelton Harbour Information Centre, Lyttelton Community Association, Project Lyttelton and the Lyttelton Harbour Business Association presented their observations to the Lyttelton/Mt Herbert Community Board, to encourage a rethink on how the Christchurch City Council relates to its local residents for the rebuilding of our town.

While the Lyttelton Draft Master Plan process has been a good start in getting Lyttelton to think about how it wants to be in the future; the groups are hoping to influence the Community Board on a new way forward.

Currently locals have all been asked what they want for a defined area, and Council staff are working in with consultants hired by the Christchurch City Council have gone away and drawn up plans.

Draft plans will then be presented, which are adjusted via a council hearings process. The draft plans are then approved, and left in the hands of council staff to oversee and implement.

"We will end up with plans that are set in concrete, and

plans that we can't amend" says Wendy Everingham from the Information Centre. "We are asking for a slightly revised way of doing things.

"With a township of passionate people, property owners and skilled people wanting to have an influence on what happens to Lyttelton we have asked the Council to consider actual working partnerships with Lyttelton residents and professionals.

"Many people in the current submission process have volunteered their services for free, just for this purpose.

"As the council works through all the various issues with the rebuild of Lyttelton we would like all interested parties to have an opportunity to meet face to face and work through all the issues together - rather than being told this is the outcome and we have to abide by it."

She said that the Council is being challenged on all levels for this to happen.

"We believe now is the perfect opportunity to try a different way of civic engagement so that we all have more ownership in the rebuild of our special place."

Residents of the Lyttelton community are encouraged to attend the Community Board meetings each month to express their views, or support their community groups as they present submissions.



Ideas for Lyttelton.

Lyttelton's draft Master Plan

- Lynnette Baird

It all started back in April with the Lyttelton/Mt Herbert Community Board calling a public meeting to develop a local recovery plan.

From the meeting on April 11, the Community Board compiled a document which itemised residents feedback.

Following a second public meeting in mid-May the Community Board later released an overview of residents concerns and ideals; which was presented to the Christchurch City Council and CERA.

By the end of June, the Christchurch City Council launched the "Suburban Centres Programme" and off shore consultants were contracted by the Council's strategic planning committee to gather information and host focus group sessions with

the community.

Following these meetings, several public 'hands on' design and community meetings were held.

The purpose of these meetings, was to raise awareness of the master plan and provide an opportunity for the community to identify issues, concerns and aspirations for their centre.

Residents were presented with the findings during a one and a half hour presentation, a week before the draft plan was released for general submissions.

The Council received 145 submissions from residents by the deadline of 12th August.

Janine Sowerby, the Senior Policy Planner for the Christchurch City Council Strategic Support Unit, believes residents' feedback to

date is generally supportive of the various actions suggested to support Lyttelton's rebuild and recovery in the short term and regeneration in the long term.

Alternative locations suggested, gaps identified and other feedback have provided invaluable direction and will be incorporated where, or if possible.

Over the past week, the Lyttelton Mt Herbert Community Board met with a number of appropriately qualified professionals, with local knowledge and connections, to host a peer review meeting with Council staff and consultants involved with the development of the Draft Master Plan.

The purpose of the peer review, was to enable these local professionals to understand the thinking underlying

the draft plan, and to ensure that the proposals in the plan reflected residents values, ideas and aspirations for Lyttelton.

Christchurch City Council staff and consultants are now finalising the Lyttelton Draft Master Plan, which they say will take into account all the feedback submitted in August, and comments made during the peer review.

The finalised Lyttelton Draft Master Plan document will be considered by the Lyttelton Mt Herbert Community Board at their board meeting on October 18 and presented to the Christchurch City Council in late October.

A collation and summary of all the comments received, is now available on the Council's website.

Partnership, not consultation

Community Board members heard delegations from Wendy Everingham (Lyttelton Information Centre and Project Lyttelton) and Ken Maynard and Sarah van der Burch (Lyttelton Community Association) at last week's Community Board meeting.

The speakers were seeking a different form of engagement with the Christchurch City Council as regards the rebuild.

They were advocating a partnership model rather than the current consultation model. The Santa Cruz example was cited as a model where partnerships were set up right from the start. Santa Cruz was successful.

Their argument was that although consultation allows for all the community to put forward their ideas, the process has limitations.

Involvement needs to be continuous, not just for the gathering of information phase, and then the feedback once the draft document has been prepared.

It was pointed out that much expertise, local knowledge and passion exists within the Lyttelton community that needs to be tapped to give an optimal outcome.

Locals want to be intimately involved in creating the new form of their town.

They don't want to passively accept anything diluted, piecemeal and lacking cohesive vision.



Money doesn't buy happiness, but it helps to run the TimeBank

- Bettina Evans

Apart from the loss of lives and the fear an earthquake can cause, what is the main issue in the aftermath of the earthquakes? Money!

Funds for new houses and renovations, lack of income for businesses, reluctance in re-insurance and pay-out to repair heritage buildings- all money related issues.

Other big issues - recession? Scarcity of natural resources and investment in alternative sources? World hunger? Wars? Money plays a part in all of this.

It's often been called the last taboo.

So it is timely that today's article is about Timebanking and the role money plays in it. I hear you ask: Money? Isn't the Timebank a charitable, voluntary organisation encouraging people to exchange goods and services without money?

Where does that money come from? And who gets it?

Where does the money come from? Last year the Lyttelton Timebank received funding from the Christchurch City Council and the Canterbury Community Trust to run the Lyttelton Timebank.

Funding from the Tindall Foundation is helping to set up a National Timebanking body to help with the establishment of Timebanks nationwide.

Does the Timebank earn

any money? The Timebank runs a couple of garage sales a month, and does some fund raising at festivals. If you have other great ideas for fundraising, let us know, we are always looking for more opportunities to raise funds. Some Timebanks charge fees from members, but we have decided against that.

Where does the money go to? Most of the money pays for the wages of the three part-time co-ordinators.

The money from the Tindall Foundation pays one-third of our wages to help establish a national Timebank organisation.

Some money is also needed for things like stationary, printing, specialised software, and social events.

Why paid co-ordinators? The reasons to employ a team of co-ordinators was based on experience and research in other Timebanks around the World, showing that the most successful Timebanks had paid co-ordinators.

What do the co-ordinators do? The co-ordinators are the first point of contact for the Timebank.

They enrol new members, help them to learn the ropes, and are available by phone, email and in person to answer queries, or discuss more complex trades. Two email-broadcasts per week help to keep members in touch with each other and to hear about new trades and events.

As the Timebank grows (and Lyttelton with over 400 members is one of the bigger ones in the world!), promotional material, leaflets and newspaper articles (like this one!) have to be produced, talks and presentations are given, both around Christchurch and nationally.

Co-ordinators organise working bees, fundraising events and social events. And the website and its content has to be maintained.

So why don't Timebank members do those jobs? The co-ordinators try as much as possible to involve timebank members with fundraising, social events, and some administrative tasks.

Michelle Foster, director of the Ferndale Timebank (USA) points out: "Typically, the groups interested in launching an organization are not also interested in maintaining the organisation."

Without a paid co-ordinator we would not be able to promise regular broadcasts, orientations for new members, social events etc. Kim Hodge (Michigan Alliance of Timebanks) agrees that a paid coordinator to run the timebank is important.

"It's not a field of dreams where you build it and they will come" she said. "You need a good foundation to build on with engaging opportunities to help people to get to know each other."

What is Timebanking?

Time Banking is a way of trading skills in a community. It uses time, rather than money, as the measurement tool. Members of a Time Bank share their skills with other members within the community and are given time credits for the work they do. With the credits they gain, each member can 'buy' someone else's time, and get the service they need.

Why Join a Time Bank?

Time Banking adds a richness to Time Bankers' lives. As a concept it brings 'wealth', in the form of friendship, caring for one another, having our needs met from within our own community and getting help with things we can't do.

Skills that are often taken for granted are valued - especially non-market economy skills - like parenting, home help and companionship.

In Lyttelton as a result of the Time Bank we can see a tighter community forming. Friendships are forming between people of different backgrounds who would not usually have met. The elderly are being cared for and the skills they share are valued. Special needs people are encouraged to participate.

Time Banking builds relationships and trust in a community. Everyone has something they can contribute to the wellbeing of the whole.

Everyone's Time is Equal

With Time Banking everybody's time is equal, no matter what type of work is done. 1 = 1. If you give one hour's work, you receive one hour time credit. If you have another member do one hour's work, they are paid one hour time credit. Every person is equally valued.



Ciaran Fox and Richard Humphreys engaged in a Timebank working bee.

National Time Banks to gather in Lyttelton

The Lyttelton TimeBank is excited to announce the first National TimeBank Conference right here in Lyttelton, on October 14-16.

Lyttelton TimeBank (the oldest and largest TimeBank in New Zealand) has invited other TimeBanks and interested individuals from Councils and affiliated groups around New Zealand, for a weekend of sharing and learning about all things TimeBank and communities working together.

There will be an Open Space Forum to explore the growth of TimeBanking in New Zealand and plenty of time for the delegates to share knowledge, questions and information.

A party with music by Devilish Mary and the Holy Rollers is planned for Saturday night to loosen up after all the talk!

The conference is open to any one in Lyttelton who wants to attend, if you want to know more about it and be part of it contact timebank@lyttelton.net.nz

Donation uses being considered

Many communities, organisations and individuals have been thinking about the people in our region post earthquake and sending donations to support us.

One such community is the little town of Port Waikato (under 400 population). They set up a team, "Lyttelton-we-Care" and organised community fund raising dinners. A few months back they sent us a cheque for \$5,000.

But they continued on. A Mid-winter Christmas dinner and a Wild Food Feast later completed what they set out to achieve. This week another cheque arrived - this time for \$5,047.

The Port Waikato Yacht

Club is sending a team here early next year - it would be good to show them a special time here in Lyttelton.

Project Lyttelton holds money that it has received on behalf of the community.

If you or your group have something that is related in some way to the earthquake, or an idea that will benefit the community you can apply for funding. See the Project Lyttelton website www.lyttelton.net.nz for details or contact the Project Lyttelton office on 328 9243.

A team made up of Ray Blake of MacTodd, Christine Mauger from Community House, Paula Smith from the Community Board, Andrew

Turner from the Business Association, Wendy Everingham from the Information Centre and Project Lyttelton, Liza Rossi who is from Lyttelton Main school and also a local historian - along with Margaret Jefferies, have considered requests from various groups and so far money has been allocated to the Harbour arts collective and the eARTHquake art therapy initiative.

To date \$7154 has been allocated.

Other community groups also have money which they hold in trust and also disperse, contact the Information Centre for more information.



Time bank organises a book swap.

Removing the distance factor from lives

Most of us nowadays are familiar with using Skype to talk with family and friends around the globe, but last week people gathered to learn how to use that tool and others (Facebook and Twitter) for more effective networking between groups.

Here is an example of how Skype could be used locally.

The Food Security project that Project Lyttelton has initiated is in its start off phase.

That project like all other Project Lyttelton projects has an advisory group that holds the project.

The members of the Food Security advisory group are dotted all around the Harbour.

By setting up a group discussion on Skype and using the texting function the advisory group can be in touch at all times.

At prearranged times members can be talking to one another (and within a few months seeing all the group as well) discussing what needs to be discussed and

simultaneously sharing the note taking which creates a permanent record of the conversation.

Links, documents and even screen sharing can be done.

The conversation of a meeting can continue as people come and go, via the text.

Someone can summarise

the discussion for conventional referral if required.

The search tool enables you to find any part of the conversation quickly.

We will still have meetings together where we can share a coffee, but that won't have to happen so frequently.

Just think of all the travelling saved - petrol and time!

Les Squires an international consultant who applies social networking principles to businesses and organisations has been travelling throughout New Zealand touching base with his networking network to provide this free course.

by Margaret Jefferies