



Restorative Practices Whanganui

Towards a Restorative City: Honoa ki a Rongo ki Whanganui

News from the Chair

August 2017

Greetings / Tēnā koutou,

It is time again to update you as to the progress we are making towards our vision Towards a Restorative City - Honoa Ki A Rongo Ki Whanganui.

In this newsletter, you can read about how Whanganui is leading the way towards the Restorative City Vision with leading edge Council practices, progressive Education and multidisciplinary networks

Ngā mihi nui,

Jenny Saywood, Chair

Towards the end of 2016 we welcomed Nita Pond onto the Board of Trustees. Nita is the Deputy Principal of Whanganui Girls College and is very committed to sustaining the restorative practice that occurs in her school and others in the Whanganui district.



Nita Pond

In July Shelly moved to Opunake with her family but fortunately still continues to work for us, on reduced hours. We held an enjoyable evening celebrating Shelly's time with us and her new venture. It was acknowledged that Shelly, as our very first Co-ordinator/Facilitator had truly been the face of Restorative Practice in Whanganui and had made a valuable contribution to promoting our vision.



Shelly Harkness

We also welcomed Debra Smith as our new Co-ordinator /Facilitator. Deb's leadership in Playcentre Early Childhood Education and her background as a Clinical Pharmacist will ensure that we keep widening our circle of practitioners.



Debra Smith

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Introduction to Formal Restorative Practice Facilitation

Marg Thorsborne delivered three of her two day "Formal RP Facilitation" workshops this year and we are always thrilled by the number of participants from a range of backgrounds and organisations. Following this workshop, participants can join the Co-Facilitator's Network which provides further opportunity to learn and share with others while developing restorative practice skills.



Marg Thorsborne

Whanganui District Council Leading the Way

"I think the introduction of the restorative practices element is fantastic ." Hamish McDouall, Mayor



In June we celebrated the adoption of a Code of Conduct for our District Councillors passed at a Full Council Meeting. This document now has included in it, a restorative process to address conflict resolution. It is the first of its kind in New Zealand and was a result of a request to the Trust from the then Legal Advisor Paul Drake. Both the Mayor, Hamish McDouall and the CEO, Kym Fell applauded this progressive move and we of course are delighted we have made history with them.

Education Leaders visit from UK

In February of this year we hosted a group of Principals and teachers from Hull, UK who were visiting New Zealand schools. The workshop was held at Whanganui Girls College and was a great opportunity for teachers from Whanganui /Rangitikei to share stories, hear success stories from their UK colleagues and renew their commitment to practising restoratively.



"Relate-Resolve-Restore" NZ Conference - November 2017



As some of you will know the Conflict Resolution Conference in November 2016 was postponed due to the Kaikoura earthquake affecting some buildings and roadways in Wellington. However the organisers have regrouped and cleverly renamed the Relate-Resolve-Restore to Recovered- Revived –Rerun to be held 1 -2 November 2017.

This unique, multi-disciplinary conference will explore the broad spectrum of alternative conflict resolution processes: www.confer.co.nz/crc. Shelly is presenting on the 2nd with Deb in attendance and a good contingent of Whanganui RJ/RP Facilitators attending the Conference. Join us and the other New Zealand and International participants engaging in alternative approaches to conflict!

Whanganui Restorative Schools connect with Washington DC

In August, we hosted Stephanie Beer, a Washington DC based teacher who in her research to support her personal development, spent a month in Australia meeting up with Marg Thorsborne and visiting schools in New Zealand. She was in Whanganui for two days and was hosted by one of the Trustees and Deputy Principal of Whanganui Girls College, Nita Pond. Stephanie spent time with teachers and students at both Whanganui Girls College and Whanganui High School. We look forward to hearing Stephanie's research results.



Photo credit: Stuart Munro, NZ Herald

Advisory group news



The Advisory Group has met two times this year and I would like to acknowledge PAUA Early Childhood Education and the Whanganui Police for providing venues

for these meetings.

Although Chester Borrows is retiring from his role as MP for Whanganui, he has agreed to continue his role as Chair of the Advisory Group for now.

We wish him well in his retirement and thank him for all that he has done for us during his time as an MP and look forward to continue our association with him.

International day of Peace

To celebrate the International Day of Peace on September 21st, Jenny has agreed to be part of a panel discussing the theme "Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for all".

Other panel members are the Mayor, Hamish McDouall, Orphee Mickalad, Executive Assistant to Hon Chester Borrows and Sian McGibbon, Community Education Services.

This panel discussion is being hosted by Peace Through Unity and UNA NZ at the Quaker Settlement.



Confluence is all about community. The community amongst its members, but also the wider Whanganui community. We regularly host a wide range of events and proudly support a number of community organisations and initiatives who contribute to our community being collaborative, connected, innovative, and resilient.

Confluence Visit us at Level 3, 15 Watt Street or online at www.confluence.kiwi

Restorative Practice Learning Opportunities

On September 6, Shelly and Deb are running another “ Introduction to Restorative Practice” Workshop. We are very grateful to Confluence for the opportunity to share their modern, well equipped, safe and friendly workspace, Whanganui's first co-working space. See details on page 3 for more about Confluence.



WHANGANUI: TOWARDS A RESTORATIVE CITY

Honoa ki a Rongo ki Whanganui

INTRODUCTION TO RESTORATIVE PRACTICE Workshop

Want to find out what Restorative Practice is and how you can use it?

This workshop will help develop your understanding of, and help you to apply, informal restorative practice.

This is a participatory workshop and explores:

- philosophy and concepts of restorative practice
- restorative practice language
- continuum of restorative practice
- application of restorative practice (low level)

Register to:

Restorative Practices Whanganui

06 343 3648

info@restorativepracticeswhanganui.co.nz



**One day Workshop
8.30am-4.30pm**

**4th May, or
5th July, or
6th September**

“A well run, thought provoking day in an open & honest, safe environment.”

“It’s given me better problem solving skills.”

\$115 pp

- enquire about non-profit discount

- includes light lunch & refreshments



Restorative Practices Whanganui

Towards a Restorative City: Honoa ki a Rongo ki Whanganui

Tel: 06 343 3648 / 027 444 0086

Postal: P O Box 4285, Whanganui 4541

Email: info@restorativepracticeswhanganui.co.nz

Web: restorativepracticeswhanganui.co.nz

Twitter: @WRPT01

Facebook: Restorative Practices Whanganui