



## Co-chairs Report

### Community Networks Wellington Annual General Meeting

18<sup>th</sup> September 2019

This year has been one with many opportunities for learning and growth for us at Community Networks Wellington and over the past 12 months we've celebrated highs and mourned losses as a community and as a nation.

Our entire country was rocked by the massacre that took place in March 2019 and we know that recovery from a trauma like this will be a long journey for us as a nation. The communities we work in are no exception and we have all banded closer together to work collaboratively and connectedly for our whānau and communities. This kind of tragedy makes the need for networks like CNW and the opportunities it provides for sharing, learning and collaboration much more evident

A highlight for us as a rōpu was partnering with the Wellington City Council to hold the Wellington Social Forum in October 2018. We saw 150 of you come together over two days where we put our collective wisdom to good use and focussed on four key areas; housing and homelessness, mental health & addictions, social isolation and poverty & financial inequality. From this event came the social forum report which we reference over and over in our work. We continue discussions with the Wellington City Council regarding the report and the forum and are looking forward to working with our members on this project as it continues.

The forum wouldn't have been possible without support from Te Atiawa who opened our day with a mihi whakatau and closed the hui at the end of day two, Mayor Justin Lester, Councillor Brian Dawson, our MC Ian Lambie and our four workshop facilitators; Kristy Buggins, Bridget Murphy, Tommy Benefield and Tim Barnett.

Our executive committee remains a strong and committed group of representatives across the scope of community social services in the region. We regretfully let go of Deidre Dahlberg, Kirsty Buggins and Kaitlin Davis and gratefully welcomed Paula Lloyd and Ali Hamlin-Paenga over the year.

We also wish to acknowledge Anna Symons, our former Project Coordinator who left us in February 2019. Before she returned to Europe, Anna told us that working for all of our members was "the best job she ever had" and we think she's pretty wonderful too.

### **Additional highlights from the year:**

- Our continued partnership with WCC has grown and we've strengthened some key relationships within council;
- We hosted a total of nine network hui over the year as well as our two-day social Forum\
- Our Matariki celebration, hosted by Ali Hamlin-Paenga and her team at Ngāti Kahungunu Whānau Services;
- Hosting speakers from the Soup Kitchen, Celia Lashlie Trust, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Pōneke Community Services, Wellington City Council and WREMO;
- We sent out 10 full newsletters with 30 supplements to more than 200 people in the community and social sector;

We wish to thank our dedicated team of volunteers who make up the executive committee of CNW and our two part-time staff who keep all the Network activities running smoothly. We also need to extend a huge thank you and mihi to all of our member organisations, without your input none of the goals we set can be completed and we're grateful to every person or organisation that attended meetings, shared about their work at our hui, read our newsletter and completed member surveys.

### **Additional thanks to:**

- Wellington City Council COGS for funding contributions
- Deb Delaney – CNW's coordinator who keeps the organisation running smoothly
- Janette Ritchie – the woman behind the CNW ever popular newsletter
- Anna Symons – CNW's outgoing Project Coordinator
- Claire Teal – CNW's new Project Coordinator. Claire joined us in February 2019 and has really hit the ground running. We're really glad to have her on the team;
- Nikki Geeson and Xiaotong Yang - our volunteer writers for our newsletter.

There was

- All of our guest speakers from throughout the year:
  - Ana Faatoia – WREMO: Ana shared about earthquake preparedness;
  - Karen Holland - Soup Kitchen/Te Whare Hupa: Karen talked about the history of the Soup Kitchen as well as new initiatives;
  - Cr Brian Dawson – Wellington City Council: Brian discussed his portfolio's and Social Forum
  - Becs Henderson - Celia Lashlie Trust: Becs spoke about the Trust's mahi and continuing her mother's vision;
  - Ngati Kahungunu ki Pōneke Community Services spoke about their services;
  - Ngāti Kahungunu ki Pōneke Community Services team members shared their understanding of Matariki and what it means for Māori.

Community Networks Wellington is in a positive position to face the year ahead. We look forward to working and sharing with you all for another exciting year.

*Nāku te rourou, nāu te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi*

Manda Gruber and Julia Hennessy  
Co-chairs Community Networks Wellington  
September 2019