

TACA Community Engagement – 28 July 2022

Report by Graeme Nicholas



Community Summary

This engagement workshop was held in association with the Annual General Meeting of the **Tasman Area Community Association Incorporated (TACA)**, at the Tasman Church, Thursday 28 July, 2022. The workshop was designed and facilitated by Graeme Nicholas, a local resident with experience in community engagement. The workshop was attended by approximately 25 people and ran for approximately 40 minutes. The workshop was presented as an opportunity to provide advice to the incoming TACA committee.

Participants were asked to work in groups of people with whom they were not already very familiar. Each table was equipped with post-it note pads and large sheets of paper. There were five tasks carried out by the groups:

- Participants were invited to share with others at their table: “what in your view is a pressing issue facing this community over the next three years?”
- Participants were reminded of the first objective of TACA: “To foster and promote the interest of residents in the social, environmental, cultural and economic life of the area from the Moutere Bluff to Mariri, including Kina Peninsula”.

They were then asked: “In your view, what would need to happen over the next three years to make a real difference to residents in one or more of these aspects of life?”

Participants were asked to firstly respond by writing their ideas onto post-it notes, one idea per note.

- Each table group was invited to cluster all the ideas from their table into like-with-like, and then to name each cluster as an action.
- Each table group was invited to prioritise two action areas and to note: “who needs to be part of making this happen?” and “who might be affected if this did happen, for better or for worse?”
- Finally, participants were given opportunity to visit other tables and see what those groups had produced.

All outputs from the tables were photographed at the workshop, and taken for collation.

This was a very fast way of taking some soundings from the community. It is not a formal survey, but it does have the added value of setting individual ideas in dialogue with others, and inviting some prioritising.

As will be seen, there are many good ideas to guide and motivate TACA and others. However, in my reading of the material, certain high level themes come through strongly:

- commitment to on-going tree planting
- desire for more gathering opportunities: events, gathering places, social hub
- desire for more cycleways and walkways providing safe access to Kina and other places
- desire for public transport
- interest in greater link between the community and the schools
- commitment to the local reserves and public spaces

I recommend that the incoming TACA committee find some way to acknowledge to the community that it has heard the ideas and themes from the workshop, and that it is actively pursuing responses to some priority areas.

Graeme Nicholas

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