

2012

Christchurch Residents' Association Forum

Information for Delegates



“The Heart of Community”

The symbol below is a call for unity amongst residents’ groups across New Zealand. The yellow house is welcoming and friendly and, with its large window, looks out over the rest of the neighbourhood.

The name of the original project – the National Database of Residents’ and Progressive Associations – is fashioned in the shape of a koru, representing new growth, and is an acknowledgement of the original residents of the land.

Behind the koru are rays of light symbolising positivity and the embracing warmth of the sun.



Executive Summary

The Draco Foundation (NZ) Charitable Trust (DFNZCT) – a sister organisation to the New Zealand Resilience Trust (NZRT) – is facilitating a forum for Christchurch City residents' groups¹. The event aims to bring together delegates from resident's groups in the Christchurch City to meet other like-minded people, to share and hear new ideas and to have a say in the future of the City's community governance sector through the development of further initiatives (e.g. a federation).

The conference will be held on Saturday 21st of April 2012 at the Canterbury Netball Centre in Hagley Park. This venue was chosen because it is central and accessible to the wider city, and is 'neutral ground' on which residents' groups may convene.

DFNZCT is covering the cost of up to three delegates from any residents' association so attendance is free for these delegates. Lunch and morning/afternoon teas are provided. The only other group invited to send delegates are Christchurch City Community Boards and the Office of the Ombudsmen. Community Board delegates are being charged a nominal fee to assist with the cost of catering.

Background

Over the past eight years the trustees of DFNZCT and NZRT have come to understand the important how much residents' associations contribute to creating a democratic society. Indeed, many such groups provide the only check-and-balance to the financial power of property developers and legal power of local bodies. Residents' associations have been active in New Zealand for nearly 150 years and more recently in the city have played a major role in the aftermath of the Canterbury earthquakes. The organisers of the Christchurch forum believe it is time to recognise the importance of these groups.

This event has been organised as the first stage in raising awareness of residents' associations to the wider public, government agencies and media. It will provide a platform for ideas to be discussed, enabling people active in local democracy and community governance to come together, meet, network and form lasting relationships.

The event is seen by the organisers as part of a wider movement of coordination and cooperation amongst residents' associations across the country. This is not an end in itself, rather it is the beginning of a new age of community empowerment.

¹ *Resident's Groups* is a general term to describe a broad variety of civil society organisations that represent people. These included residents', ratepayers', progressive and neighbourhood associations, residents' societies, community councils and community associations.

Conference Programme

Start time	End Time	Activity	Length
9:00	9:59	Delegate registration	1:00
10:00	10:14	Introduction from Jarrod Coburn, Director of NRAD (Draco Foundation)	0:15
10:15	11:14	Personal introduction and "top issue" from each delegate	1:00
11:15	11:29	Break and networking/feedback opportunity	0:15
11:30	12:44	Individual group discussion: "Top Issues Affecting Residents' Groups in the City"	1:15
12:45	13:29	Lunch and networking (note: media have been invited to attend at this time)	0:45
13:30	13:59	Report back on Top Issues discussion	0:30
14:00	14:44	Guest Speaker: Jim Candiliotis, President of the Federation of Wellington Progressive and Residents' Associations (FWPRA)	0:45
14:45	14:59	Break and networking/feedback opportunity	0:15
15:00	16:29	World cafe-style discussion on next steps/moving forward	1:30
16:30	17:29	Report back and deliberation on "next steps" discussion	1:00
17:30		Close of forum	
18:00		Social event (optional) \$25/head	

Speaker list and biographies

Jarrold Coburn has held senior position for the Plunket Society, Water Safety New Zealand, and Wellington City Council among others. He first became involved with community governance at age 19 as president of his local residents' association. Jarrod is currently completing research on the sector for his Masters degree thesis through Victoria University and is Director of the National Residents' Association Database.

Jim Candiliotis has a solid history of representation in community affairs as a former representative on the Fishing Industry Board Retail Representative Advisory Group and the current chair of the Federation of Wellington Progressive and Residents Associations. He has served for many years as part of the executive of the Newlands Paparangi Progressive Association and is a trustee of the New Zealand Resilience Trust and the Draco Foundation.

Key Personnel

Facilitators

Katherine Peet	Community advocacy, treaty relations
John Peet	Engineering, sustainable development
Hon. Sir Kerry Burke	Local government, good governance
Jim Candiliotis	Civil society, community resilience
Erin Ebborn	Not-for-profit governance, social justice

Contact

Convenor	Jarrold Coburn	jarrod.coburn@civilsociety.org.nz	(021) 295 9532
----------	----------------	--	----------------