

**Democracy, ethics and the Public Good: The 2014 Geering event
August 1&2 at St Andrew's on the Terrace.
Conference Handbook**

These pages contain the programme and information about the presentations to be made as well as speakers biographies over the two days of the conference. Copies will be available as part of a conference pack for attendees.

The St Andrews Trust bookshop will be available throughout the conference as will books from some of the presenters. There will also be information available from many of the organisations represented at the conference.

Programme

Democracy, ethics and the public good: The 2014 Geering Seminar

Friday	Evening	
Theme	The shape of New Zealand's democracy	
6.30pm	Doors open	
7:00p.m.	Jim Cunningham	Introduces the conference
7:10p.m.	Lloyd Geering	Democracy and ethics
7.20pm	Bronwyn Hayward	Our Social Handprint: Understanding the kind of democracies we are creating
7.40pm	Deliberation	<i>What questions does this raise for you about NZs democracy?</i>
7.45pm	Michael Macaulay	Open Government Partnership
8.05pm	Deliberation	<i>What opportunities did you hear for a more open democracy in NZ?</i>
8.25pm	Jane Kelsey	Trade treaties and democracy
8.45pm	Deliberation	<i>What did you hear about the challenges for democratic participation in NZ?</i>
8.50pm	Sum up and information about tomorrow	Decamp to Katherine Mansfield room, Thistle Inn!



Saturday	Morning	
Theme	Government and Citizens	
9:00:00 a.m.	Wendy McGuinness	Welcome and the 2013 Constitutional Review
9:15:00 a.m.	Sandra Grey/Charles Sedgwick	Getting advocacy and activism out from the margins
9.35.00am	Bill Ryan	Responsive government: social media, the responsive delivery and hierarchy
9.55.00am	Workshop topics	<i>My experience of democracy. Achieving a more democratic government, Achieving a more democratic community, Reflecting on the session.</i>
10.20.00am	Sum up	
10.30.00	Tea-break in the Church	<i>Opportunity to pre-order pizza lunch</i>
Theme	News Media and access to information	Panel presentation
11.00am	Myles Thomas	The fifth estate - lending support to the fourth
	Stephanie Rodgers	Changing minds and developing ideas- whose voices: Blogging and social media
	Ben Knight	Shared conversations and decision making using Loomio
	Meg Howie	Askaway: Questions for candidates.
	Kieran Stowers	OntheFence: matching your views with party policy
11:50:00 a.m.	Workshop topics	<i>Media in a robust democracy. Information to citizens, Reflecting on the session</i>
12.20.00pm	Summary	
12.30.00pm	Lunch (not provided)	Tea,coffee and seating in the Hall
Afternoon		
Theme	Citizens & engagement	Presentations
13.15.00	Barbara Bedeschi Lewando	Participatory models overseas
	Cath Wallace	Weakening the tools that protect NZ: the case of the RMA
	Max Rashbrooke	Inequality: a barrier to engagement
	Julia Amua Whaipooti (Ngati Porou)	Who gets out to vote? Not prisoners!
2:10:00 p.m.	Workshop Topics	<i>Engaging with our allies, Engaging with our critics, What would a more robust democracy look like?Reflecting on the session.</i>
2.50.00p.m.	Summary	
3.00.00pm	Refreshment break in the church	Tea break
Theme	Conference feedback and future work	
3:15:00 p.m.	Next steps, priorities, commitments, content of report from the conference.	
4:30:00 p.m.	Close	



Presenters and biographical information



Rev Dr Jim Cunningham is the interim Minister at St Andrews and the chair of the St Andrews Trust for the Study of Religion and Society. He is also a counsellor, a communicator and a storyteller, including of radical and progressive theological ideas, through his preaching. Family and travel are important aspects of his life.

Jim will introduce the conference, set the scene and be our MC on Friday evening.



Professor Sir Lloyd Geering is a ground breaking and controversial commentator on theological issues. He has been an ordained Presbyterian minister for more than 70 years and has held a number of significant academic positions in New Zealand. He is a Companion of the British Empire and in 2001 was named a Principal Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

Lloyd's writings have often addressed key questions concerning contemporary religion and society. Although he has retired as Principal Lecturer for the St Andrew's Trust for the Study of Religion and Society, he is still an Honorary Associate Minister and Theologian in Residence for St Andrew's Parish. **Lloyd** will open the conference with some remarks about democracy and ethics.



Dr Bronwyn Hayward is a Senior Lecturer in Political Science at the University of Canterbury, and co researcher at the University of Oslo on the Voices of the Future project and Surrey University's Sustainable Lifestyles Research group, UK. Bronwyn Hayward's academic background is in political science and geography and she specialises in children, youth and democratic response to rapid social, economic and environmental change. Bronwyn is the author of *Children and the Environment: Nurturing a democratic imagination* (Routledge/Earthscan London, 2012).

Bronwyn's topic is Our Social Handprint: Understanding the kind of democracies we are creating.

Bronwyn developed the SEEDS, FEARS and SMART models of social handprint as ways to think about how we are currently responding to crises and change. She has identified three dominant political responses. One is the authoritarianism of the FEARS model, where we frustrate citizen agency (the ability to imagine and effect change with command and control authoritarianism). Secondly is thin democracy of SMART citizenship with its emphasis on self-help, markets, individual entrepreneurialism, technocratic imagination, and representative government. Hayward argues there is nothing wrong with the SMART model – of course we need new technology, entrepreneurs and clever thinking, but it leaves unchallenged and unquestioned the fundamental drivers of inequality, social justice and dangerous environmental change. Instead she advocates a SEEDS model of democratic citizenship. A diagram of the Seeds social handprint for democracy is attached to the final page of these notes.

More about Bronwyn

<http://growing-greens.blogspot.co.nz/>

<http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/spark/Researcher.aspx?researcherid=1104322>

A diagram outlining Bronwyn's ideas of the FEARS, SEEDS and SMART democracy is attached to the back page of this document



Dr Michael Macaulay is Director of the Institute of Governance and Policy Studies (IGPS) at Victoria University and Associate Professor in Public Management at the School of Government. Before joining Victoria University in 2013, Michael was Professor of Public Management at Teesside University, UK, and he is currently Visiting Professor at the Universities of Sunderland and York St John. He has previously been Visiting Professor at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. He

has had a diverse academic career He is currently one of two Executive Editors of *International Journal of Public Administration*. He has worked with organisations such as Transparency International, numerous local authorities, and recently with the Council of Europe creating integrity audit tools for the Turkish public sector.

Michael will talk about the Open Government Partnership from the perspective his UK and NZ experience with transparency and integrity systems.

More about Michael

http://igps.victoria.ac.nz/staff/team/Michael_Macaulay.html



Professor Jane Kelsey is one of New Zealand's most acute social commentators. Professor of Law at the University of Auckland, she is actively committed to social justice in her teaching, her work on Maori sovereignty, and her international research and advocacy on the crisis in globalisation. For several decades her work has centred on the interface between globalisation and domestic neoliberalism, with particular reference to free trade and investment agreements. Since 2008 Jane has played a central role in the international

and national campaign to raise awareness of, and opposition to, the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement.

Jane will be addressing the risks to democracy of international 'free trade' treaties like the TPPA, TPIP and TISA whose approach to treaty making is not a given and has risks to democracy and sovereignty that are being largely overlooked by the proponents.

More about Jane and her work

<https://unidirectory.auckland.ac.nz/profile/j-kelsey>

<http://www.itsourfuture.org.nz/>

Dr Sandra Grey is a Senior Lecturer in Social Policy at Victoria University of Wellington.



Sandra is currently working on a major project examining activism by the New Zealand women's, union, and anti-poverty movements since 1970.

More about Sandra

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs/about/sandra-grey>

Dr Charles Sedgwick is a sociologist with strong interdisciplinary interests. During the course of his career he has taught at the University of Canterbury and at Victoria University of Wellington.

Sandra and Charles will present "Stomping all over 'grass-roots' advocacy and activism"

Grass-roots organisations have a crucial role to play in ensuring we live in a robust and healthy democracy. Sandra and Charles' work explores decades of activism and advocacy by grass-roots organisations aimed at ensuring the voice of the most marginalised New Zealanders are heard in public debate. What their research shows it that despite a government rhetoric of 'continued improvement in the way we work with communities, NGOs and other groups, and how we purchase services' the reality is very different. A strong elitist-style of government has contributed to an on-going decline in democratic engagement. In particular, government contracting has created a climate in which the community and voluntary sector fears 'biting the hand that feeds it'; and elite rhetoric has seen grass-roots groups recast as 'vested interests' or 'wreckers and haters'. The question for citizens is how do we force governments to once again recognised the legitimacy of grass-roots activism and advocacy.

Wendy McGuinness is the Chief Executive of The McGuinness Institute, a non-



partisan think tank working for the public good and contributing strategic foresight through evidence-based research and policy analysis. Among the McGuinness Institute's work has been *Nation Dates*, a book of significant dates that have shaped New Zealand and which is now in its second edition. The Institute has also created a body of work looking at how to implement a potent idea which originated with the late Professor Sir Paul Callaghan of "New Zealand - a

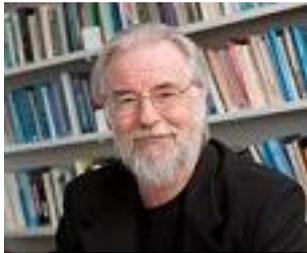
place where talent wants to live”.

Wendy will introduce the institute to conference attendees and talk about the McGuinness Institute’s contribution to the Constitutional Advisory Panel. The [2012 Draft Constitution](#) was prepared by 50 young New Zealanders as part of the 2012 review of the constitution “He Kōtuinga Kōrero mō Te Kaupapa Ture o Aotearoa”. Wendy will also introduce the Saturday morning speakers.

More about Wendy and the McGuinness Institute

www.mcguinnessinstitute.org

Associate Professor Bill Ryan is based in the School of Government at Victoria University of Wellington. In his most recent book, *Future State: Directions for Public Management in New Zealand* (co-edited with Derek Gill), he argued that developments in society particularly in civil society make it essential that approaches to government and governing in Aotearoa change significantly, particularly in opening up those processes for wider citizen participation.



Bill will speak on the pressures on government caused by social media, openness and the 24 hour news cycle and a public sector legislative framework that is overdue for renewal. There are growing opportunities for citizens in using social media and the need for government to keep with their demands that is starting to set the scene for open government. For public services there is a contrast between the situation on the ground, where things happen to deliver services, and the top of government departments, where there are problematic relationships between chief executives and their ministers. After 26 years the State Sector Act is showing its age.

More about Bill

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/sog/about/staff/bill-ryan>



Myles Thomas directs reality television and documentaries by day, and by night he is



chief executive of the **Coalition for Better Broadcasting Trust**. He led the opposition to the closure of TVNZ7.

Myles' presentation is titled One pillar, two pillar, three pillar, four... Is it time for a fifth pillar of democracy? The fourth pillar of democracy, our media is crumbling with weaker audiences and funding problems, so they are less able to hold the first three to account.

What's needed is a fifth pillar, more of a bank or a large scaffold working with the fourth pillar. That fifth pillar is the people or people power. It is exactly what Public Good is attempting to do.

More about Myles and the Coalition for Better Broadcasting

<http://www.betterbroadcasting.co.nz/>

Barbara Bedeschi-Lewando is an international development practitioner specialized in governance, climate change and disaster risk reduction. She has undertaken various assignments with international organizations in areas of climate adaptation, poverty eradication, food security, gender, disaster risk reduction, infrastructure and natural resources vulnerability. Barbara has Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Relations and a Masters in Global Environmental Protection and International Policies. Barbara is passionate about justice, gender equality, diversity and New Zealand. She lives in Lower Moutere where she runs her advisory company and now contributes her international experience to FCG ANZDEC in the role of Development Associate for the Asia-Pacific Region.

Barbara will talk about the participatory democracy approaches being used in Brazil and elsewhere and their applicability to NZ.



Cath Wallace is the Vice-chair, policy of **ECO, the environment and conservation organisation of Aotearoa/New Zealand** and served two terms on the Council of IUCN, the World Conservation Union as well as lecturing at Victoria University in economics and public policy, focusing primarily on the environment.

Cath will address the range of ethical and other values at stake in democratic – and non-democratic - processes and environmental management

More about Cath and ECO

www.eco.org.nz



Ben Knight is a co-founder of Loomio, an online tool for collaborative decision-making



built by a team of open-source developers, facilitators and activists in New Zealand and a workers cooperative.. Ben has an academic background in the evolution of collective intelligence, a practical background in grassroots community organising, and a passion for the potential of technology to spur positive social change. He was closely involved with the Occupy movement in 2011, which exposed him to the massively empowering results of collective decision-making on a large scale, and the possibility that online tools could make participatory democracy a part of everyday life.

Ben will talk about participatory democracy and the role of **Loomio** in supporting collaborative decision making. Loomio refers both to the worker's cooperative that Ben is a member of and a tool that makes it easy for as many people as possible to put their heads together and to come up with better solutions than anyone would have come up with on their own.

More about Ben and Loomio Cooperative

<http://www.loomio.org/>

Julia Amua Whaipooti, Ngati Porou completed her legal studies in 2013 and now



works for the Community Law Centre providing legal education and information to local communities. She is passionate about social justice and sees many of the issues within our criminal justice system as reflecting the social justice failures in broader society. **Julia** is involved with **JustSpeak** because she believes in its kaupapa and its aims to empower young people to have a voice in the criminal justice conversation.

Ko ngā Rangatahi ngā Rangatira mō āpōpō. Young people are our leaders of tomorrow and JustSpeak is a waka that helps shape our tomorrow by asking for change.

Julia will speak about democracy and justice issues including the removal of the right to vote.

More about JustSpeak

<http://justspeak.org.nz/about/our-vision/>



Stephanie Rodgers is a feminist, social communications expert and blogger and her witty, trenchant and well informed commentary at the **Boots Theory** and **The Standard** has influenced policy issues in social democratic and feminist circles. She has often addressed the issue of whose voices are actually being heard.

Stephanie will talk about the effectiveness of social media in changing and developing ideas and new generation feminism.

Blogging by Stephanie

<http://bootstheory.wordpress.com/about/>



Meg Howie developed [AskAway](#) as her Master of Design project at Massey University in collaboration with a number of open source developers. It is aimed at increasing youth voter turnout in the 2014 General Election and it was tested in the 2013 local council elections. It is one of the election engagement initiatives which make up Massey University's [Design & Democracy Lab](#).

Meg will talk about her work on the Askaway project which allows people to put questions to political parties.

More about Meg and Askaway

<http://www.askaway.co.nz/>



Kieran Stowers is an award-winning graphic designer, design-led researcher and recent graduate of the Master of Design programme at the Massey University College of Creative Arts. His research pays particular attention to the capability of design to innovative new modes of community dialogue that will advance the future health of public civic participation in the 21st Century.

Kieran is currently working out of Massey's newly established Design & Democracy Project, Kieran is further developing **On the Fence** – a web tool designed to guide inexperienced, first time voters to make an informed decision in this year's election. Originally launched in 2011, On the Fence is a fun, accessible political-values questionnaire presented as an online game. It acts as civic education tool by translating esoteric political jargon into ideas that young people can understand. www.onthefence.org.nz



Max Rashbrooke is a Wellington-based journalist and author who has worked on inequality in New Zealand and edited the bestselling *Inequality: A New Zealand crisis* in 2013, which examines, among other things, the democracy and participation issues related to high levels of inequality. Max has worked on the Guardian in the UK and amongst his work in the New Zealand was the notable Listener article recounting his grim experiences undercover in a NZ half-way house.

Max will talk about the disenfranchising effects of the extreme inequality in New Zealand. Inequality makes it hard for more than 300,000 New Zealanders to play a full part in New Zealand society including taking part in democratic and representative issues.

More information about Max and his work.

<http://www.maxrashbrooke.org.nz/inequality/>

<http://www.inequality.org.nz/>

Esther Bukholt is an experienced facilitator and has helped design the process for the participant engagement in the conference.



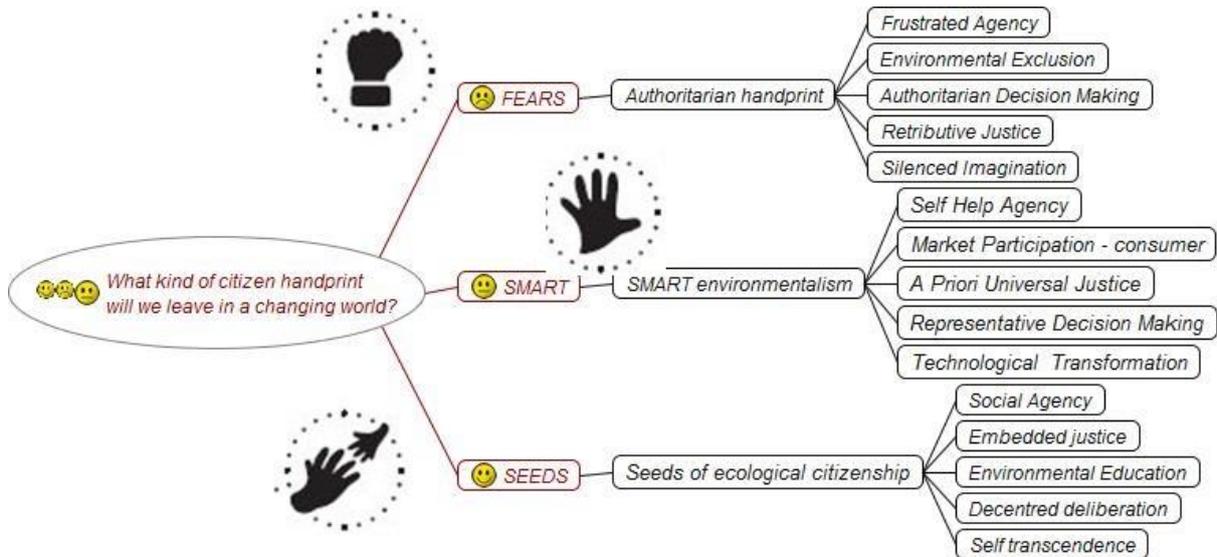
My life philosophy is that we all have the right to live, work and play in ways that sustain us, our communities and the earth. Indeed, we are the richer for it. I have applied this philosophy to my life and work for over twenty years in community development, recreation and adult education. I am committed to social inclusion and have initiated a wide range of successful discussions and projects with community, public, and private partners. This work has taught me that one size does not fit all and given me valuable insights into the diversity of our communities.

YOU!

As well as these great speakers the real strength of the conference is the opportunity for participants to reflect on what they have heard and to take part in workshops that will develop and build on the ideas from the presentations.

Diagram adapted from Bronwyn Hayward's Social Handprint: Understanding the kind of democracy we are creating. A diagram adapted from Children and the Environment: Nurturing a democratic imagination

What kind of citizen handprint will we leave in a changing world?





Conference Timings

Friday 7.00 PM – 9.00PM

9.00 PM Kate Shepherd Room, Thistle Inn

Saturday 9.00 - finish by 4.30pm

Breaks – Morning Tea 10.30,

Lunch 12.30,

Afternoon Tea 3pm

Conference Support

The Conference has been generously supported by all of the speakers who have given their time, by members of the St Andrews Trust who have provided practical support and guidance about the content and by the following individuals and organisations.

Dr Ganesh Nana

[The McGuinness Institute](#)

[Noble Painting Wellington](#)

[Unity Books Wellington](#)

Dr Richard Norman

Venue and Safety Information

The venue is wheelchair accessible.

If required we have a conference room available all day Saturday and the hall adjacent to the Church from Midday

In the event of an earthquake

The building has been recently strengthened. Remain calm.

If inside, stay inside and take cover under desks or in doorways, cover your head with your arms and make yourself as small as possible.

Keep away from windows or objects that could fall on top of you.

Evacuation – Assemble at the back of the car park between the Braemar building and St Andrew's on The Terrace accessible from the right side door of the Church. Remain in the car park until the all clear is given to return to the building.

Bathrooms - Bathrooms are located downstairs to the right of the main staircase in the conference centre accessible from the right side door of the Church.

Authorised by Jan Rivers, 86, Parkvale Road, Karori, Wellington, 6012