

Democracy, Ethics and the Public Good

Conference Report

1st and 2nd August 2014

Co-ordinated by **public good** Aotearoa and

St Andrew's Trust for the Study of Religion and Society



ST ANDREW'S TRUST FOR THE
STUDY OF RELIGION & SOCIETY

public
good
AOTEAROA
NEW ZEALAND

Report authors:

Jan Rivers

Esther Bukholt

With thanks to:

Dr Ganesh Nana

Unity Books

Esther Bukholt

Dr Richard Norman

Ben Harris (Noble Painting)

Public Services Association

The McGuinness Institute

Living Economies

St Andrew's Trust for the Study of Religion and Society

Many, many people who gave their time and wise advice for free.

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Executive Summary

The objective of the conference Democracy, Ethics and Public Good conference held on 1 and 2 August at St Andrew's Church, The Terrace, Wellington was to look at the problems and possibilities in New Zealand's democracy. It was held within the wider framework of the 2014 lecture series 'Choices' held by the St Andrew's Trust for the Study of Religion and Society (SATRS) and run jointly by SATRS and **public good**. The conference was attended by more than 150 people with about 90 attending the full day of workshops.

This report outlines the presentations made, summarises the workshop discussions and makes suggestions and proposals for important further work to strengthen New Zealand's democracy.

Speakers included academics and members of civil society and activist organisations and the presentations were broadly themed and were interspersed with opportunities for participants to discuss the issues raised in the presentations. The themes were:

- The shape of New Zealand's democracy.
- Government and citizens.
- News media and access to information.
- Citizens and engagement.

Although there was much disquiet about the state of our democracy, the main priorities identified for future action were framed up as positive actions to protect and enhance New Zealand's democracy. The aim is to identify organisations and individuals who can contribute to addressing the priorities that have been identified. Facilitator Esther Bukholt structured, designed and facilitated a process to support attendees to have open-ended discussions which would lead, after the final set of presentations, to a process to identify priorities for action. Analysis of these priorities was undertaken after the conference and three areas for action stood out.

Our vision for New Zealand's democracy is:

VISION

That the New Zealand government acts legally, ethically and democratically in all aspects of its work

That the New Zealand media provides a balanced and robust forum for information and debate

That New Zealanders are well informed about democracy and actively engage in democratic

"... focus on what the value of being engaged and voting offers."

Notes from a flip chart written by a group talking about getting information to citizens.

	about the quality of New Zealand's democracy	processes and protecting these
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Recommendation 1: Shout out for democracy	Recommendation 2: Improving the media landscape	Recommendation 3: Democracy education to citizens
<p>To shout out when New Zealand's democratic principles are being upheld or undermined.</p> <p>Principals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect • Transparency • Political Equality • Proper process • Rule of law • Protection of human rights including minority rights 	<p>To improve the quality of media channels and reporting in New Zealand about democracy through supporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethical journalistic standards • Diverse and independent media channels • Public good funding models 	<p>To support information and education for New Zealanders on citizenship and democracy including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current status of our democracy (based also on our democratic history) • Tangata whenua and democracy • Actions citizens can take in support of a robust democracy • Information about other models

For each of these actions there are many organisations whose role is already or potentially supportive of these outcomes and in some cases are already working on the issues. The organisations listed here were mentioned by conference attendees.

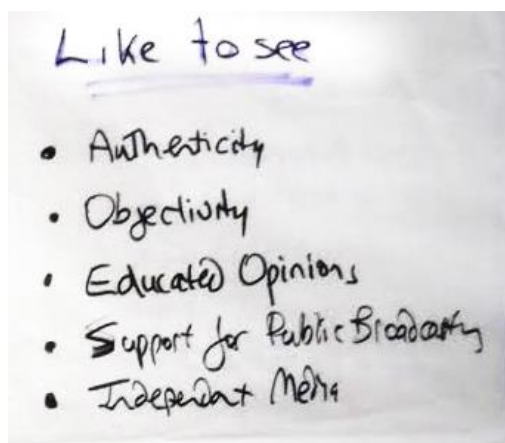
Thoughts about our potential partners for this work are:		
<p>Transparency International</p> <p>Centre for Citizenship Education</p> <p>Social activism and social development academics</p> <p>Institute of Governance and Policy Studies (Victoria University)</p> <p>Public Service unions like the PSA, Nurses Union, NZEI and PPTA.</p> <p>Political Parties developing policies sympathetic to robust democracy.</p> <p>Churches and faith</p>	<p>Journalists chapter of the EPMU union</p> <p>Journalists chapter of the PSA union (Radio New Zealand journalists)</p> <p>Transparency International</p> <p>Coalition for Better Broadcasting</p> <p>Academic Institutions eg the Media Studies Department of Victoria University and Journalism schools e.g. at AUT, Massey and Whitireia.</p> <p>Scoop media</p> <p>Internet NZ</p>	<p>Transparency International</p> <p>Centre for Citizenship Education</p> <p>Social activism and social development academics</p> <p>Institute of Governance and Policy Studies (Victoria University) and other academic institutions.</p> <p>Public Service unions like the PSA, Nurses Union, NZEI and PPTA</p> <p>Ministry of Education</p> <p>Schools and teachers.</p>

communities. Journalists and social media sites.	Individual journalists and bloggers ECO	
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Introduction

Purpose

The objective of the conference was to have a broad debate about the quality of New Zealand's democracy and in particular to draw attention to the work in Bronwyn Hayward's recent book *Children and the Environment: Nurturing a democratic imagination*. Bronwyn's work builds on the work of a diverse range of academic study, from geography to psychology and from child development to education, to



An attendee's wishlist for democracy

devise models of democracy that range from the authoritarian through the formally rules-based and technocratic to the facilitative, empowering and self-transformative. Her work potentially creates a model and a language against which a democratic government's overall performance and individual policies can be described and assessed.

The conference took place two weeks before the *Dirty Politics* revelations but many of the concerns raised in that book about attack blogs and the kind of journalism that does not support a robust democracy were raised by participants. In addition the low level of voter enrolment especially amongst younger people, the lack of transparency in government, the use of urgency in Parliament, executive orders replacing legislation were also concerns as well as the name calling, denigration and silencing of alternative voices.

Content of the report

The report outlines how the conference came about, the conference presentations and the workshop process, summarises the workshop discussions held and develops goals for future action. The full conference presentations are available at www.publicgood.org.nz/demconf and the agenda is included below. See *Appendix 1: Conference programme and workshop themes*. A series of appendices describe the conference in more detail. Among the main strands of thinking and response from participants was the importance identifying specific contributing actions either for

individuals or groups to take. There was a strong sense that the following are required for us to work effectively.

- A need for allies in the work towards improving our democracy.
- A strong understanding that an effective democracy takes advantage of the diversity of voices, and that building a strong democracy needs the involvement of the broadest range of people and communities.
- A proposed series of actions for **public good** to take in participation with other organisations.

Attendees and Speakers

About 140 people attended the Friday evening presentations (which were also videoed) and about 80 - 90 were involved in the Saturday workshops. As well as the presenters, eight people were inducted as facilitators to assist in the workshops, and St Andrew's Minister Jim Cunningham acted as the MC throughout the conference. Attendees came from as far afield as, Hamilton and Whanganui. No research was carried out on how attendees heard about the conference but the list of places where publicity was placed was recorded. See *Appendix 2: Conference Promotional Plan*

Most speakers were from Wellington but Bronwyn Hayward is from Canterbury, Jane Kelsey and Myles Thomas are from Auckland and Barbara Bedeschi-Lewando is based in Lower Moutere. The speakers were from a mix of academic, civil society and advocacy organisations. The full list of speakers and their presentation topics are included. See *Appendix 3: Speaker Biographies and Topics*.

***public good** is a new, independent voice in the debate about the appropriate role of government.*

***public good** believes we should be valuing a strong public service, sharing what we have in common and building community wealth.*

From the founding document of **public good**.

Background and Context

The conference came about as a result of conversations between Jan Rivers of **public good** and Jim Cunningham in his role as interim Minister of ST Andrews and chair of the SATRS committee as well as other members of the committee.

The impulse to create **public good** came about in November 2012 and involved conversations between a number of people, mostly in Wellington, about the lack of a specific New Zealand organisation dedicated to advocating

for a strong and effective public sector, coupled with a robust and inclusive democracy. The conversations led to a number of meetings and the creation of a mission and goals document identifying the intent of the new organisation to be a strong new voice for public service. (See Appendix 7: *public good – role and purpose*.)

public good's perspectives are concerned with effective, democratically controlled, resilient and people-focused public services, and a decision was made to have our organisation created as a loose 'unincorporated society'. The Democracy, Ethics and the Public Good conference held jointly with St Andrew's on the Terrace has been the most significant work to date.

St Andrew's Trust for the Study of Religion and Society

The purpose of the St Andrew's Trust for the Study of Religion and Society (SATRS) is to provide learning opportunities for people in Wellington and beyond to engage in critiquing and valuing developments in religion, spirituality, arts and sciences during changing economic and political times. Incorporated in 1984 as a charitable trust to establish a centre in the city of Wellington, the Trust addresses a broad range of issues related to the study of religion and society, and each year the Trust arranges a combination of lectures, seminars and conferences with local, national and international speakers. Until 2014 when he retired (at 96), a series of lectures has been presented each year by the Trust's principal lecturer, Lloyd Geering. In this election year the topic was 'Choices'. The idea for a conference on the topic of Democracy, Ethics and the Public Good came about when the Chair of the Trust, Ramsey Margolis, who knew about the formation of **public good**, proposed the conference topic and suggested an approach to the Trust's board to hold a joint conference. Jan Rivers from **public good** adopted and presented an idea which was already in development to the board.

Acknowledgements

The conference organisers have a debt of gratitude to Ganesh Nana, Unity Books, Noble Painting, the Public Services Association and Richard Norman whose financial support enable us to engage Esther Bukholt as the facilitator and designer of the workshop structure and process. It also allowed us to pay for speaker's air fares. Other support was in the form of in-kind donations. The main financial and in-kind supporters are listed on the inside front cover.

The conference organisers are very grateful to them and also to all the people who volunteered time and ideas and without whom the conference could not have been a success. The speakers all volunteered their time, which in many cases included significant preparation to pull together research and presentations. Bookstalls run by Carmen Goldsmith from the St Andrew's Trust and Helen Dew from the Living

Economies bookshop www.le.org.nz, and a kind offer from the McGuinness Institute meant all Saturday's attendees were supplied with a copy of the Institute's *Nation Dates* book. SATRS administrator Peter Cowley worked well beyond his role in providing seamless technology for the speakers and helping with the recording of the conference.

Esther Bukholt was our commissioned facilitator but she was also involved in a significant number of preparatory meetings in a voluntary capacity over several months which helped with the structure and the overall shape of the conference. Brenda Pilott and Pamela Fuller worked with Esther to design the workshop structure. The interim Minister at St Andrew's, Jim Cunningham, was the MC and did an excellent job with stories and deft introductions. Other people who offered support to us as facilitators at the conference were Jim Cunningham, Maxine Cunningham, Barbara Bedeschi-Lewando, Diana Shand, Cath Wallace, Yvonne Curtis and Graham Millar. SATRS Committee members Graham Millar, Pam Fuller and Yvonne Curtis met fortnightly in the lead-up to the conference and made many suggestions about speakers, structure and logistics and Pamela and Yvonne organised a group of church volunteers who did a magnificent job in catering for the morning and afternoon teas and who set out the venue for lunch.

Conference purpose and goals

The conference's origin was in a paper presented to the St Andrew's (SATRS) committee which proposed an event which would consider the democracy within the context of the Trust's 2014 'Choices' theme and suggested the following:

- Choices – How can we create a more inclusive democracy for New Zealand?
- How can our hearts, ethical framework and spiritual beliefs be deployed in an environment where the democracy is somewhat constrained?
- Beyond voting, what are the most important aspects of democracy?
- What does public theology have to say about public service?

The *purpose* of the proposed conference was to 'kick-start a New Zealand-wide conversation on the quality of our democracy'.

The *principles* were that it be non-partisan; that the process and discussions were to be democratic, values-based and recording the voice and views of attendees; and that the summary information and suggestions for action be included in this report.

The conference *goals* were to:

- Engage participants in developing a conversation about the quality of democracy in NZ.

- Transfer 'inside' or academic information into a public arena.
- Provide opportunities for media, community organisations, business and politicians to pick up on democratic principles and advocate for them.
- Build a community of people interested in advocating for improved democratic processes in NZ.

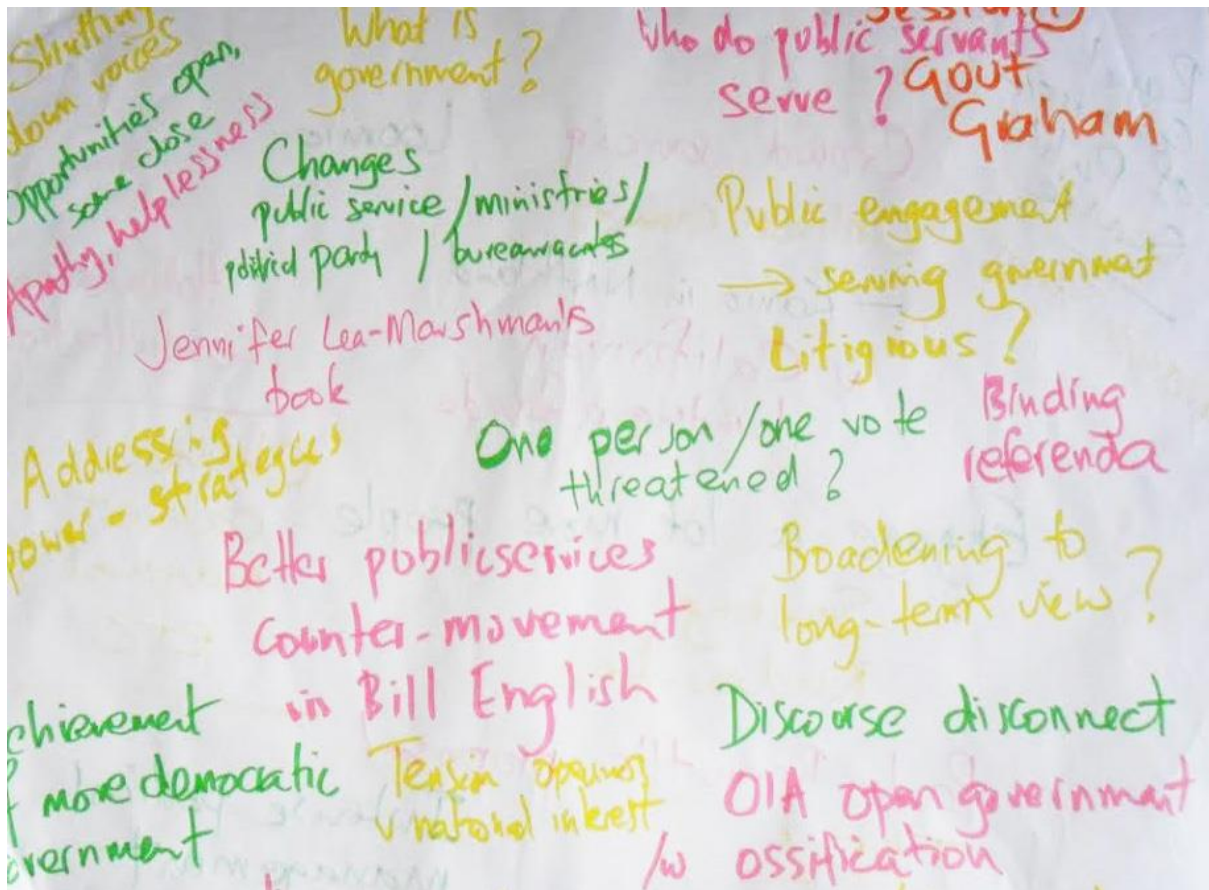


Fig a flip-chart created in one of the workshops

Nurturing a Democratic Imagination

The conference proposal suggested that the ideas presented in Bronwyn Hayward's recent book *Children, Citizenship and Environment, Nurturing a democratic imagination in a changing world* be a central theme, and that this provided a helpful language for discussing the quality of our democracy. Bronwyn's book makes the case that a more robust democracy and a wider conception of citizenship are needed to address the environmental and societal challenges, such as climate change, water allocation, population, food security that lie ahead. The three contrasting shades or types - SEEDS, SMART and FEARS - that she identifies describe the quality and extent of opportunities for democratic involvement. Each contrasting type of democracy differs in its relationship to elements of democracy. The extent to which opportunities for decision making, imagination, agency, justice and concern and care for the environment are the common criteria in each model. Bronwyn's work

provides fresh and accessible language for us to use whether looking at individual policies or the overall programme of our government and is equally relevant to politics in the adult world as to children's experience.

SEEDS



SMART



FEARS



Taken from *Children and the Environment: Nurturing a Democratic Imagination* by Bronwyn Hayward Earthscan 2012.

Conference outcomes

Following the conference there was overwhelmingly positive feedback about the quality of speakers, the organisation and content of the group discussions. There was an overall feeling from people that the conference provided a rare opportunity to have a wide-ranging and open-ended discussion on a complex topic and to consider and examine things that were both beneficial to, as well as detrimental to our democracy. Some of this feedback is included below. See Appendix 9: *Comments about the conference*.

Some of the reasons that attendees gave for participating in the conference included:

- Visible infringements of democracy such as secret trade agreements and the frequent use of Parliamentary urgency.
- Anger at treatment of NGOs.
- Worry about levels of inequality and an associated intolerance of the disadvantaged.
- Concern that advocacy and activism are being denigrated as a valid part of society.
- Anger at the contracting environment for non-governmental organisations delivering services
- This period is a reminder of the reforms of 80s and 90s.
- Deep sadness about changes in this country.
- Worry for the future.

"The conference will live on in people's minds and their sense of affirmation."

Feedback from a conference attendee.

Conference themes developed through the presentations included:

- The nature of our democracy and the importance of values beyond the economic in shaping the kind of society we want.
- The importance of inducting young people into their twin roles as citizens and democrats, and specifically the problem of disengagement and low voter turnout, especially of the young.
- The new opportunities for learning about citizenship afforded by technology and social media.
- The major challenges and varied incursions that are weakening New Zealand's democracy, including the role of the wealthy in bank-rolling parties and the disenfranchisement of prisoners.
- Open government and the Open Government Partnership.
- The anti-democratic issues associated with trade agreements.

- The situation of non-government organisations trying to balance their advocacy and contractual obligations in an environment hostile to social activism.
- The importance of attending to the constitution.
- The role and importance of the formal professional media and the growing importance of blogging and social media interventions in the sharing of information.
- Restrictions on the role of the public sector in being adequately responsive to the public's needs.



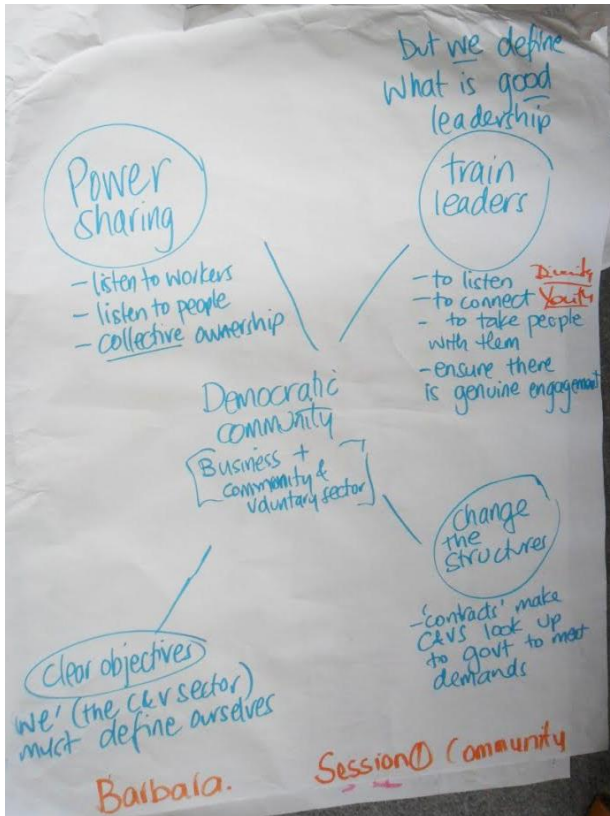
Conference Programme

The plan for the conference was to have a mix of academic perspectives and analysis coupled with activist and civil society commentary. This would support a broad perspective of democratic issues, from the operation of government to the role of the media and the role of civil society organisations and individuals in creating and maintaining a robust democracy.

See Appendix 1: *Conference programme and workshop themes* and Appendix 3: *Speaker biographies and topics* for details of the conference presentations.

Conference Conversations

Based on the democratic principles of this conference, and the goal of transferring academic knowledge out into the community, the organisers felt that it was imperative that the voices of participants were paramount. The process developed



for this was that each group of themed speakers or panel was followed by facilitated conversation groups each with around 10 other attendees. Here they reflected on what they had heard and considered opportunities and actions for creating a more robust democracy in Aotearoa/New Zealand. See Appendix 4: *Conference workshop themes and questions* for a list of workshop themes and questions. In their final conversation groups, participants suggested a series of actions they felt would be of greatest value for New Zealanders to focus on to achieve a more robust democracy. They were then invited to a 'gallery

viewing' of all proposed actions, and democratically voted for them using the six red dots allocated to each.

The following themes summarise the notes and voting recorded by facilitators and participants and the proposals made in the final brainstorming and action planning part of the day. Fuller information is available in the appendices. See Appendix 8: *Conference conversations*.

Key theme 1 – identifying poor quality democracy

A key theme arising from the conference workshops was to understand how we can identify and speak out about poor democracy and draw attention and praise to good democracy and the opportunities it provides.

Delegates were aware of many incursions into our democracy. The frequent use of urgency in Parliament, the weakening of the role of local government and the lack of democracy in Canterbury and Christchurch were given as examples of things which damage our democracy.

Key theme 2 – media in a robust democracy

Another key theme of the conference workshops was the role of media in a robust democracy.

Delegates were disappointed with the media response to attacks on our democracy. Discussions largely focused on the quality of journalism and reporting and the nature of media channels in New Zealand. Comments were made about the narrow ownership base of our media, the funding constraints under which public broadcasting operates and of newspapers which are in crisis with the disappearance of their funding base to online advertising and the effect on this on reporting. Attendees believed that there is a great need for a critical eye to be kept on our media to draw attention to times when the quality of reporting is not adequate.

Key theme 3 – democracy and citizenship education

The third key theme that emerged from the analysis of the 'brainstorming and choosing action' exercise was the need to develop democracy information and education for New Zealanders on the following topics:

- Citizenship
- Tangata whenua and democracy.
- The current status of our democracy (based also on our democratic history).
- Actions citizens can take in support of a robust democracy.
- Information about other models.

"Working out what will engage communities... ensuring everyone has a voice and that that voice is recorded and shared."

Notes from a workshop session.

The idea of civics education was rejected in favour of a richer concept of democracy and citizenship education. The latter places a focus on the role of citizen agency and the ability to envision solutions and futures. It was felt by many participants that civics education leads to an understanding of the structures of democracy but does not support participation sufficiently.

Conclusion

So what should we make of all this? The post-conference process summarised the comments made and developed them into three actions areas to focus citizen action in the future to improve the quality of democracy. The actions corresponded to the three key themes. These are not things that conference attendees or the St Andrew's Trust or **public good** can achieve alone but rather they are foci for large strands of work. They are presented here as recommendations. Potential partners for this work will be found across New Zealand society and would include political parties, Tangata whenua organisations of all kinds, government departments and civil society organisations of all kinds.

Recommendations

Three recommendations are derived from the three key themes that were identified as a result of the summary of the workshop notes and the voting on workshops. See *Appendix 8: Conference conversations* for the raw material from which they were drawn.

Shout out for democracy	Improving the Media landscape	Democracy education to citizens
<p>To shout out when New Zealand’s democratic principles are being upheld or undermined.</p> <p>Principals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect • Transparency • Political Equality • Proper process • Rule of law • Protection of human rights including minority rights 	<p>To improve the quality of media channels and reporting in New Zealand about democracy through supporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethical journalistic standards • Diverse and independent media channels • Public good funding models 	<p>To support information and education for New Zealanders on the citizenship and democracy including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current status of our democracy (based also on our democratic history) • Tangata whenua and democracy • Actions citizens can take in support of a robust democracy • Information about other models of democracy.
<i>Our visions:</i>		
<p>That the New Zealand government acts legally, ethically and democratically in all aspects of its work</p>	<p>That the New Zealand media provides a balanced and robust forum for information and debate about the quality of New Zealand’s democracy</p>	<p>That New Zealanders are well informed about democracy and actively engage in democratic processes and protecting these</p>
<i>Our potential partners:</i>		
<p>Transparency International Centre for Citizenship Education Social activism and social development academics Institute of Governance and Policy Studies (Victoria University) and similar bodies at other Universities Public Service unions like the PSA, Nurses Union, NZEI and</p>	<p>Journalists chapter of the EPMU union Journalists chapter of the PSA union (Radio New Zealand journalists) Transparency International Coalition for Better Broadcasting Media Studies Department of Victoria University Journalism schools at AUT</p>	<p>Transparency International Centre for Citizenship Education Social activism and social development academics Institute of Governance and Policy Studies (Victoria University) and similar bodies at other Universities Public Service unions like the PSA, Nurses Union, NZEI and</p>

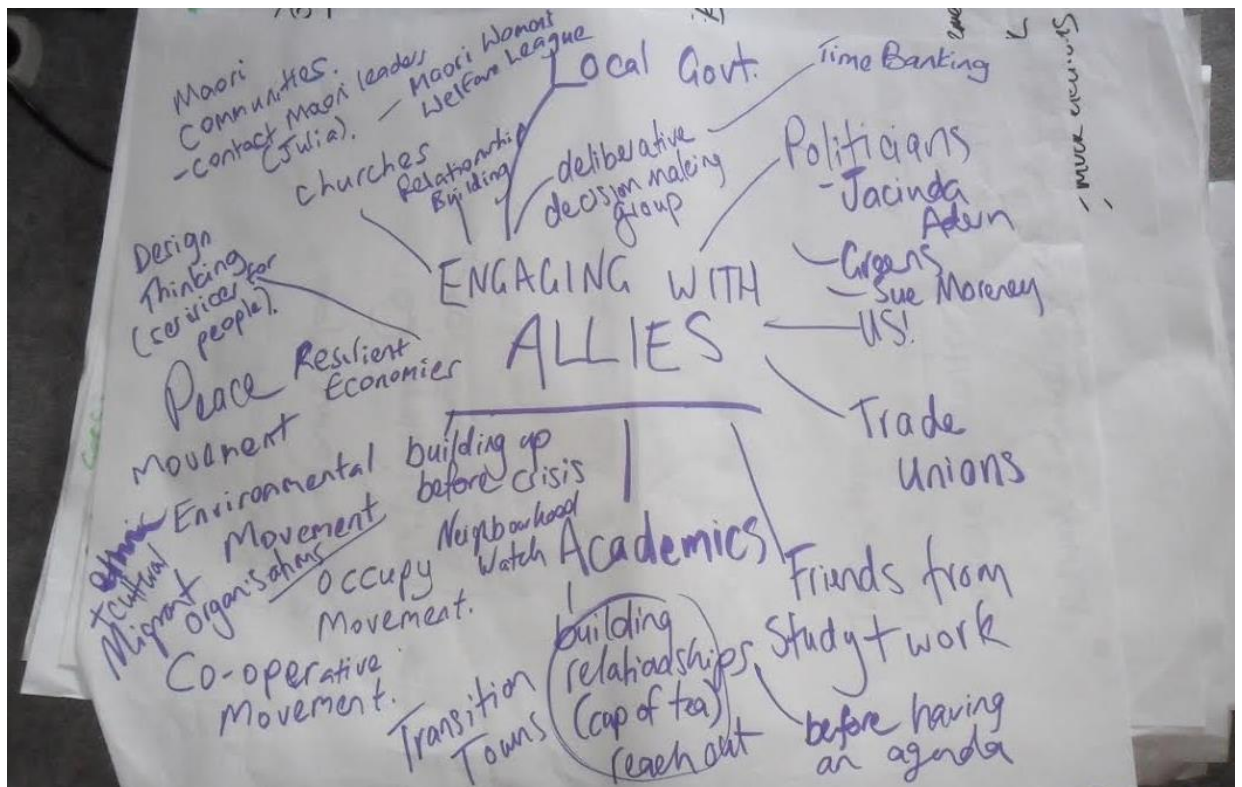
PPTA ST Andrews on the Terrace	Massey and Whitireia Scoop media Internet NZ Individual journalists and bloggers ECO	PPTA Ministry of Education
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Democracy and the Public Good conference action plan

Actions to take

public good Aotearoa will work towards these recommendations and visions by:	Actions public good have taken/or plan to take
Summarising and publicising key information from the conference and making it available to a wider audience	Approach potential ally organisations to understand how the key actions can be achieved.
Meeting with key players/potential partners and identifying how information and information and findings from the Democracy, Ethics and the Public Good could contribute to their work	Develop a stakeholder map of potential partners in this endeavour Engage PGA advisory and action group Develop a work plan
Notice and identify where there are developing gaps in information, networks and advocacy that could under-mine democracy and respond	Note, map and create opportunities for action during consultation.

These actions will need to align with actions taken by other individuals and organisations in support of a robust and effective democracy.



Appendices

Appendix 1: Conference programme and workshop themes

Democracy, Ethics and the Public Good: The 2014 Geering Seminar		
Friday	Evening Theme	The shape of New Zealand's democracy
6.30pm	Doors open	
7:00pm	Jim Cunningham	Introduces the conference and speakers
7:10pm	Lloyd Geering	Democracy and ethics
7.20pm	Bronwyn Hayward	Our Social Handprint: Understanding the kind of democracies we are creating
7.40pm	Deliberation	What questions does this raise for you about NZ's democracy?
7.45pm	Michael Macaulay	The Open Government Partnership
8.05pm	Deliberation	What opportunities did you hear for a more open democracy in NZ?
8.25pm	Jane Kelsey	Trade treaties and democracy
8.45pm	Deliberation	What did you hear about the challenges for democratic participation in NZ?
8.50pm	Sum up and information about tomorrow	Decamp to Katherine Mansfield room, Thistle Inn!

Saturday Morning		Theme: Government and Citizens
9:00 a.m.	Wendy McGuinness	The role of the McGuinness Institute and the 2013 Constitutional Review
9:15 a.m.	Sandra Grey/Charles Sedgwick	Getting advocacy and activism out from the margins
9.35 a.m.	Bill Ryan	Responsive government: social media, the responsive delivery and hierarchy
9.55 am	Workshop topics	My experience of democracy. Achieving a more democratic government. Achieving a more democratic community. Reflecting on the session.
10.20am	Sum up	
10.30am	Tea-break in the Church	Opportunity to pre-order pizza lunch
11.00am	Panel presentation	Theme: News media and access to information
	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 a.m.	Workshop topics	Media in a robust democracy. Information to citizens. Reflecting on the session
12.20. pm	Summary	
12.30 pm	Lunch (not provided)	Tea, coffee and seating in the Hall
Saturday afternoon		Theme: Citizens & engagement
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 p.m.	Workshop Topics	Engaging with our allies. Engaging with our critics. What would a more robust democracy look like? Reflecting on the session
2.50 p.m.	Summary	
3.00 pm	Refreshment break in the church	Tea break
		Theme: Conference feedback and future work
3:15 p.m.	Next steps, priorities, commitments, content of report from the conference	
4:30 p.m.	Close	

Appendix 2: Conference promotional plan

The conference was advertised in the following media and newsletters:

- The SATRS and **public good** website and at a SATRS Spirited Conversations evening.
- The **public good** Twitter and Facebook accounts and regular email.
- IPANZ website.
- Newsletters of the Public Service Association, Public Health Association, Institute of Governance and Policy Studies, Campaign for Better Broadcasting, Unions Wellington, WEA contacts list, Fabians NZ newsletter, St Andrew's Trust Newsletter and the Catholic Archdiocesan justice e-news.
- The St Andrew's Church service information
- Several people indicated that the conference notifications were forwarded beyond these lists to other groups and newsletters.
- The networks of Action Station, Loomio, Victoria University Students' Union, Just Speak and Stand Up.
- Scoop's paid advertising and advice was used to promote the conference. Scoop also posted all the conference press releases.

The efforts to get media coverage in the wider Wellington and national media were not successful.

Appendix 3: Speaker biographies and topics



Rev Dr Jim Cunningham is the interim Minister at St Andrew's and the chair of the St Andrew's Trust for the Study of Religion and Society. He is also a counsellor, a communicator and a story-teller whose preaching includes radical and progressive theological ideas. Family and travel are important aspects of his life.

Jim introduces the conference, sets the scene and acted as our MC for the conference and is also a group facilitator.



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.

More about Bronwyn

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

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



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. Michael is currently one of two Executive Editors of the 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 speaks 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:

<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. She is currently working on a major project examining activism by the New Zealand women's, trade 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"

Presentation topic

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 is 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 how to force governments to once again recognise 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."

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."

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, especially in opening up those processes for wider citizen participation. Bill will speak on the pressures on government caused by social media, openness, the 24-hour news cycle and a public sector legislative framework that is overdue for renewal.

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 is Chief Executive of the Coalition for Better Broadcasting Trust. He led the opposition to the closure of TVNZ7. Myles's 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 as weaker audiences and funding problems make them 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 specialising in governance, climate change and disaster risk reduction. She has undertaken various assignments with international organisations 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. Loomio is both an online tool for collaborative decision-making and the workers cooperative of open-source developers, facilitators and activists who created it. 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. Ben 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. 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 spoke about democracy and justice issues related to the removal of the right to vote from prisoners. 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. He is also 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.

More about On the Fence

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 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 participant engagement in the conference.

Her 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. She has applied this philosophy to her life and work for over twenty years in community development, recreation and adult education. She is committed to social inclusion and has initiated a wide range of successful discussions and projects with community, public, and private partners. This work has taught her that one size does not fit all and given her valuable insights into the diversity of our communities.

Appendix 4: Conference workshop themes and questions

Questions for participants prepared by Esther Bukholt in democratic consultation with Jan Rivers, Pamela Fuller & Brenda Pilott

Friday 1st August

Conference: a lecture style environment – about 90 minutes of speaking.

Reflection questions designed to break this up and offer opportunities for personal reflection and integration of ideas.

Reflection question format:

- quick introductions
- five minutes allowed for reflection in small groups

Q & A opportunity: questions could be collected as we go, organised by oversight facilitation group (Esther & two others) and summarised for answering by the speakers at the end.

Speakers	Suggested reflection questions
Lloyd Geering - Democracy ethics	
Bronwyn Hayward – Typology for democracy	What questions does this raise for you about NZ's democracy?
Michael Macaulay – Open Government partnership	What opportunities did you hear for a more open democracy in NZ?
Jane Kelsey – Trade Treaties and democracy	What did you hear about the challenges for democratic participation in NZ?

Saturday 2nd August

Workshop format:

- Provide workshop guidelines for delegates (eg enjoy, engage, encourage).
- Participants given the workshop themes & purpose.
- Participants invited to break into theme groups of their choice.
- Facilitators and questions (below) provided for 20 minute workshop session.
- Each group has 2 minutes to give feedback.

Questions for themed sessions:

Government and citizens	Suggested reflection questions
<p>Speakers: Sandra Grey and Charles Sedgwick Role for community and voluntary sector as advocates Bill Ryan Pressures on government caused by social media, openness & 24-hour news cycle</p>	<p>Purpose of these workshops: Identify ways of working with government and community that will help NZ achieve a more robust democracy</p> <p>Theme one: Our experience of democracy Where have you seen/experienced organisations/Government working ethically/democratically? What was the evidence for this? What made it possible? (prompts: governance, organisational history, management, environment they work in)</p> <p>Theme two: Achieving a more democratic government How could government and government sector act even more democratically? What would that look like - what would we see, hear, experience? What makes it difficult for government in the modern media environment to act this way? How can we as citizens and community organisations support the Government to act even more democratically?</p> <p>Theme three: Achieving a more democratic community How could organisations (not-for-profit & business) act even more democratically and ethically? What would that look like - what would we see, hear, experience? What makes it difficult for organisations to work in this way? How can we as citizens and community organisations support them to act democratically and ethically?</p> <p>Theme four: Reflecting on the session What did you hear? What does this mean? Now what?</p> <p>Put flip charts up on the wall to give people a chance to look at them over morning tea. Invite them to write further post-it observations and questions</p> <p>Feedback: Hear from three people about a light bulb moment they had.</p>

Media and information flows	Suggested reflection questions
<p>Panel:</p> <p>Myles Thomas Lack of quality broadcasting</p> <p>Stephanie Rodgers Social media and new generation feminism</p> <p>Ben Knight Collaborative decision making</p> <p>Meg Howie Ask Away initiative</p> <p>Kieran Stowers On the Fence web tool</p>	<p>Purpose of these workshops: To identify ways of improving media and information flows to citizens about democracy</p> <p>Theme one: Media in a robust democracy If we had a media/culture that supported a robust democracy in NZ, what would we see, hear, experience? (Think mainstream and new/social media) What are the challenges (and opportunities) for them to act in this way? How can we as citizens and community organisations support them to contribute to and report on this discussion?</p> <p>Theme two: Information to citizens in a robust democracy What do citizens need to actively participate in democracy? Which media/information platforms would best help to achieve this? How could we as citizens and community groups help to make this possible?</p> <p>Reflecting on the panel: What did you hear? What does this mean? Now what?</p> <p>Put flip charts up on the wall to give people a chance to look at them over lunch. Invite them to write further post-it observations and questions</p> <p>Feedback: Ask for one idea from each group</p>

Final workshop

Purpose of these workshops: To create an action plan for kick-starting a national conversation about improving the quality of our democracy.

In pairs: Take a walk with your partner, and go view our flip chart gallery. Choose one or choose them all, and just like you would in a gallery, take time to enjoy and discuss them. Make notes of things you think would be useful to our next discussion on creating an action plan for kick-starting a national conversation.

World Café style – reset the room into café – facilitators act as hosts

Theme one: What would a more robust democracy look like?

If we had a more robust democracy in NZ today, what do/would we do? See? Hear? Experience?

What is/would be the evidence for this?

What needs to happen for NZ to move towards an even higher quality of democracy?

Theme two: Engaging with our allies

Who are our greatest allies in the conversation about the quality of NZ's democracy?

Who is it most important to enrol? (I.e. which people and organisations will be able to make the biggest difference?)

What is the best way to engage them and leverage with our allies?

Theme three: Engaging with our critics

Who will be the greatest critics in the conversation about the quality of NZ's democracy?

Which critics will it be most helpful to the democratic cause to engage with?

What will they say? What can we learn from this? How can we best respond?

Whole group red dot voting exercise:

What do you see as the six most important priorities for increasing the quality of democracy in NZ?

Getting action underway:

Reflect with one or two people next to you: what will you do differently, what action will you take as a result of this conference?

Appendix 5: Post-conference media releases

Following the conference Jan Rivers was interviewed about it on Wellington Access Radio's Educating for Social Change programme. The audio is [here](#):

Is the quality of our democracy an election issue?

Tuesday, 5 August 2014, 9:34 am

Press Release: [Public Good](#)

A well-attended conference in Wellington at the weekend heard and discussed a number of presentations which raised questions about the current quality of our democracy. The conference was hosted by the St Andrews Trust for the Study of Religion and Society and **public good** and the aspirations of many organisations and the approaches they are taking to achieve a richer kind of democracy were also on the agenda.

Professor Jane Kelsey outlined a number of specific and differing ways in which the secretive negotiation of trade agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) - and their negotiation outside of a rules-based international framework such as the World Trade Organisation - impinge on our democratic rights.

Other keynote presentations included Bronwyn Hayward presenting the work she has been doing on citizenship education for children, and Michael Macaulay on progress towards our participation in the Open Government Partnership.

Presentations from organisations such as Loomio, OntheFence, JustSpeak and Askaway demonstrated the work younger people are doing to support and encourage democratic engagement and the inclusion of a broader range of voices.

Victoria Senior Lecturers Sandra Grey and Charles Sedgwick presented their latest research on the situation of non-governmental organisations many of which are also dependent on government funding. The number who felt they were highly successful in having their key concerns heard by government stood at 3.2%, and 76% felt that their role in providing dissenting voices was not valued by the government.

There were presentations about the need for quality information to be available through an unbiased, publicly funded television channel, about the extent to which our elections have become vulnerable to capture by big money, about participatory models of democracy and about ways in which democracy is being undercut.

Arising out of discussions seeded by the presentations, some key concerns emerged: conference participants regarded the lack of adequate information and/or

opportunity to take a full part in democracy to be one of these. This was through poor quality of coverage in press and broadcast media, the lack of coverage of opportunities to make submissions and the excessive use of urgency in passing legislation, and real or effective disempowerment of marginalised groups. Another concern of conference participants was the need for our children's positive experience of citizenship and democracy to be nurtured. There is also a need to raise awareness of the ways our ability to participate have been eroded. On a more hopeful note participants were keen to have opportunities to try out more active participatory models such as participatory budgeting at local government level.

Between the presentations identifying incremental encroachments to our democracy and the hopes for something better it seems clear that the quality of our democracy deserves to be something that people consider.

Appendix 6: Conference Presentations

Person	Media/Presentation	Paper/More information
	Public Good conference overview	Jan Rivers was interviewed on Access Radio following the conference.
Professor Sir Lloyd Geering	Democracy and ethics video	
Dr Bronwyn Hayward	Understanding our social handprint video 26 minutes	Understanding our Social Handprint - slides
Dr Michael Macaulay	The Open Government Partnership video 25 minutes	Slides
Prof Jane Kelsey	Trade agreements and democracy video 25 minutes	It's our future website and TPP No certification website outlines newly clarified US powers over trade agreements
Wendy McGuinness	The Constitutional Review	McGuinness Institute Website
Sandra Grey and Charles Sedgwick	Stomping all over 'grass-roots' advocacy and activism	Fears, constraints and contracts
Ben Knight	Loomio and Democracy	Loomio Website
Max Rashbrooke	Inequality presentation	Inequality website
Bill Ryan	Emerging visions, emerging realities: Democratic deficit, deliberative democracy.	
Barbara Bedaschi-Lewando	Participatory Democracy 1 minute video	Participatory Democracy
Julia Amua Whaipooti	Unlocking Prisons	JustSpeak
Cath Wallace		ECO
Meg Howie	Askaway	
Kieran Stowers	Onthefence	
Myles Thomas	Coalition for Better Broadcasting	
Stephanie Rodgers	Boots Theory	

*Appendix 7: **public good** – role and purpose*

A strong new voice for public service

public good is a new, independent voice in the debate about the appropriate role of government.

- **public good** believes we should be:
- valuing a strong public service
- sharing what we have in common
- building community wealth

public good will create support for strengthening public services with a positive picture of the benefits that those services bring to New Zealand. For us, public service encompasses all the people who contribute to community well-being, including in voluntary organisations as well as local and central government.

public good aims to:

- develop a positive and constructive conversation about the values and future of the public sector
- gain greater recognition of the public sector as a key enabler of communities and individuals, rather than a brake on them
- create a strong, positive counter-narrative to the negative spin about public service
- articulate reasons why public service and not the market are the best way to build the stronger communities which help people achieve their goals
- build a wider public understanding of the reasons for public action
- reinvigorate the notion of the public domain – and the public good
- give voice to the opinions of both workers in the public service and public service users
- discuss ways that modern public services can address pressing new problems
- shape the public debate on how to improve services, putting forward proposals on how those services can adapt and respond to today's needs

public good will:

- influence and actively promote our views across both traditional and new media

- summarise and publicise good research on improving and maintaining public services
- consult with and bring in international experts on public service issues

public good will know we are succeeding when:

- the view of government as an enabler is a more visible part of the public discussion
- a sound public infrastructure is seen as essential to national wellbeing
- we have positive public legislation that builds a resilient public infrastructure and a capable workforce
- there is greater public debate and higher democratic participation, and when
- talkback radio callers talk enthusiastically about the benefits of the public sector!

public good will:

- collate and develop research-based evidence and information which demonstrates the benefits of involvement by the public sector and
- make it available to a wide audience

public good aims to provide advocacy and support for:

- a vital well-informed democracy, actively engaged citizens and a vibrant public debate
- a forum for conversations about the public domain in New Zealand's future
- valuing the public services we have
- a developing vision for a dynamic and meaningful future for public sector and community engagement
- the advantages of publicly run models in the delivery of public services
- enriching New Zealand through the building of community wealth
- the case for intervention and regulation to prevent social harm

Appendix 8: Conference conversations

Suggestions and ideas from conversations throughout the day that related to the democracy and citizenship education theme included:

Key messages	<p>Your vote counts.</p> <p>The value of engagement/voting.</p> <p>Citizens' rights to information.</p> <p>Participation</p>
A robust democracy means:	<p>A Government that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses power and issues of inequity • Is bound by referenda • Uses evidence from reports • Ensures robust consultation and genuine engagement • Listens to people • Encourages robust debate. <p>A society where public servants who serve the interests of the public, not the government of the day.</p> <p>Citizens who can take collective ownership and can use the tools of democracy, eg well-constructed OIA questions and Select Committee contributions.</p>

The purpose identified for this programme/campaign would be to:	<p>Encourage and enable citizens to participate actively in our democracy.</p> <p>Enable citizens to make informed decisions.</p>
Preferred platforms / mediums for this programme/campaign are:	<p>Documentaries on democracy – especially short trigger films.</p> <p>Social media campaigns, including live or on-line forums for informed debate and discussion, developing ideas.</p> <p>Forums which support inter-generational discussion.</p>
It is important that information about democracy:	<p>Takes account of different forms of information access and participation.</p> <p>Is developed and distributed from trustworthy sources and is believable.</p> <p>Is bi-cultural and accessible to Maori.</p> <p>Is social media savvy.</p> <p>Ensures a two-way flow of information. Can't remove line above</p> <p>Uses plain language.</p>

	<p>Tells powerful stories, includes storytelling.</p> <p>Is values-based and authentic.</p> <p>Includes educated opinions.</p> <p>Includes a range of views.</p> <p>Challenges traditional structures.</p> <p>Moves on from adversarial engagement.</p>	
Useful conduits to reach citizens include:	<p>Street protests.</p> <p>Mobilising peers, groups, and friends.</p> <p>Good visual material.</p> <p>Transport to voting.</p> <p>School curriculum and democracy education</p> <p>Education programmes.</p>	
Platforms/ideas for disseminating information:	<p>Anything that engages citizens in conversations.</p> <p>Use of existing groups and networks.</p> <p>Meetings between people.</p> <p>Social media: blogs, tweets, guest posts.</p> <p>Internet helpful, but dangerous to place too much reliance or emphasis on.</p> <p>Traditional methods, e.g. radio and talkback radio.</p> <p>Different platforms needed for different groups: radio, face-to-face meetings, internet, Maori TV, more in-depth journalism.</p> <p>Create debating elections for students under 18 in schools.</p>	
Allies/partners to engage with:	<p>Academics (eg network of Social Scientists)</p> <p>Blog writers</p> <p>Churches</p> <p>Economists</p> <p>Ethnic media sources</p> <p>Gallery journalists</p> <p>Iwi</p> <p>Law Society</p> <p>Maori Women's Welfare League</p> <p>Supportive political parties and politicians</p>	<p>Social movements: Co-operative Movement, Environment Movement, Living Wage Movement, Occupy Movement, Peace Movement, Time Banking Movement, Neighbourhood Watch</p> <p>Royal Society</p> <p>Talkback radio</p> <p>Trade Unions</p> <p>Centre for Citizenship Education</p>

Barriers that need to be overcome	<p>Accessibility/disability.</p> <p>Lack of transparency – seeing the results of consultation is demotivating.</p> <p>Centralised decision-making - disempowers engagement, decreases diversity.</p> <p>Superficial reporting.</p> <p>Commercial environment.</p> <p>Lack of good quality documentaries.</p>
Other ideas:	<p>Fund this programme by crowd sourcing.</p> <p>Learning from other useful models, eg Nuclear Free Campaign started from grass-roots outrage, MED.</p>

Theme 2: Quality of Media and Journalism

Journalism and reporting needs:	Media channels need more diversity including:	Media management needs:
<p>Multiple views based on evidence</p> <p>More reason</p> <p>Greater range of opinions</p> <p>More objectivity</p> <p>Reporting on issues, not side issues</p> <p>More science</p> <p>More real journalism, (history, reflection, training)</p> <p>Streams for more in-depth journalism</p> <p>Authenticity</p> <p>Educated opinions</p> <p>Range of views</p> <p>Ethics/values</p> <p>Less spin, less bile/vitriol</p> <p>Less bias, more balance in reporting</p> <p>Less trolling/spies</p> <p>Less</p> <p>More of a focus on people's needs and not market needs</p>	<p>More support for public broadcasting</p> <p>Independent media</p> <p>Commercial-free media</p> <p>Subscription (??)</p> <p>Replacement of TV's radio commercial model</p> <p>Bringing back TV7</p> <p>Digital divide – internet not collective enough</p> <p>New mediums – talkback radio, bloggers</p>	<p>Less surveillance on-line</p> <p>Standards body for new media rating systems</p> <p>Social media to get to ministers</p> <p>Regulation of new media</p>

Theme 3: The quality of democracy

Problems for strong democracy:	Good things/opportunities identified:	Allies in developing a response:
<p>Trade agreements like TPPA and TISA</p> <p>GCSB legislation</p> <p>A potential loss of net-neutrality which would give preference to corporate interests.</p> <p>Hollowed out consultation</p> <p>Over-coming apathy and helplessness</p> <p>Under-funding of Ombudsman's office and Auditor General's office</p> <p>Protections for NGOs in getting government contracts and advocating on their issue</p> <p>Low levels of understanding of rights</p> <p>Few feedback loops on consultation</p> <p>Lack of opportunities for agency and social agency by citizens</p> <p>Powerful, funded advocacy groups for corporate interests</p> <p>Alienating language</p> <p>Fear of exposure and of attacks on private citizens.</p> <p>Often the interests of market players and capital are presented as of greater worth than people as individuals or communities</p>	<p>Social media tools</p> <p>Loomio</p> <p>Decentralised deliberation</p> <p>Diversity of groups involved - life-stage, ethnicity</p> <p>Learning from overseas</p> <p>Partnering with Australia</p> <p>Possibilities in the Open Government Partnership</p> <p>The constitutional review nation-building process around the treaty</p> <p>Proposed Royal Commission on the future of the public service</p> <p>Physical spaces to meet</p> <p>The diversity of channels and tools (also a problem)</p> <p>Multiplicity of channels - radio, TV, internet –elements, newspapers, newsletters, twitter, guest posts on democracy on blogs</p> <p>Engaging with commercial, non-commercial and informal media</p> <p>Kanohi te kanohi</p> <p>Deliberative decision making groups like the Greens proposed citizen assemblies</p> <p>Networking and building connections</p>	<p>Existing networks and relationships eg for education on citizenship and engagement</p> <p>Network of social scientists – mock evolutions</p> <p>The range and quality of advocates for democracy – unions, young people, churches</p> <p>CBB, ECO</p> <p>Learning from overseas</p> <p>Partnering with Australia</p> <p>Centre for investigative journalism</p>

The performance of our media – potential allies

Potential Allies

Resilient communities

Academics

Students

Trade unions

Transition towns

Co-operative movement

Occupy movement

Maori communities

Maori Women's Welfare League

Churches

Politicians

Peace movement

Appendix 9: Comments about the conference

Amongst the comments made about the conference by attendees following the conference were the following that came by email:

Specific comments

- Congratulations again on an extremely well-planned and executed event.
- It was a good well-run conference and you did amazingly well. The conference will live on in people's minds and their sense of affirmation.
- I'm delighted everything went so well J
- Thanks Jan, was pleased to contribute to a great event.
- Thanks for all your hard work developing the conference. It was truly very worthwhile.
- My <friend who was at the conference> was raving about this conference she went to on Saturday called "Democracy, ethics & the public good". Simply raving. You have another fan!
- If I can add my congratulations as well. It is good to see conversations occurring on democracy. Here's hoping that the conversations can be turned to action.

Positive comments from people who heard about the conference but could not come.

- I've heard from several people what a splendid success the seminar was. Warm congratulations! I hope you feel satisfied with how it went.
- Great to hear from you Jan – well done about the conference – I hear it went really well. Great credit to your hard work.
- Well done. It's been your drive that has got things to this point. That's a good turnout and you should be well-pleased. I really liked what I saw of Esther. A nice combo of firmness and inclusiveness. I was gutted to miss it.

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