

**Whanganui Port Rejuvenation Project
Education and Training Reference Group**

Wednesday 2 November 5:30 pm

Committee Room 2, Council Building, 101 Guyton Street Whanganui

In Attendance:

Greg Fromont (Chair) (Education Whanganui) Adrian Dixon (W & P) Myles Fothergill (Q-West) Des Warahi (Castlecliff Community Trust) Heather Cox (WDC & W & P) Bill McDonald (Consultant) Randall Mellows (YMCA)	Jeremy Campbell (3rd Bearing Ltd) Michael Eden (GDM) Rob Gollan (Land Based Training) Malcolm Carson (MSD) Danny Reilly (UCOL) Jason Shailer (100% Sweet) Aroha Becham (Tupoho Whanau Trust) Bronwyn Paul (UCOL)
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Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greg welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself as Chair of Education Whanganui. Greg outlined the questions for the Education Focus he had written on the white board as follows: 		
	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Why:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Motivation <p>What:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Key Focus → Needs → Options/Opportunities </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>How:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Model → Scope <p>Who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Focus Group </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Why:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Motivation <p>What:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Key Focus → Needs → Options/Opportunities 	<p>How:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Model → Scope <p>Who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Focus Group
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Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adrian Dixon, Whanganui & Partners, advised W & P's interest is in long term economic development, employment and a solid pathway forward. Myles Fothergill, owner of Q-West, is also a member of the Port Revitalisation Reference Group and President of Marine Industry Association. Myles advised he has been in contact with Minister Steven Joyce regarding the Regional Growth Study programme called Accelerate25 which is a programme administered by Horizons Regional Council in consultation with Central and Local Government aimed at growing the regions prosperity between now and 2025. The government sees the Port as the only tangible investment in Whanganui and have offered \$500k for a feasibility study to develop a business plan on how to rejuvenate the Port area. Des Warahi, Castlecliff Community Trust said his interests lie in economic development and community development for the area which Des believes go 		

	<p>hand in hand. Is keen to see education, employment, scholarships and pastoral care for all students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Cox (WDC and W&P) has a strategic lead for youth through Whanganui and Partners, ensuring there is a quality network around education for the district. • Bill McDonald (Consultant), will turn information and ideas gathered from this meeting into a working business model for presentation to government. • Michael Eden is the Chair of WDETT which oversees INTRANZ. Michael believes we need to provide what businesses want rather than train people for training sake. • Jason Shailer (100% Sweet Coordinator) would like to stop school leavers ending up nowhere, by focussing on trades and believes there is plenty of scope for development in Whanganui. • Aroha Becham (Tupoho) is an NZQA provider and agrees there is a need to look at what students are training for and what are the employer’s needs. Aroha questioned where Tupoho fits into the training scene and how can they continue to provide. • Bronwyn Paul (Manager, UCOL) noted that transport can be a difficulty for some students wanting to attend training. Bronwyn is Interested in how students get through their education, what sort of training is there when they get there, and what sort of trades training is required as a whole. Would like to see a much more collaborative approach. • Danny Reilly (UCOL) is experienced in running projects in the community the way they want. To do this, we need trades people to tell us what they want and we need to be listening to those needs. We can then build a workforce for the companies, but do need Polytech’s to be a lot more flexible. Education means inspiration, empowerment and brings jobs. • Malcolm Carson (MSD) primarily interested in employment and job creation. • Rob Gollan (Land based Training) provides training mainly for the primary sector. • Jeremy Campbell was in attendance supporting Randall, the YMCA and bringing Policies to life. • Randall Mellows (Chief Executive, YMCA) said the YMCA is running trade training programmes but expressed his concern at the moment at the Government funding which gives credit to people in training, but not in obtaining jobs.
WHY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greg introduced the round table discussion with the following being noted.

- We are starting with a blank playing field so need to be solution focussed with more jobs ready for people.
- The Youth Guarantee programme which is a Government funded initiative about improving the transition of students from school to further study, work or training has slipped through the cracks with further training offered, but no jobs at the end of the training. The programme is limited by the funding stream of the Youth Guarantee programme.
- It was noted that Secondary schools were not represented at the meeting, but there was confidence expressed that the schools were on board with this meeting and what it is trying to achieve.
- The Port is a key component in receiving funding from Government and a key component in training and connection with Iwi.
- This Port Revitalisation project is a private public partnership between Local Government, Central Government, Iwi and the private business sector.
- Bill McDonald mentioned that the first Draft business plan will be delivered to Government, Council and Horizons before Christmas 2016 outlining what the plans are for 2017.
- There are two parts to the current school leaver scenario, achievers and under achievers. Most of the achievers will be encouraged by their school to go on to university. What happens to the under achievers.
- There are 30 providers in town giving work experience.
- The interaction with businesses is important; how those businesses work, their hours of work etc. Some of the young people coming through the education system have no idea about work ethics and what an employer is looking for from an employee.
- Schools should be rewarded for providing and releasing their best students and then Industry would be the beneficiary. Instead schools are rewarded for how many students they send on to university.
- INTRANZ (Whanganui Industry trained facility) works but the funding does not and businesses need to know what they want.
- Accelerate25 is a good opportunity to make a business case to Government to improve trade and industry training in the Whanganui Port area.
- 30% of school leaver students go to university and 50% of them fail. A question was raised as to where the failed university students end up, what happens to them?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are plenty of students in the Whanganui area and plenty of business demand for trade trainees, but Schools are not encouraged to have students enter trade training. • It was stated once more that there were no secondary school educators at this meeting. • One employer commented that he had in the past only employed 30 year olds who don't need training and not students who do need training. • A suggestion was made of the need to keep things simple, get 15 young people into trade training and let the training provider train them, not the businesses. • The Matipo Community Trust is successful as it is based on the Trades Academy model of 3 + 2, three students offered two day's work experience per week. This is based on a Trades Academy model and suggested that students should be able to start an apprenticeship at school. This would gradually build Whanganui's workforce over a three year period and eventually would have a great workforce. • The percentage of new businesses in Whanganui is growing so if a training centre with measurable levels was offered in Whanganui, other businesses from outside of the area will move here as it is cost effective to do so. • Enrolments at UCOL are up with one recent mechanics course receiving 7 applications within an hour of being opened for registrations. • A collaborative approach is required between training providers, businesses and trades. • There is a need to balance the demand. Trade training needs to be marketed as "no student loan" vs "a student loan". Earn while you learn approach. • Need good quality young people who want to work, Q-West will train them to meet the company needs. Q-West have 5 Apprentices at the moment, but another three are required. • The Gateway programme can work and is working well in High School as it gives ITO funding. • The 3 + 2 model is set up to fail, the qualification is measured and if the student fails, then there is no funding released. The funding is half school funding and half PTE funding.
Why	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greg asked the question of why have a training centre linked to the Port project?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 80 businesses in Heads Road area and no business broker. • A good population of employed people increases everything with a good flow on effect.
<p>What</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greg asked what do we want the big picture to look like in 5 years' time? • People are needed, because good staff equals good businesses. • The suggestion of a Business Broker in Whanganui to actively promote businesses just the same as the Universities actively recruit students was met with interest. • A Business Broker was mooted some years back and for Whanganui to become a trade training centre. All we need is the idea, capability and finance. We have the idea and capability, the finance will come. We only need any two of the above, idea, capability, finance. • Myles said that Industry will not pay for all of employees training and questioned whether finance will fall into place as we have always had to fight for finance in the past. • Michael added that if trade training is done well, then finance will fall into place. • The Trade Facilitation programme did work with the exception for funding. Both INTRANZ and 100% Sweet have funding issues. • Fortunately Whanganui has a very stable ongoing workforce and although businesses might struggle to attract staff, it is not a struggle to retain them. • Many businesses in Whanganui have an older workforce and we need to think about succession planning for these. • Economic Development increases values, more wages, increased rates take. • It was mentioned that accountability is shifting on providers for graduates to keep jobs.
<p>Summary</p> <p>How</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recommendation was made that Bill McDonald present a business plan as a test case to Government from the Whanganui Economic Zone and ask Government to change the funding model for Whanganui. • Myles added that The Port was originally included in the Accelerate 25 programme as the Government did not at the time see other investment potential in Whanganui. • Accelerate25 is a NZ wide regional growth programme taking underperforming regions in NZ and helping them perform. The economic benefit is what the Port does for the rest of the city.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that Whanganui create its own Whanganui NZ Trade excellence model for Whanganui. • How would that trade model look on paper? • Do we need a marketing broker? If so how does a broker work and how will that position be funded. A broker would be of value, but first we need a training type model for Bill to take to Government. • Need to maximise what we have got and then other agencies can plug into that. We need future enterprise and a development process. • The Government want to see training and learning accelerated under the Acc25 programme. • The accelerate component maybe about numbers rather than shorter training. • A question was raised on whether Whanganui can connect to other regions around NZ as well such as Southland to attract staff to this area. • Greg noted that the model needed to be demand driven as this was an economic development project and that was what the government was looking at backing
<p>Going forward</p> <p>Who</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greg suggested a focus group of around 8-10 people covering off the different areas (supply / providers / demand / strategy) be brought together to press on with this matter further. This will require a strategy and planning. • The focus group could then take information gained to date and develop a potential model. • Also suggest inquiring into the skills requirement for the Pilot School. • We need to tell Government what we want to fund and not just fit into a funding model. • Added was that it is the desire of the community to create good jobs and have a fully employed community. • Jobs need to be sustainable and relevant to the Port, Industry Training, Providers, Youth Businesses, PTE's all equal prosperity.
Other actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greg to put together an outline for a potential model for the next focus group meeting
Next Meeting Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greg will make contact on either Friday or Monday about future meetings going forward.
Meeting Closed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting closed at 7:20 pm