

A close-up photograph of a dog's face, likely a husky or similar breed, with striking blue eyes and a black nose. The dog's fur is a mix of grey, black, and white. The background is dark. Overlaid on the center of the image is the text "HI THERE." in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

HI THERE.

Presentation to the NZ Community Boards Conference 2017
Peter Biggs, Chair: Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency



NZ's Local Government

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Community boards

🏠 NZ's Local Government » **Community boards**

- Local government basics

- Remuneration

- Local government finance

- Council maps and websites

- Council operations

- Resources

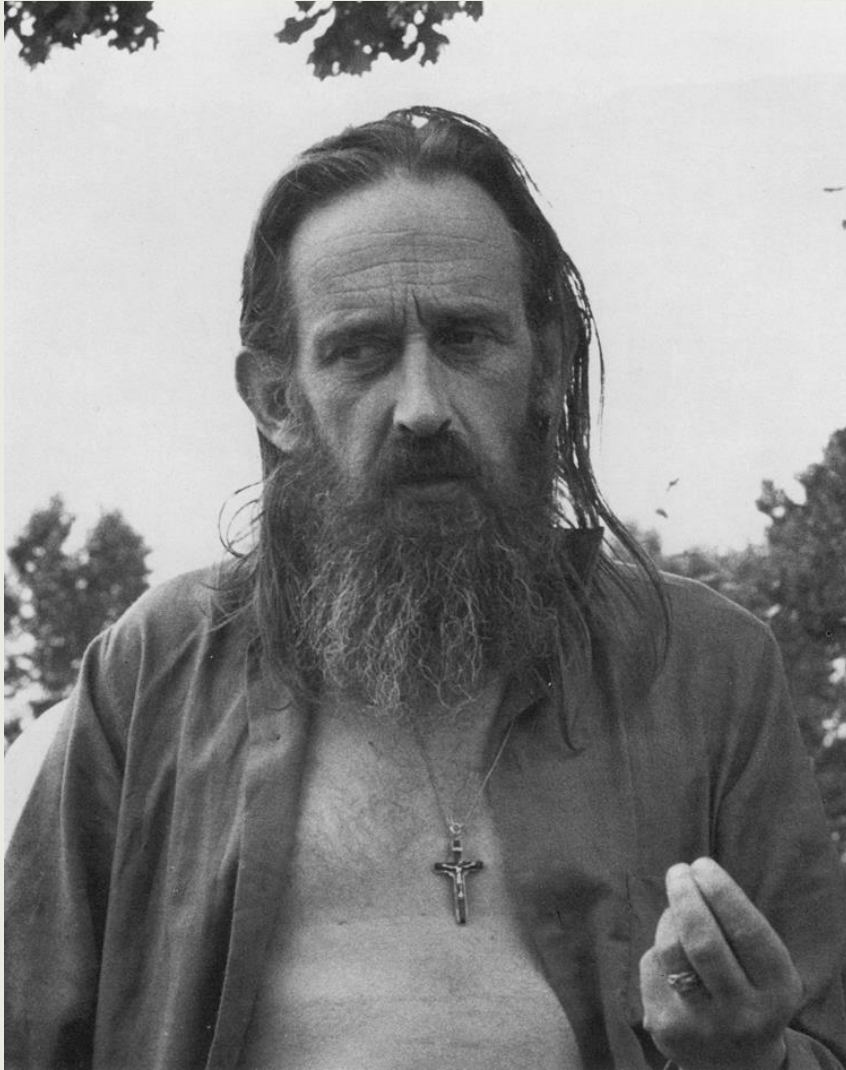
Community boards

To view the **Community Board information pamphlet**, [click here](#).

Community boards were created by the local government reforms in 1989. Some 110 community boards now operate in both urban and rural areas within local authorities throughout New Zealand. They carry out functions and exercise those powers delegated to them by their councils.

View all [community boards](#) by their zone and council.

Assignment:



'Te Whiori O Te Kuri'

To go forward like a man in the dark
Is the meaning of this dark vocation;

So simple, tree, star, the bare cup of the hills,
The lifelong grave of waiting

As indeed it has to be. To ask for Jacob's ladder
Would be to mistake oneself and the dark Master,

Yet at times the road comes down to a place
Where the water runs and horses gallop

Behind a hedge. There is is possible to sit,
Light a cigarette, and rub

Your bruised heels on the cold grass. Always because
A man's body is a meeting house,

Ribs, arms, for the tribe to gather under,
And the heart must be their spring of water.

Assignment:



Assignment:



Assignment:



Assignment:



Assignment:

**SUP
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Rhino on Tinder

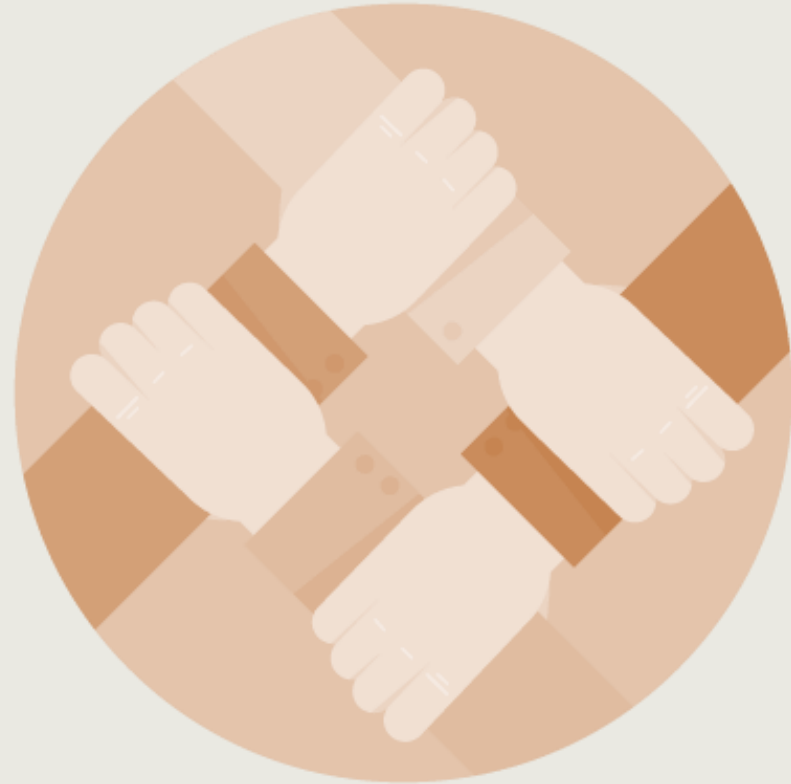
Assignment:



Assignment:

The Project

To understand how close Kiwis are to their 'community' and the role local government could play in enabling 'community'.



Assignment:



Assignment:

What we did.

A nationally representative, five minute, online survey of 600 New Zealanders conducted in April 2017.

We also augmented our findings with secondary research from the reports:

- The New Zealand Social Report (Ministry of Social Development, 2010)
- The Sovereign Wellness Index, 2015
- Neighbourly's inaugural Good Neighbour Survey, 2014
- New Zealand General Social Survey (NZGSS) 2014



Assignment:

Findings:



Assignment:

Our local community social bonds are not as strong as we think.



52% of kiwis feel 'quite close' but only **13%** feel very close to their local community.

Assignment:

What about other types of community? We're not particularly close to them either.

Types of community	Quite close	Very close	Total close
Local shared interest community	39%	13%	52%
Cultural or lifestyle community	35%	14%	50%
Faith community	19%	13%	32%

We have low levels of engagement all-round.

Perhaps digital communities have taken the place of traditional ones?

Surprisingly, that's not the case.



Assignment:

**However, the desire for community
in New Zealand is still strong.**



Assignment:

So we asked Kiwis: What defines a community?



Which of these statements strongly defines what a 'community' is for you?

Statements	% strongly defines
A place where people help each other out	53%
A neighbourhood with community amenities (e.g. school, library)	52%
A neighbourhood with business amenities (e.g. shops)	39%
A local neighbourhood	34%
A group of people with a shared faith, culture or lifestyle	29%
A group of people with a shared interest	25%

Assignment:

Our research told us that communities have two important characteristics.



Supportive behaviour

A place where people help each other out

53%



Physical places that facilitate people joining together.

A neighbourhood with community amenities (e.g. school, library)

52%

Assignment:

Yet, Kiwis are more likely to see local governments providing physical amenities.



25%

...of kiwis think local government should focus on promoting ways for people to get to know each other in the community.



64%

...of kiwis agree that local governments should focus on providing communities with local amenities like schools, libraries and community centres.

We believe this is an invitation for local government to get more involved in facilitating social interaction.



One in four Kiwis think local government should focus on promoting ways for people to get to know each other in the community – **that's not an insignificant amount.**

Assignment:

**This could work, because it's good for
Kiwis to get to know one another better.**

**When people are
supportive of each other
in neighbourhoods, they
feel safer and become
healthier.**



Assignment:

There's a business case for local government playing a role in building social networks in communities.

More resilient communities with less crime cost less in the long run – so, they're worth investing in.

Knowing your neighbour could mean the difference between life or death.



Neighbourly connections are particularly important in the aftermath of a disaster or even an unlucky traumatic injury. It could save lives.

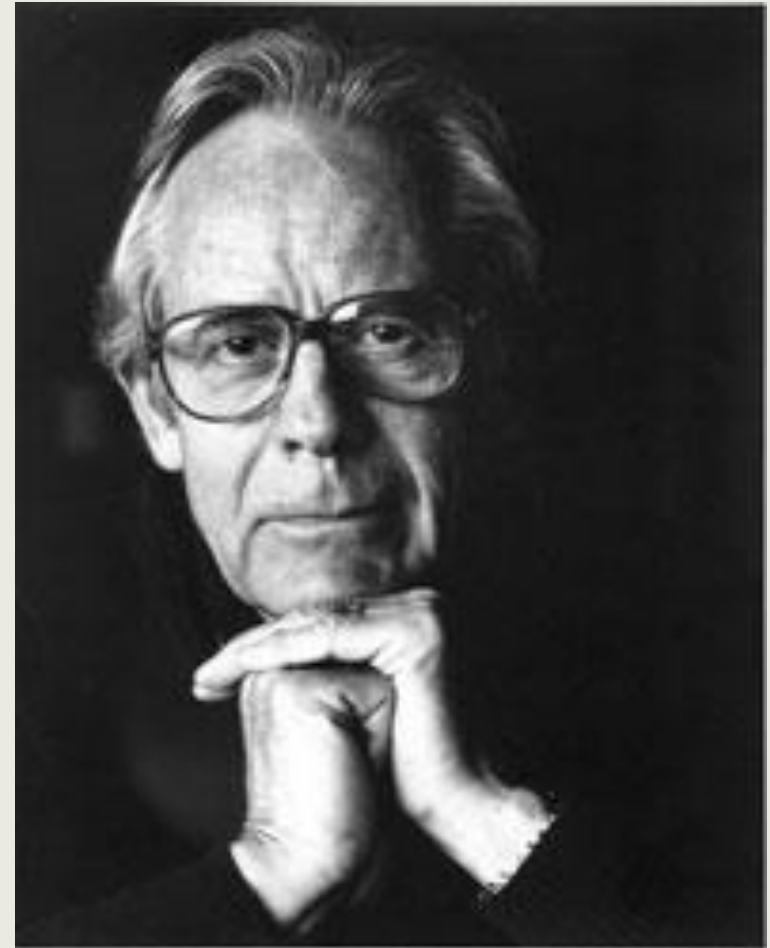
Assignment:

That's why we believe that local government should play two roles:

1. Promote ways for people to get to know each other in the community; and
2. Providing communities with local amenities

“Communication leads to community, that is, to understanding, intimacy and mutual valuing.”

Rollo May: Psychologist and philosopher.



Assignment:

Assignment:

Assignment: