

Barbara MacLennan – Inspiring Communities



Barbara is a community led development practitioner based in the Bay of Plenty, and working with a range of networks focused on collaboration around complex issues. She has held senior management roles in central and local government and in the non-government sector, and has frequently helped to innovate cross- sectoral partnering approaches.

Through her work supporting the “interface” between central and local government in Bay of Plenty communities, she learned about the community economic development aspirations of Whakatohea and Opotiki. She has subsequently helped to weave relationships between local people and supportive wider regional and national networks and resources, including Inspiring Communities.

Inspiring Communities is a network of people and communities in Aotearoa NZ focused on place based, locally led, community strengthening. Key elements which drive activity are a commitment to communities as participants (not as clients or recipients), cross sector collaboration and partnering in practice, nurturing many leaders (“leaderful” communities), and the value of active reflection and learning.