

MEDIA ADVISORY | HE PĀNUI

Out of the mouths and minds of babes

Wednesday, 14 April 2010

Community input into the future of the Coromandel | *Te Tara o te Iki a Maui* would not have been complete without hearing the voice, interpreting the artwork and sharing the dreams of our district's younger generation | *rangitahi*.

The Youth Scrapbook – available online @ www.coroblueprint.govt.nz - is the inspirational record of what young people across the peninsula had to say – and show – about growing up in the place they are proud to call home.

Like so many of their fellow citizens, children as young as five accepted the invitation to tell their community leaders how they wanted the district to look like in 50 years' time when asked to comment by the multi-agency team behind the Coromandel Peninsula Blueprint project.

Unlike some of their elders, most of the children will be around in 2058 to see how the peninsula has taken shape.

The Blueprint is a joint initiative between Environment Waikato [EW], Department of Conservation, Thames-Coromandel District Council and Hauraki Whaanui to develop a strategic framework for managing growth and sustainable development.

EW's Beachcare Co-ordinator, Sam Stephens, was the key driver of the Youth Scrapbook initiative, working closely with fellow agencies. In 2008, schoolchildren were invited to produce posters and write stories saying what they loved about living on the Coromandel and what could be done to improve the district.

Since the project started in 2006, the Blueprint team has reached out to the community in many innovative ways to get the feedback needed to build a better future for all.

People are invited to go to <http://www.coroblueprint.govt.nz/179151/html/page.html> and see for themselves what passion and potential exists among the younger generation.

PUBLIC MEETINGS on Local Area Blueprints

Coromandel Area School Hall	12 April	7.00pm – 8.30pm
Whangamata War Memorial Hall	14 April	7.00pm – 8.30pm TONIGHT
Whitianga Oceans Resort	5 May	7.00pm – 8.30pm [Whitianga & Mercury Bay South]
	6 May	1.00pm – 3.00pm [Mercury Bay North]
Thames War Memorial Civic Centre	7 May	7.30pm – 9.00pm
Pauanui Sports and Recreation Club	17 May	7.00pm – 8.30pm
Tairua Hall	18 May	7.00pm – 8.30pm

The Blueprint is about managing change, growth and sustainable development on the peninsula. It brings together a range of existing plans and the aspirations of the community to ensure we achieve the Coromandel we want, rather than leave it to chance.

The Blueprint is the community's vision: its footprints will be our legacy, our future.

For more information please visit www.coroblueprint.govt.nz or contact:

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