



# Kumara Vine



**He piko  
he kaainga**  
Community Waikato

March 2023

## CE Update by Holly Snape

I think it is fair to say that 2023 did not start the way anyone anticipated. We didn't seem to have much of a summer, and coming back to work, our country experienced the torrential flooding in Northland/Auckland followed by the cyclone that hit much of Te-Ika-a-Maui (the North Island). It would be hard for anyone to deny that we are tangibly experiencing the effects of climate change.

Much of the Waikato was spared the brunt of the cyclone but some of our eastern areas were completely isolated, suffered slips, power loss and telecommunications loss. This has also put additional pressure on our community and social service providers around the Waikato, supporting the mental health and physical needs of the members of their communities.

It feels timely that this Kumara Vine addition has an environmental focus. While we may not resolve the issue of climate change on a global scale, there is so much we can do locally, which will have a positive impact on our whenua and our people. We have environmental groups undertaking exciting work around our region and we have environmental leaders, such as Go Eco, who can provide guidance and support for others wanting to explore what more they can do to contribute positively to climate change. Community Waikato has also partnered with Go Eco to undertake a project to better understand our carbon footprint and to map some tangible actions to reduce this over the next 12 months. We will be sure to keep you updated on our progress.



**“This program has made me reflect comfortably and take ownership of my potential, it has taught me to accept praise when due”**

*- 2022 participant*



## Mentoring programme

# Strengthening Community Leadership through Mentoring



## What does it involve?

### MENTEES

The role of a Mentee is to learn and grow by being challenged, guided and supported by your Mentor.

For example:

- By helping you to reflect on your current situation and focus areas
- Being a sounding board for ideas and concerns
- Sharing their knowledge, experience and tools
- Making connections to relevant people and resources
- Challenging and providing accountability
- You will be matched with a mentor whose skills and experience overlap with your current needs. Together with your mentor you will work towards identifying focus areas and achieving a goal(s).

### MENTORS

As a Mentor you will be matched with a mentee whose current needs overlap with your skills and experience. Your role is to advise, support, guide and challenge your Mentee.

For example:

- Helping your mentee to reflect on their current situation and goals
- Being a sounding board for ideas and concerns
- Sharing your knowledge, experience and tools
- Making connections to relevant people and resources
- Challenging for and providing accountability

We are currently seeking both Mentees and Potential Mentors for our 2023 programme. Please register your interest by filling out the form at our website. Please get your registrations in by mid to late March 2023

For more information please contact Sally Fenwick Ridley (Programme Coordinator) [sally@communitywaikato.org.nz](mailto:sally@communitywaikato.org.nz)

Community Waikato in collaboration with the [Mentoring Foundation](#) delivers a Mentoring Programme that has been designed to help grow leadership in social and community sector leaders.

Mentoring is a relationship that supports and encourages the leadership journey of individuals and their organisations. In simple terms mentoring is about one person learning from the experience and wisdom of another.

Our programme takes a holistic approach, matching a mentee with a mentor who not only has experience relevant to the mentee's specific leadership development needs, but who will also view the leadership journey in relation to the mentee's personal context, priorities and well-being.

This ongoing relationship connects with the leaders at whatever point they are in their leadership journey and helps them unlock the traits within themselves by talking through issues, offering advice, or even just getting a bit of insight from an external sounding board.

This has real benefits for their organisations. Mentored leaders are more effective at getting things done. They are more inspired and more inspiring to their staff. They're less likely to move on, because they can make a real difference in their role. They go on to be great mentors themselves, passing the benefits of mentoring down the chain.

## Community organisations and disaster response

By Bridget Doran and Sarah Gibb

Community organisations are never more crucial, or more appreciated than in a disaster. In recent months many Waikato communities have faced unprecedented challenges. Infrastructure has been destroyed, communication lines have been broken, access to clean water and reliable food sources has been intermittent. While the disaster response will be ongoing for months and years, stories are already emerging of the power of community in uncertain times such as these.

Astounding examples of the value of community have been shared in recent weeks. When we think of people losing their homes, we tend to think of a house, sitting on a street, but actually the people of Coromandel and their community organisations found themselves supporting someone whose boat he lived on had sunk with all his possessions.

Then there are the not so obvious impacts but just as challenging for those in it. An upset neighbour who sought reassurance that her dentures that had been lost at the evacuation centre would be covered by her insurance. After the event, the school had looked hard for her but couldn't find them. She was so grateful for their care and consideration.

The support that Community Waikato provides for local groups can also become important in disasters. Community transport is one area that reached out for specific help. The standard rules and policies that apply

for Ministry of Health support for community transport usually enable mileage reimbursement for the shortest distance by road between a transport provider's base, and the destination they visit, for example Waikato Hospital. After Cyclone Gabrielle, communities on the Coromandel's east coast found themselves facing an extra hour's drive at least to deliver passengers one way to the hospital. Through connections at Community Waikato some measures to make things easier were brokered. Momentum Waikato responded with some funding that not only gave assurance that they could buy the extra fuel, but gave the Tairua Care & Friendship Group a chance to take a few deep breaths to think about how they could keep operating. Also providers were able to be reassured that their mileage claim through Ministry of Health would be increased to reflect their actual route while SH25a is closed.

When volunteers are themselves facing disaster conditions including local destruction, loss of power, and uncertain access to food and communication, finding energy to keep the community functioning as well must be challenging, but resilience and cooperation is what we see. Having support networks built on years of connection around the region groups can find the moral and practical support that they need to keep calm and carry on, as best they can.



## What community organisations can do about climate change

By Bridget Doran

We live in uncertain times, but there's a graph that leaves little room for doubt. The graph of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and how it's changed over the last million years, shows something dramatic has been going on since 1950. The line is very steep. If you want to know how much atmospheric carbon dioxide has increased in your lifetime you can check on this website: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/carbon-footprint-calculator/carbon-by-birth-year/>

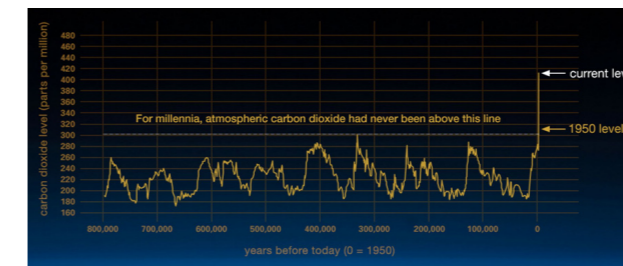


Figure 1 Atmospheric carbon dioxide over the last 800,000 years. Source: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/carbon-footprint-calculator/carbon-by-birth-year/>

Those are drastic numbers and they might leave community organisations feeling helpless. What can we do in Aotearoa to change that graph? And what can a small community organisation do that's meaningful?

Well, as I tell anyone who presents the old argument "New Zealand is too small to make a difference", every person on the planet is just one person, and every organisation is one organisation: we are all in this together. We might as well act like it.

Besides, when it comes to local action, *preparing for* the effects of climate change are very similar to *reducing our impact* on the environment. And all of those actions can be used to tell the story for bigger picture change. Here are some examples of what community organisations can do.

### 1. Keep Calm and Carry On

It's important to recognise that community by its nature involves sharing of resources and focusing on local resilience, delivered locally – a highly sustainable way of organising society! Anxiety about whether we are doing 'enough' is wasted energy. By all means support the mental wellbeing of your community group's members, but don't sweat too much about your 'carbon footprint' or whether you're doing 'enough'. Your existence is a good thing.

### 2. Work with other community groups as much as possible

Community already excels at sharing. It's in the blood of community organisations to know others in their area and to collaborate on shared initiatives. In uncertain times, including with changing weather, it is more important than ever to know who does what in a community, and who has what resources at their disposal. For example, being able to share community vehicles in 'peace time' makes it easier to divert those resources where needed in a crisis. Knowing who has connections to whānau with young families will help provide nappies and baby food in an emergency. Food security is all the stronger when people know their neighbouring communities. The strength of community is in people knowing people. Supporting those relationships in any way possible, including with social interaction, builds resilience.

### 3. Share your stories to advocate for bigger change

There's an excellent book about avoiding climate angst: *We're All Climate Hypocrites Now*, by Sami Glover. It talks about doing your best, but not suffering undue personal anxiety about whether you personally (or as an organisation) are doing 'enough'. The most important change is big picture, system change. No one organisation can do that, but together we can all contribute to shifting public opinion enough to encourage government to act in bigger ways.

That's where storytelling comes in. The beauty of the modern world is that it is easier than ever to share stories. Online forums can be very useful for support networks, to learn, to collaborate and to advocate. The beauty of community stories is that they combine hearts and heads. The best stories have evidence of a return on investment – what does a dollar invested in your community organisation deliver? – and they also have heart. Personal anecdotes and tales of triumph at a local level are crucial to connecting at a social and emotional level with people who read or hear about what you do. Backing that hook up with evidence of dollars well spent is a great way to present a compelling case for ongoing investment in your cause. Sharing stories is also likely to attract more people to share their own community journeys, building a positive cycle of doing good.

No one community organisation can do much on its own about the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. But more than ever, resilience means community strength and an openness to sharing stories. In the midst of unprecedented uncertainty, only good can come from efforts to strengthen communities. Our strength is, more than ever, in one another.



## How we survive summer

By Jo Wrigley

**Go Eco is the largest sustainability charity in the Waikato - with a vision of healthy environments supported by thriving communities. They support a regional ecosystem of communities, groups, ideas and projects centred around climate action and honouring Te Tiriti.**

**Go Eco's manager - Jo Wrigley - shares her thoughts on the intersection of summer, changing our systems, and those working towards a better future for us all.**

All around me people are talking about preparing for climate adaptation as if they are undertaking a mission strategy. Our ability to adapt is threatened by the anxiety of switching from heat to flooding in a flash, strained by systemic inaction and only incremental changes through policy and law.

### **It plays out as a tale of post-modern urban survival.**

The news and media present extreme weather events in consistently predictable ways. For a heatwave, it could be crowded beaches, a person drinking water from a fountain, or a couple wearing sun hats out for a walk. For floods and storms it will be a raging torrent of water across farmland, or an animal on a small hump of dry land. The images and articles rarely depict the structural violence of poverty and racism inherent. There's little in the imagery to attest to the catastrophic harm to life or to emphasize that this is climate change happening right now.

Just ten years ago summer brought excitement, as people longed for hot days and good camping weather. It was a time of abundance, when we got our rays of the sun for well-being, a seasonal escape from the cold dampness of winter passed. We are now charged with adapting our cities and towns for drought or flood.

Climate change impacts are being normalised faster than the incremental solutions supported by politicians, power holders and policymakers.

Giving us hope is that there are a network of successful and impactful community-based organisations working to

educate, resource and support community-level change in order to mitigate climate impacts. For example, these organisations are finding resources in 'waste', like rethinking and redesigning community composting of food scraps and supporting environmental restoration projects with schools, churches and kaitiaki. Communities also realise the best solution to waste is not to produce it in the first place.

We can reimagine our streets with more buses and fewer cars, being able to catch the train into the regions and improving walkability and cycling to reduce emissions. We can have trees both cleaning our air, cooling streets and providing shelter. Imagine more greenspaces that support family adventures and healthy living. Look to transform food systems so we have urban areas with access to local produce, community-led waste recovery enterprises and revitalised water systems. Imagine abundance with zero waste.

While we deal with systemic inaction and incremental changes through policy and law, we need to act urgently, and with determination, courage and imagination to transform our inequitable systems and infrastructure, as we prepare for the rest of children's lives. As we consider and reflect upon the impacts of cyclones and crises on our communities we must also acknowledge that the boldest of systemic changes come when communities model collective solutions and connections.



# Community Waikato Workshops

■ **March-June 2023**

## Funding Workshops

**Come to a free funding workshop delivered by the local community funders**

- Te Aroha - 19 April, 9.30am to 11.30am
- Te Kuiti - 3 May, 9am to 11am
- Otorohanga - 3 May, 1pm to 3pm
- Hamilton - 7 June, 9.30am to 11.30am
- Morrinsville - 14 June, 5.30pm to 7.30pm
- Taumarunui - 21 June, 4pm to 5.30pm

## Understanding and Completing your COGS Application

**30 March, 5.30pm to 7.30pm**

**12 April, 5.30pm to 7.30pm**

This workshop will focus on understanding the requirements for your COGS grant and how to make the best application possible. Delivered via Zoom, Free .

## The Art of Giving Feedback Foundation Workshop

**12 April, 9.30am to 11.30am, Zoom, \$75 Community**

Some love it, some hate it. All need it. Feedback. Most people have mixed feelings about feedback based on their good and bad experiences.

## Evaluating and Assessing your Organisations Impact and Success

**12 April, 10am to 12noon, Community Waikato, \$75 Community**

This seminar outlines the current thinking and literature on evaluations of non-profit organisations then provides a way forward for participants to implement an impact evaluation that is relevant, do-able, affordable and reflective of the work of the organisation.

## How to read Financial Statements

**26 April, 9.30am to 11.30am, Community Waikato, \$50 community**

Understanding basic finances and your financial documents is an essential part of good governance and management.

## Cyber Security and Online Safety

**27 April, 10am to 12noon, Community Waikato, \$30 community**

Cyber security is essential, this workshop with Skypoint Technologies will give you useful tips and strategies to keep your organisations safe.

## Digital Marketing Workshop - How to share your authentic story online

**4 May, 10am to 12noon, Community Waikato, \$60 community**

Join us as we guide you through the essential topics to consider when building a digital strategy that will enhance your capacity to help your organisation succeed.

## The Art of Giving Feedback Mastery Workshop

**24 May, 9.30am to 12.30pm, Community Waikato, \$75 community**

Discuss, ask, reflect on what works, get help, practice and design your very own development roadmap.

## Teams at their best

**8 June, 10am to 12noon, Community Waikato, \$75 Community**

This seminar demonstrates the way success or otherwise of the team is ultimately determined by the actions of the team leader and the team's culture.

## Coaching for Performance

**14 June, 9.30am to 12.30pm, Community Waikato, \$75 community**

Performance matters. We want to serve our community in the best possible way with the limited time and resources we have available.

Visit [www.communitywaikato.org.nz](http://www.communitywaikato.org.nz) to book your training