

# Hey, this is Randwick Park

Stories of a Community Doing Good for Itself



# Acknowledgements

The input of Daniel Newman in telling Randwick's story from his involvement is also strongly acknowledged.

Research to write the Randwick story was funded by Manurewa Local Board and supported by Auckland Council staff. Thanks go to Angela Dalton, Simeon Brown, Rex Hewitt, Jacqueline Pryor, Damian Powley, Rouruina Brown, Kristen Ross, and Tania Pouwhare.

Thanks to Randwick's kids - who love having their photo taken.

A special thanks to Randwick Park School, who are at the centre of Randwick's past, present and future.

Special acknowledgement is owed to all those residents who give their time and effort every day to support Randwick Park who are also an unsung, but key part of the story.

Without the voices of Randwick's core group of leaders (past and present) this story would not be possible. Thanks for your time, honesty, passion and inspiration Linda and Keo Mataroa, Tam White, Janice Thompson, Maree Beaven, Waina Kapa, Walz Brown, Elsie and Bruce Howe, Tony Rakitch, Dave and Denise Tims, and Dennis Honey.

Thanks to the Warriors of Change and Randwick's youth leaders who complemented this story and shared their youth work, insights and voices, including: Kata Tims, Eric, Anna, Puhi, Liz, and Vanessa.

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# Overview

Randwick Park is a South Auckland suburb located in the Manurewa Local Board area. Subdivided in the mid-1970s, it has grown in its space between State Highway 1, rural Alfriston, The Gardens, and Takanini. It is a mesmerising place; full of contrasts, extremes, and a rawness that inspires promise for the future. From the outside it seems to offer little, but when you take a look inside, it gives so very, very much. It is an abundant community that is growing; thriving because some people genuinely care for it and the people who live there, and they want others to take greater care of it as well.

As a researcher, and resident of South Auckland, I had heard about Randwick Park<sup>1</sup>. It features on sensational-based TV, such as Police 10/7. These negative stereotypes are repeated again and again by media, government agencies and policy. Yet, in listening to the community, you realise that those telling the story are the ‘outsiders’. Those who live here have another voice, a different story to tell, but are not heard in the way they should by decision makers. Auckland Council’s Manurewa Local Board is a significant exception. They recognise, listen and support – do what they can because they believe in what Randwick has to say, as well as do. Given the chance, it is a mutually beneficial relationship that could be repeated and grown among others with whom Randwick works.

Randwick does have a strong voice, but to grow that voice within, be heard beyond its boundaries, influence wider change, and break down perceptions and the demoralising effect on its youth, its positive voice needs to resonate more loudly.

This document aims to capture the voice of Randwick Park in the form of stories told by its residents.

Story telling is really important in this digital age of mass information. It is an opportunity to reflect and share. It is an opportunity to ground people in their place, and inspire belonging and wonder at what they can do to build respect, ownership and responsibility for where they live.



In co-creating this document with the community, I was told a story by Dennis Honey – a long-time Randwick resident. He was concerned that memories as history, through story-telling, was in danger of being lost. He said that in pre-history Maori women used to go to the Papakura Stream - that

today crosses under Porchester Road and winds its way along the southern boundary of Randwick – to bless the watercress that grew there, in order to cut it and share with their whanau. It is a story about respecting your environment, utilising what you have, sustaining your people, and replenishing what grows.

The same story is repeated in a different way today by those who care most for their community. They are what make Randwick Park what it is. To really get to know Randwick you need to listen, be open, engage, discuss, share, exchange and debate, and you’ll find yourself taking part in its exciting future.

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<sup>1</sup>This document is produced by Dr Gillian Stewart, who is a Director at Co-Creationz Ltd.



# Introduction

Many people say that Randwick Park is a typical South Auckland suburb. Its residents and the Manurewa Local Board, however, believe differently. Over the past five years, Randwick has worked hard to become a community that is turning around the negative stereotypes. It challenges its residents and agencies to think and act differently. It stands up to be counted, demands what it is entitled to, and is being heard. Randwick works alongside others to deal with its pressing issues, and strengthen the foundations of its development as a thriving community.

There are many stories of significant change in Randwick worth telling. Such as how the community has driven and co-designed the redevelopment of their Riverton Reserve; how it walked alongside its talented youth to bring to life a forgotten dream of building their own skate park; or how they organise initiatives and events and get people out together sharing and having fun.

The voices presented in this document aim to describe its many journeys of transformation. These are the culmination of key dynamics and

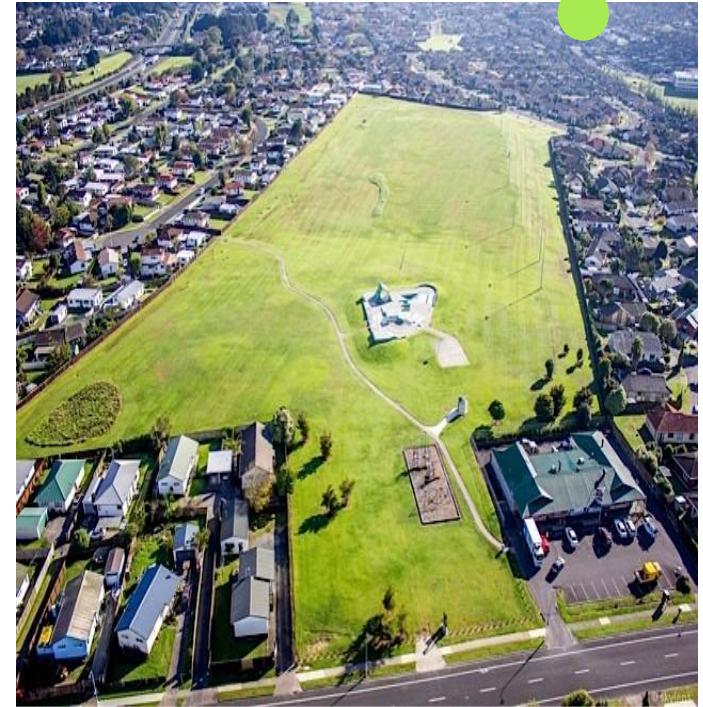
Randwick Park is no longer a passive place without a profile. Randwick Park is now a neighbourhood that will get not only some capital investment, but it will do so on such a scale as to attract the fascination of people from outside that environment. Its skate park is a destination for skaters everywhere. Its school buildings are being properly rebuilt. Its central park is subject to an enormous redevelopment (*Daniel Newman, previously Chair of Manurewa Local Board*).

ingredients that are specific to Randwick's past, present and future, but which can be found in any community – the people, their dreams, their sense of place, and the things they do together.

Randwick Park is at a point in time in its ongoing journey. It faces many new challenges and opportunities to grow. Its leadership are a mix of people doing what they can, when they can, and at what level they can. But, together they have a wonderful strength. They acknowledge, share and inspire a mutual trust and exchange of appreciation and investment from themselves and others.

Manurewa Local Board have embraced this way of doing. They listen to Randwick's dreams, nurture their capacity, and advocate on their behalf when needed. This has created mutual trust, appreciation and respect to the point where Angela Dalton and her team are seen as part of a Randwick family.

This story is a measure of the strength of that relationship. The evidence will be the keenness to keep developing it together.



Looking north from Riverton Road. The Riverton Reserve before re-development – an under used, unconnected boggy wasteland.

# Why Tell the Story

The story of Randwick Park is significant, not just for the people who have led change in this community, nor only the residents, but for everyone that has invested and made a contribution to its families, children and residents over the years. Randwick is far from perfect. They are well aware of their ‘voids’ and challenges, but they choose rightly to dwell on their strengths. Randwick is a story that re-defines what a ‘thriving community’ is, and stands out as an example to others - how a community can do good for itself, and how good can be repaid by others.

The Manurewa Local Board, with the support of the Randwick Park community leaders, commissioned this research to document and tell the story of Randwick Park. Their shared goals in telling this story, include:

- It’s a time to take stock, understand, and celebrate who Randwick Park is, what we do, why we do it, and what has made the difference in this community.
- To decide where we can take what we have, and define what future we want.
- To value, demonstrate and share what is taonga to Randwick, the dreams, and the sense of excitement about future possibilities.
- To challenge the South Auckland – Manurewa - Randwick Park negative perceptions, and turn it around.
- To build more pride, ownership, and responsibility so more people get involved, are connected, and contribute to help Randwick grow on its journey.
- To share and welcome other people, communities, visitors and new neighbours and residents to share our place.
- For Manurewa Local Board to showcase its relationship and way of working with the Randwick community. To illustrate why, what, how and with what impact and risks other local boards can work alongside and represent Auckland’s communities to make a difference.
- For the community to understand why this relationship works, how we can work with council (and other agencies) in accountable ways to secure ongoing investment, leverage, and autonomy.
- To shape and define the ‘thriving’ and ‘empowered community’ dialogue, within Auckland Council, across NZ, and abroad.

- To tell the story simply to reflect the Randwick community so it can inspire others.



The original ideas that a group of Randwick people came up with in 2011 for the Park. It's our own design. Most of what we thought of has come true.



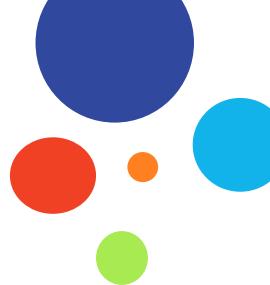
Stage one in progress



The community cutting the ribbon with Daniel Newman to open the Riverton Sports Park



The opening of Riverton Park stage one – the sports area and the new skate park (March 2014)



# What's in a Story

The research involved two background meetings with key Auckland Council staff (Damian Powley and Rouruina Brown). A series of interviews were then held with a core group of committed and passionate individuals who are acknowledged as the change leaders in the Randwick community. The interviews were conducted over two weeks at people's homes, their places of work, or at the Randwick Park Community House. One of the interviewees participated via email.

All interviews and responses were based on a set of broad questions. These interviews were recorded and transcribed. The verbatim text was analysed and sorted to create this document, so that it is the words of the community instead of the researcher that can heard<sup>2</sup>. The researcher also attended two Randwick Park Residents Association meetings to check in and clarify aspects of the story in progress.

## The people involved (and when) in telling Randwick's story include the following:



Dave (Ginja Ninja) and  
Denise Tims  
(3/2/2015)



Tony Rakitch (9/2/2015)



Bruce (and Elsie) Howe  
(17/2/2015)



Walz Brown (3/2/2015)



Randwick Park School -  
Karen McMurray & Felicity  
Oberlin Brown (9/2/2015)



Tam White (19/2/2015)



Maree Beaven (5/2/2015)



Keo & Linda Mataroa  
(9/2/2015)



Daniel Newman  
(25/2/2015)



Janice Thompson  
(5/2/2015)



Waina Kapa - Kung Foo  
Panda (13/2/2015)



Eric, Kata, Liz, Vanessa,  
Puhi (10/3/2015)

<sup>2</sup> Throughout the story words are attributed to each speaker using their initials. It should also be acknowledged that Dennis Honey was also interviewed outside of the interview process, and his voice is included in this story.

## KEY FACTS ABOUT RANDWICK PARK

- 1539 houses in Randwick Park are home to 5772 people.
- 31% of Randwick's people are under 15, compared to 26% for Manurewa.
- There are 99 more females than males in Randwick.
- Nearly 30% of Randwick's families are lone parents, many live below the poverty line.
- Randwick is representative of Manurewa's diversity - 22% European, 23% Maori, 31% Pacific, 23% Asian, 2.8% other.
- People in Hyperion census area unit are more likely to be Pacific and Maori, and less likely to be Asian.
- Home ownership in Randwick is decreasing.
- The number of private landlords renting has risen by over 30% in last 12 yrs.
- Average rental is \$335 per week.

(Taken from Statistics NZ representing combined figures for Hyperion and Randwick census area units)



## Who is Randwick Park?

JT: Randwick Park is the residents, the people who live there, and people who work and play there; (those who) have invested time, energy, resources into that community, who work with, rather than at them. BH: It is a family, a wider family... the whanau connection.

BH: Randwick Park has a history... the kites are part of that. TH: they call it soaring around here, that's what Manurewa stands for... they used to fly kites back in the tribal times.

KM: This place is really building up, it's just really built up from nothing. TR: The old Shifnal is the first part... it wasn't meant to be a big subdivision, just off loading the housing on this side of the motorway. KM: And then they started making Riverton, Trimdon, and Hyperion and then all of those other little... side streets. TR: Then it was the third stage, from where the Randwick Park Reserve begins back to Nearco. And then (Rosemead Place) came in because there was no shops there, that's the first shop. RPS: The school opened in 1997... TR: and then Nearco ... the college is, I think it is 10 going on 12 years old... then the other side from Porchester to Magic Way that's the last subdivision and when you come into Randwick that's actually the appeal of it. WK: They named it after race horses.

DN: Randwick Park is yet another residential neighbourhood in Auckland... (It) is the product of paternal government planning, inequitable local government funding, usual state-directed welfare case management, and a lack of imagination (connectedness and investment)... It lacked parks and community infrastructure. RPS: If a lightbulb blew nobody ever came along and fixed it, nobody knew what to do to get it fixed. MB: We're down in a corner, which kinda isolates us because we have very much got boundaries, there's the two main roads, stream and the motorway - we are very much our own community. DP: Like an island.

DT: There are two sides - the south part that makes up the old development... low quality homes became NZ Housing homes... this is a decile 1 area - and our newer neighbours in the north like Magic Way... is probably decile 6 or 7... There is an u's-and-them' that comes with that.

WB: Randwick is a diverse place, it keeps changing. Good, bad; it has its times. WoC: There's a really rawness of both the good and the bad (Eric). WB: But I think the big thing about Randwick is all the little subcultures that run through it. LM: We've got a lot of different cultures, along Magic Way there's a





lot of Fijian Indian. MB: My kids... they've got Indian friends, they've got island friends, Maori friends, they've got South African; there is every nationality. DT: We have gangs, some are youth gangs, like the Bloods and Cribbs, there is violence, high unemployment and drug issues....these are all poverty indicators.

MB: I think generally people keep to themselves. WK: (Some) were too scared to get out because they felt threatened. MB: A lot of people are really busy... I think most of the people who live here, they come in and

sleep here and then go out to work and spend most of their day outside Randwick. RPS: One of the things I really notice... there is not a lot of stability... I think you've got the people, there was no connection because it was always just a transient place, a stepping stone for people.

MB: But there are people also that spend their whole lives in Randwick - there are a lot of mums... you've got a lot of families. WoC: To me it's like, kids, full of life, loud, rough, curious, creative, but also like out in the road (Eric)... they have a different personality about them like, they are really like lively and outgoing... Randwick is like youth... just lots of fun - rough round the edges, in their own way (Liz). Randwick is like family, definitely families... and crazy dogs on the street and millions of kids that just keep piling up in numbers (Vanessa). RPS: When I first came here I couldn't understand where all the kids came from, to me it was quite a small area but the density of the population... the whole alphabet down one driveway... the houses being so close together.

TW: I think that's where it started all the negative; graffiti was really bad - Kids... weren't disciplined enough and it was quite a warring time. RPS: Beneficiaries, multi-generational who are unemployed... for some of them there is no aspiration, there is not the aspiration

from home for the children. WK: The parents thought more of their alcohol and their drugs than their kids.

WoC: It's always easier to look at the bad isn't it? Something I see... with the kids is that the stigmatising of South Auckland really sticks, especially in Randwick Park... a shrug of like ah we'll amount to nothing really anyway... so this is where we're at (Eric). It's also kind of like an identity of how they connect to each other... it's being reproduced... as a way of coping with it (Kata).

BH: There's certainly a need for community to keep abreast of what's happening and to be able to be a support mechanism around (it).

DT: There is a small group of highly motivated people here who do a lot, who organise the events, who attend the Resident's Association. Yeh, it's the same group of people. WB: It's just the voices of people whose voices can make a difference.

RB: I have really good memories of Randwick as a community that understands itself, knows its people, knows what happens next door and the door beyond, where people know each other by name. WoC: It's a place where you have to take the time to sit and get to know the people. Time spent is really important here (Vanessa). MB: I have got some awesome friends here, so many different people, so

many walks of life it's never boring ... it just becomes learning off each other, which is really nice. It does have its challenges of course, but it also makes it really rich, vibrant.

WK: For me, Randwick will always be Randwick it will always open its doors or we go to anyone who decides to live there as long as they stand up and fight for themselves and their community. BH: For me Randwick is what you believe you really are... What it's going to eventually turn out to be, is going to be dependent on those within the community. TR: My view of this area is the kids... if you can drag them in and keep them occupied under a safe umbrella instead of them going off and putting different colours on. BH: I can frankly say that at this point in time, it's an exciting place to be, it has a future and the future is the youth of Randwick.

WB: Randwick is a much better place than what it used to be, it's friendly, it's open, people try and help people and they try and help their dreams come true. RPS: It is probably a community now that is more together than it has ever been. TW: We have grown to (be) a more... like a grown up community that looks after each other. So we are, I think we are a healthy community. DT: I

know my neighbours have got my back. TW: We have come a long way. (You) now hardly see any graffiti, hardly hear any problems.

WB: Randwick is slowly building to be a better place to live. Yes, it's definitely home for me.

TR: We are proud of South Auckland, because this is one part of Auckland super city where

we've got everything at our fingertips. We got a fantastic place out here. Half of us don't look at it. MB: We choose to live here, I love the friends I have here, and I love the diversity... It's the best little corner of Manurewa.



Figure 1: The shooting at Randwick's liquor store (2008)

## STORY TELLING



Randwick Park is a community that has changed and grown in many different ways, for lots of reasons. It has matured and taken on qualities that contrast with its past. Randwick has a rawness, it is rough around the edges. At its heart the desire to turn around the negative and be the change they want to see, is infectious.

These transformations and changes are told here as stories of significant change.

They have been identified in the interviews (and will be agreed by the group). The following chapters explain who, how, what, when (ingredients and dynamics), and why (indicators) these stories have significance. The final chapter is about what to build on to achieve more of the wonderful things dreamed of by the community (futures).

# Stories of Significant Change

A community organised to lead and demand their rights

TW: The Randwick Park residents group (was) formed many moons ago... We did lots of writing to the community, informed them of what we were doing and who to call for help. That was lacking. RPS: There were a lot of community meetings (at the school)... also we started to have meetings with WINZ, Housing New Zealand, Council, Police, and Education. TW: We started trying to sort out social problems... sharing issues... advocating. MB: People came and just went this is what is wrong, it's these people... the lights don't work and this doesn't work. JT: It was fledgling... residents passionate about their community but frustrated and don't understand the system and the processes.

WK: About 2006... when they brought the meetings back down to the community house, the residents started coming. It was the 'community's' house. JT: What clicked was instead of seeing things happen to them, the only way to see something really change is if we get involved, push for stuff and lead things... it has to come from the people.

MB: The shooting was a massive shock... that's when the residents group kicked off, 'no we are not having this, we are not being seen as this community where violence happens... on a daily basis'. DN: The strategy... generate community-led organisation in spite of central and local government, not because of it... Turn Randwick into a neighbourhood too vocal and too besmirched so it became too difficult to not take action to address historic deficits in parks and community infrastructure. DT: (There also) was the need to turn the resident's (group) into a legal organisation... we could apply for funding and things for ourselves. WK: Non-charitable (means) we keep our voice... can stand up and speak on our own behalf without having another person involved.

RPS: It was the community looking after itself. Once the community found out that money was sitting there they started jumping up and down... presumably it was never coming our way until someone complained. That's when that park started to become a reality. MB: Now when you come to the meetings... you are coming to be a part of doing something about it. Not just coming to gripe to council, how they are not doing their job.

## Waina Kapa

JT: For me it was Waina... just seeing her change over the years and really get involved with her community and people follow her,

follow her example... Some people feared her, some people admired her, and the kids were scared of her... she was the boss.

RPS: Waina was the person (who) stood up, rounded everyone up. She would tell people off. When she moved into the area she started to sort some of the kids out. She got a playground put in for the kids down at Trimdon Street, as there was nowhere for the kids to play, but then she was happy to supervise it as well. JT: What that did for the community was say hey this is a way we can make things happen... they owned it, they were the ones that did it.

JT: I saw in her a real leader she had the biggest waha – mouth – ever and I just saw that as an asset. She is a voice, and she always bring up matters in the community so I just connected her with the residents group... She connected in with the school, with the kapa



haka group, and she just became a real champion down in Randwick Park.

TR: Her heart is in the community, she knew everyone here 24/7, what she does comes from her heart, not just her mouth, she knows how it feels. MB: Waina brought such a different flavour... that's when it moved from the school to the community house to engage with a different lot of people. She just says it as it is (and) it brought this whole thing - it is ok for all of us to do this.

### Cool, fun, family-based, free events by and for community

RPS: Now every year (since 2003) we have what is called Christmas in the Park... Previous to last year it was all done at the school, and then we handed it over to the residents committee last year. DT: It was even bigger and better. It was absolutely fantastic event. There was over a 1000 people here. The whole four hours was filled up with entertainment



from the school and local people. RPS: For the first time that I can remember Alfriston College actually performed. A lot of people in the community sold food, different cultural foods, and things like that.

RPS: There has been a lot of community days in Randwick Park. WK: We did festivals... EH: 'Dreams and Stars', a first community event. TR: Kite days. MB: It poured down. WK: We had 'Keeping it Real' (2010)... until (Manukau Council had) to back out. DT: Randwick's Got Talent' (2012)... Also at the time got a grant for \$30,000 to plant trees along Papakura Stream... we got thousands of plants and used some of the money to have a massive bbq and we got the schools involved, a couple of hundred people... we had Black Power guys come. ... MB: The opening of the skate park we watched all of the skate kids cutting (ribbon) with Daniel. DT: The events are running every year now. RB: They're community events. Community were the organising team - funding, hats, t-



shirts, and got everyone involved. MB: You start to see that things become possible. DT: You know, that we can do this... the guys we all asking well what we can do next. BH: (It's not) about making a profit, it was about seeing the little ones having a good time. TR: Those gangs leave their stuff outside in the road and they come together... the community are actually stepping out of their homes and participating. WK: the kids are mingling and it's the vision you want to see.

BH: When you look at the demographics of this (place)... let's change that, uplift people and say that hey you have a potential... but let's start with community initiatives, community events. And I think we have demonstrated that over the last four years... the potential within this community.

### Riverton Reserve development – the community taonga

DP: Back when the project was initiated by Manukau City Council in 2008-09 there was \$186k set aside to build some sports fields. DH: Verbally, I was told there was \$9 million in development contributions from Fletchers. DP: In 2011 the Manurewa Local Board managed to get \$5.8million for the development. It's awesome and the community know they are valued and that investment is joint and significant. The skate park, cricket nets, netball and basketball

courts are now already there. The grounds and facility should be finished by June 2015.

WK: That park up at Riverton side, all it had was a skate park. WB: For years and years and years that reserve has been fought over... between the Bloods and the Cribbs. DT: So when the Resident's Association, and Daniel and Angela was part of it... started hearing about the idea of this park... we jumped on it. DT: We called a community meeting about 20 of us sat in a room. WK: That's when the Association came up with a plan.

TR: What's gone into that is the ideas from the community... they went out and designed it... we put everything together and presented to the council... But when the council came... they didn't want to know anything, so we said no! This meeting is not going any further until you hear us.



DT: At one stage we thought we had lost all of the money because Len Mayor (sic) cut the budgets and Angela you know said, we've got a history in Manurewa of starting projects and not finishing them and so she (made) sure this gets finished, which is huge. MB: Because with this park it has been a big journey, it's been huge... We are seeing the dream... actually I can see how that's gonna develop. TW: With that sports and community facility, I think that will make a real change... hopefully provide our community jobs and you know activities to do. LKM: We want that park, we do, and I think that'll help a hell of a lot. I think once that is done, we will get more people that will come in.

TR: This community is married to their park at the moment. It's a taonga to this area because over here you don't get nothing... It has turned out to be a lot more than we ever dreamt. BH: There is a hive of interest, look at that development Wow! So as a community we are going, yeah that's ours, that's ours coming up.

### Walz Brown and the skate park

BH: I'd probably have to refer to the skate park. That was a significant observation in terms of change. DT: I think Walz's story kind of summarises what is happening here... He has cleaned up his life so that he could be the change that he wanted to see in the neighbourhood, he has become that change.

WB: Dave found me at the skate park drinking... This ginger haired dreadlocked guy I didn't want to talk to him, I was real ignorant. He... had the balls, to come up and say 'so do you like skate boarding? Would you like to create your own skate park?', and I was like 'yeah'. He goes, 'ok, if you give up drinking we can make it happen'. I didn't believe him one bit, but I believed him enough to stop drinking at the skate park, and... then he brought me to a meeting at the community house and they were talking about this reconstruction of the reserve ... and he offered it to me 'we need to redevelop that skate park up there, can you help us', and even then I still didn't believe him. Then this guy... a designer... Travis Waller rang and asked if he could go over some concepts and designs, told me to put together a team of the top skaters in Randwick... By then I realised, I didn't know I had stopped drinking, hanging out with my gang mates. I started hanging out with these guys with funny moustaches, pens and laptops and suits.



It was a real, big change, for me...it has changed my whole life.

WB: That skate park was made from four guys - myself and three other friends – Peter Ray, Bradley Lakau, and Kera Kaphi - that never did think they would have a future. It was in the middle of we thought was the harsh lands of Randwick, it was the paradise for skaters within the darkness. What made it better was the person helping us design it would listen to what we were saying... And what's even better is that the new park is connected to the part of the old park where (we) learned to skate... and that little space in our community, you can't beat it.

WB: The whole reason for me starting that new skate park was when I was growing up, I was approached by gangs (there)... so I decided to recruit my own... but it's no patches... you don't have to go out and hurt



anyone... just people trying to grow with each other from different backgrounds.

DT: Seeing his energy and the way he gathered the kids and families together to design that skate park. BH: That initiative, Wow... it's their own taonga. And when you have your own taonga are you going to disrespect it? No you are not, you are going to look after it and ensure that it is looked after.

DT: That skate park is so well respected there is not many skate parks in NZ that stays graffiti free... I mean his kaitiaki... he is like the guardian for the area... he understands the 'underbelly' and how it works... I am not sure we could have done what we have done without him.

WK: I love Wally to the max. He's like my own son... you have changed your lifestyle, you've got no bottle in your hand, you're not swearing, you're not wearing the colours.

JT: Wally is one for the youth down at the skate park. TR: He has changed these kids around here... there's two things they do, get changed and go to school, they get changed and go to the roller skate park, that's these young ones around here and they go up there till late in the evening and they skate and skate, under the lamp, and then you hear them all taking each other home.

DT: He got nominated, and was given youth worker of the year... He's employed by

Alfriston College as youth worker, to run holiday programmes, and... by the company that looks after skate parks. From someone who was unemployed... That's huge. WB: So (now) I got offered a challenge from the Principal from the school to do something about the skateboarding. TR: He has, he's come a long way... he's a mentor ... Walz is already nurturing, he's teaching them, he's going out for competitions with his kids... he's fundraising... he's just come on the (school) board of trustees... how's that for a young fella to step up in those roles.

### The protest against legal highs

WoC: For me the story of change is kind of having our voices heard. One example is when the legal drug store... was set up on our main street in Manurewa. We had a guy come in from Abacus... and the topic of the legal highs came up... saying you know it's safer to take the real stuff than the synthetic... (We) know



people that do that stuff... I guess we as WOC were kind of just like no, we don't want this in our community... got kind of racked up about it and why don't we do a protest. It was really cool just to see the rest of Randwick Park's or Manurewa's opinion on that which like backed us up and it was just kind of a real massive thing and it was just really awesome to see our voices being heard.

#### A next generation of leaders

DT: We have this unique problem now of too many youth leaders, all local people. The Warriors for Change is a youth leadership development programme... We've actually got 5 youth programmes... resourced by bits and pieces of grants. But most of it is these young adults just giving two nights a week and camps and part of that has been on their journey of learning, started believing in themselves and started to find work and qualifications. Yeah (recently) some they spent three weeks... lived in a slum in Manila, and were hosted by some families. It was quite impacting on them all.

#### When good things come back to you

MB: Recently we were broken into... Walz turned up at the skate park and the boys said 'we think a burglary just happened'... the guys were like 'oh no it's that lady's house'... So we (ended up calling) the police, and the boy that knew the guys who did it... had to choose to sign the paper saying he saw it, or get beaten up cause the guy said if you nark then... we'll

find you. This boy said yeah, but I've had enough; we can't do this anymore, we can't let them get away with it... he's about 16. That is a big decision. I said to Walz, 'Wow, what a transformation' ... it was kind of what you do for the community just got repaid... something that's happened in him that the community has trusted him to help at the skate park and so he's trusting the community?

#### A giving community

WoC: It's just more like how grateful I am for this community... TNG night we went down where the rich people live and we had to knock on doors and ask for something... 'swap a sock'... (We got) either nothing or something really small like a can. But we did it again in Randwick Park... and we had to get as many things for our pizza... we thought that we wouldn't get much because it's like a place of people that have not got much but it ended up being like, we were all really shocked that we got a lot of stuff and I guess because they know what it is like to have less they would probably give to strangers just anything that was in their cupboard and yeah they gave us a lot of stuff and it was amazing.



## Timeline - Past

This is a visual portrayal of the past, present and future of Randwick Park, as remembered by the core group. It symbolises Bruce Howe's idea that the story of Randwick Park is like a river – what has been put into the river over time is carried through its journey. It is a cycle, requiring fresh activity and new dreams to help the community refresh and continue to the sea, sky and back to the land.



# Timeline - Present and Futures

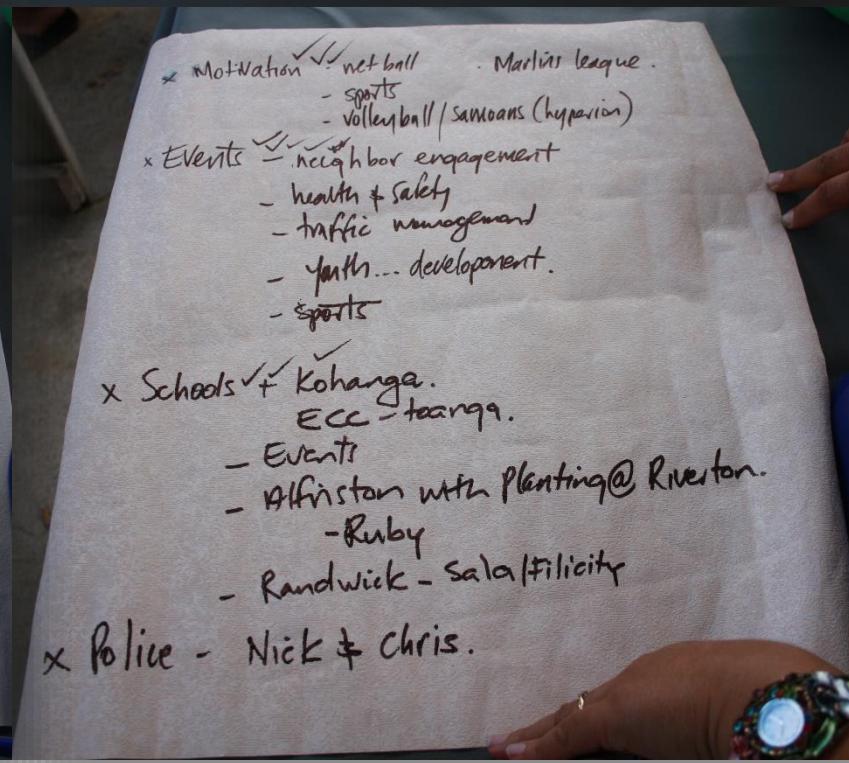
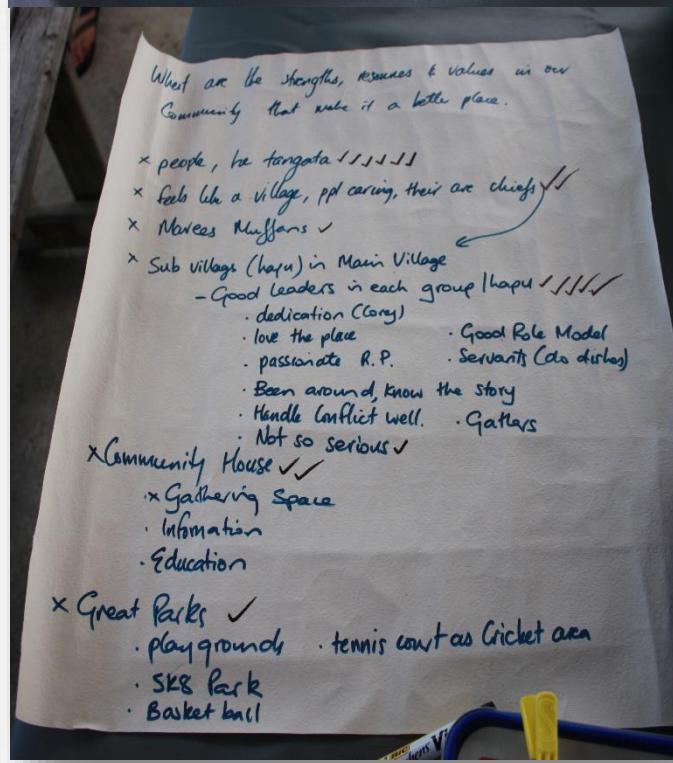
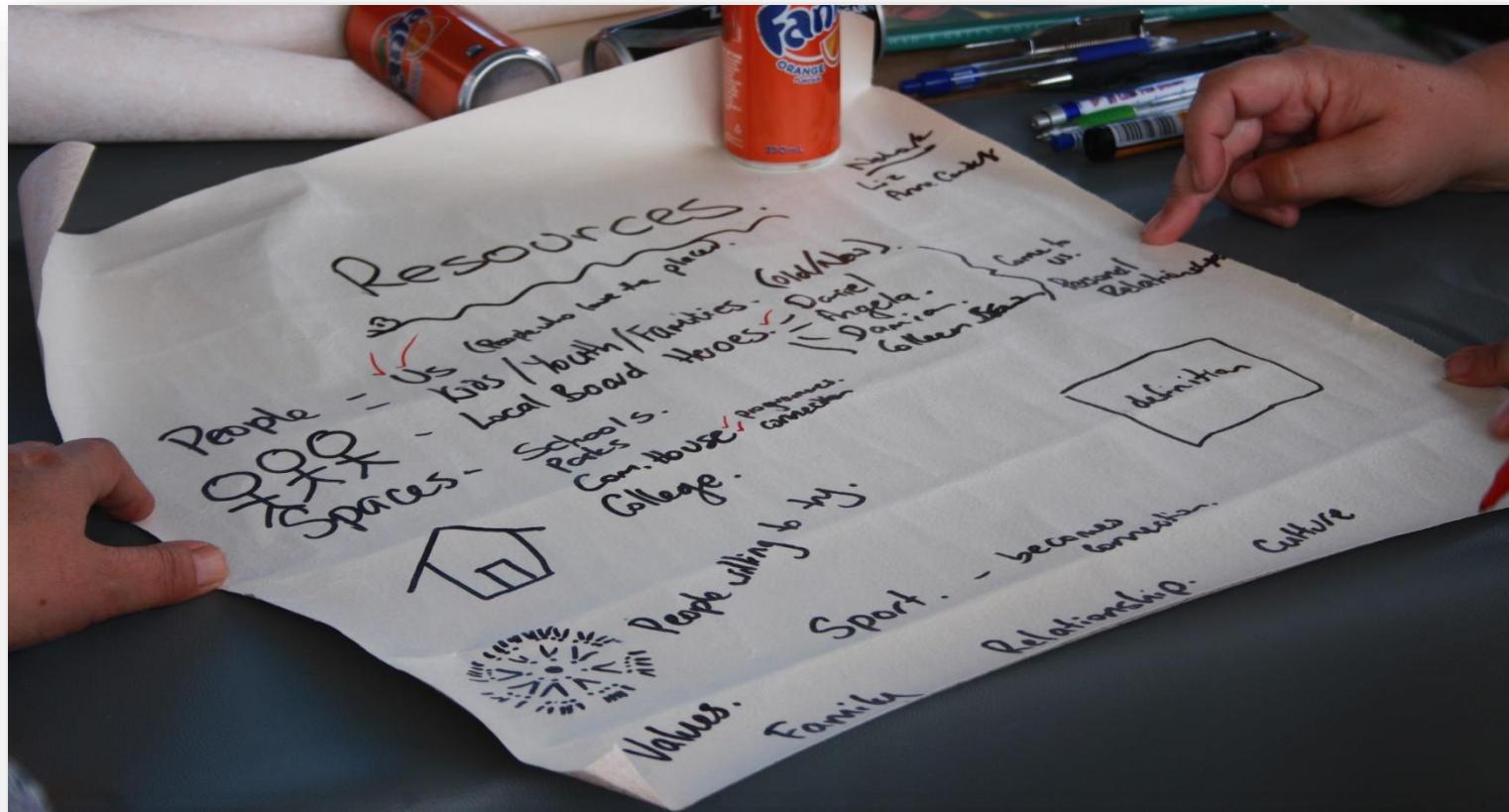


## WHAT'S UNDERNEATH

Randwick's stories of significant change are based on some core ingredients and dynamics apparent within (and without) the community - among the people and agencies that invest and contribute to day-to-day life, work and play.

At the foundation are the people - from individuals, families to groups and the wider networks of institutions and agencies. Everyone has different skills, talents, strengths and knowledge. They hold a range of assets and resources. Their different values, beliefs and worldviews guide them to use, share and exchange these in response to challenges and opportunities to better their kids, family and place they call home.

What Randwick do with what they have and how they do it is about sustaining, nurturing and growing these ingredients in the community.



## Ingredients and Dynamics



## Foundations – what we have

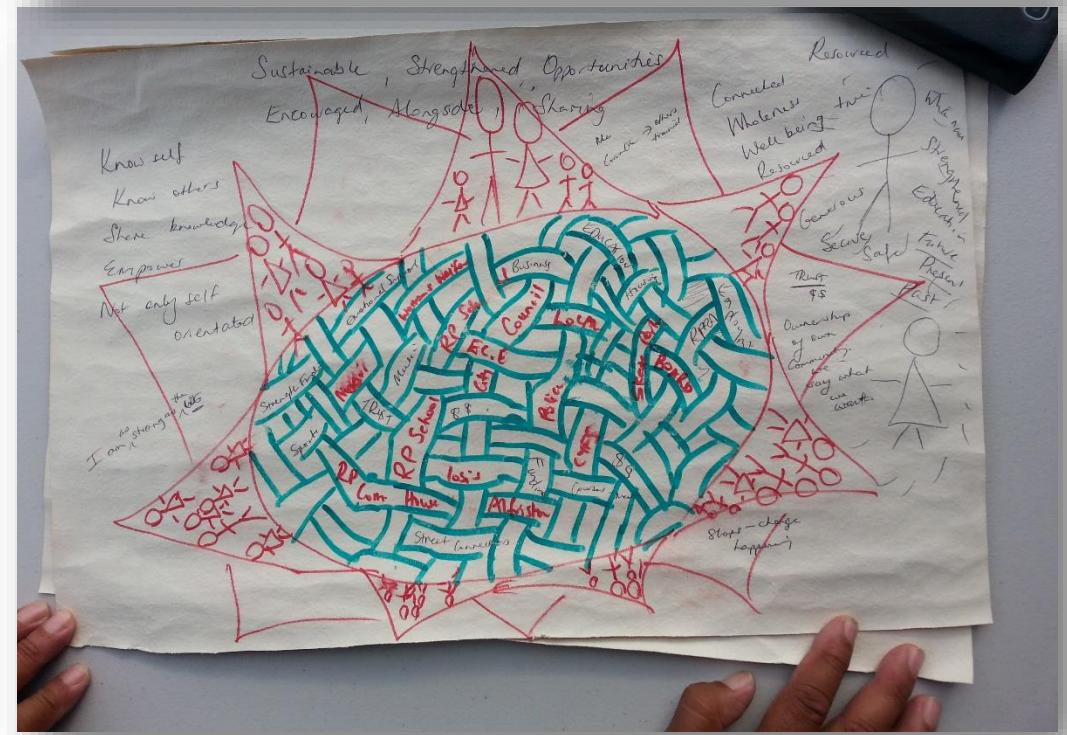
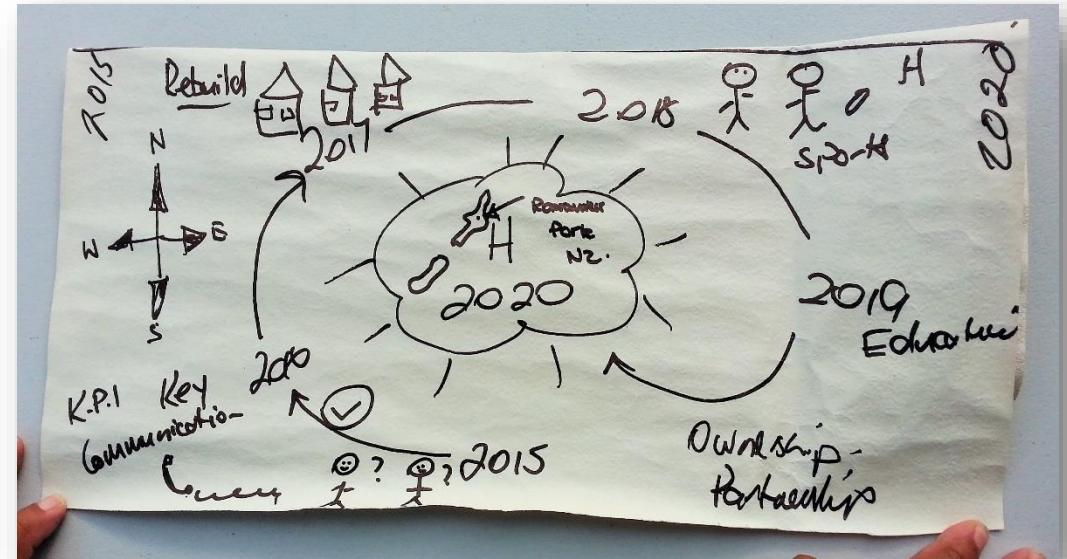
- JT: Dave is available to do a lot of the mahi, the connecting, the networking and he has the knowledge and skills on how to work on behalf of the community. Other people who have the passion, but not the time, and the others who have the passion and zeal, but they don't know the forums and how to make things happen.
- DT: Walz understands the 'underbelly' and knows how it works. DP: Waina was across everything. MB: Bruce and Elsie, they are really great organisers.
- TR: I don't know whether you can hear it, but it's basically the kids. BH: It is through the children that we will probably tweak the attitudes of parents. WK: Because in the end if we didn't have a vision for ourselves as parents what would our kids have today? WB: I believe everyone's got a good spirit, so it doesn't matter if they are wearing any kind of patches... they're still human they still have feelings. DT: It takes a village to raise a child, is a really essential thing for us. BH: We are all one people in terms of wanting the same in life, a good life, a safe life, a safe community, an enriched community... the challenge (is) bringing those cultures together effectively and working for the benefit of all concerned really.
- The community house was not just a facility, but a place you could come to and to talk, and to make things happen. JT: I had resources it kind of added to mana... I had things to exchange.
- DT: Our motivation is not profit, (but) how do I keep my park that I am proud of safe and beautiful... I don't care if I get paid for that or not. WB: It is home, so you look after the place you live.
- TR: I don't know how to put it any clearer... but you give the community back the responsibility, they become proud of the area and they look after it. BH: As I say when you turn something as a taonga, it's your treasure, it's something that means who you are, you know.

# What we do with what we have

- Talk. Come together. Know each other. Learn from each other. Empathise. Share issues, understand different cultures. Get to know people well and their challenges and opportunities better.
  - Care. Help. Get involved. Do what you can to what level you can.
  - Use, exchange and invest the knowledge, assets we have to grow what we have as individuals and as a community.
  - Focus on the kids and youth to shape parents and the next generation.
  - Know the system. Know the community. Empathise. Develop trust.
  - Tap into and use networks and connections. Get other people to contribute. Connect and engage. Welcome. Bring them in. Focus on the strengths not deficits.
  - Acknowledge, recognise and nurture talents, skills and resources – weave them together.
  - Encourage dreams and re-dreaming.

## How we do it – act on it

- Provide leadership, support, and encouragement. Have authority. Kaitiakitanga. Lead by example. Walk alongside.
  - Communicate, Listen, debate, inspire and be inspired.
  - Do it ourselves. Find a way. Keep on keeping on. Push for consistency and momentum.
  - Ask. Demand. Fight. Commitment. Bloody-mindedness.
  - Work together. Trust each other. Compromise. Take roles. Take responsibility. Take ownership.
  - Be the change we want to see. Walk the talk.
  - Do it well and cheaper.
  - Prioritise, focus and plan. Keep it simple.
  - Celebrate. Acknowledge. Have fun. Joke.
  - Create new groups and structures. Be enterprising to get things done. Create employment and training opportunities to nurture the local.
  - Demonstrate accountability, credibility and potential.



## How Manurewa Local Board Helps

MB: If you don't have the local board, the council is so far away, so so far away... but with local board you look and see there's someone who sticks up for us, there's somebody who represents us in the big scheme of things. TR: Without them you haven't got representation between the community and the council.

MB: Council has a job to do and they should be left to do that job and we should still have a say in it. TW: They work for the people and some people might not think that... any contribution to the community is, you know, it's a must, it's more like an obligation or something that they are proud of that improvement in the community and how things have improved since the old days.

DT: Yep, it is their job, but they are in a system that unless someone stands up to the system and fights the battles, you've got to pick your battles, but they are choosing to pick a battle on our behalf. These guys, I don't know why, but for some reason they chose, especially Daniel, they chose to invest into Randwick and so they really supported the resident's and the

Resident's Association as the group of people that could really make the difference.

DN: The influence that I have had has been one where I helped make the case for Randwick Park in the political domain, in the media, and through encouraging local residents to drive their own advocacy... Initially that function was met with a lot of political resistance... for myself it is a determination to keep my commitment to Randwick Park, and a good dose of bloody-mindedness. As predicted, the Mayor has moved on and hasn't visited Randwick Park for years. The media has now left and for the most part only report a negative story. I have a close affinity with the residents of Randwick Park and believe they deserve to have someone who continues to stand full-square with them.

RB: What council did was 'what can we do to help?'. The power shifts were demanded by community, and council was required to muzzle and be invisible. DP: We pitched ourselves at engage to empower level, but the community just kind of led it... The skate park design was actually designed by the community... they knew their environment better than we did... Wally Brown he could sell the vision and talk to kids about it. DP: We realised Randwick Park could challenge our parks, council policies and procedures, it was

about promoting a difference and we were more accommodating and could adapt the way we worked. They were prepared to question and challenge and it leads to trusting relationships.

JT: Yeah, and you reciprocate that whole respect for one another and so all of a sudden council is not on the other side its actually on your side and people start seeing and thinking that. JT: I think council, when you have people like Angela Dalton, Rouruina Brown, people like Damian, ones who come in and snuggle like that, who don't come in and try and push something onto people, but really listen, genuinely understand and then see how they might enable, be a part of, just what they can do, what have we got- what advice, what resource, what have we got that enable their



dreams... Now when you have that in leadership, in community leadership and council leadership it just helps protect, preserve and nurture that whole way of working.

DT: I am really grateful to Angela who fights the battles in the system for us. She often doesn't tell us, but I hear the whispers of the way she is advocating and she is a battler.

WK: If it wasn't for Angela and Daniel we wouldn't have known what our rights were. What I am saying is that I have a lot of respect for the local board. We wouldn't have known what we entitled to in funding. If there's another local board member they wouldn't have told us. Angela and Daniel could see a light at the end of the tunnel. They could see a passion from people in Randwick they want to make a pathway, you know to bring Randwick out of that low level to a medium standard to help them reach the top where... our kids... is our top priority - will always be for Randwick.

WK: What was in Daniel's heart were the people of Randwick for where they got to today ... Even Rouruina Brown was another person I give thanks to, she was the one person that taught us about a chair person, now what's how to take minutes, secretary, treasurer... all the names of positions you have on a committee.

MB: It's not normal. I don't think Randwick understands that... working this way with your council is not necessarily normal. JT: I really do think Manurewa Local Board do set an example because it's not something I have seen across the other local boards I haven't not to this degree anyway. I just really thank them for giving the community a chance to do things their way they want to do and to trust them, to give them the chance to do it. And I think that at the time when you have someone like Dave who can speak their language too, it was magic, but I think Angela and the team are really unique, sadly.

DT: I think that this model is something that would make a massive difference to a whole lot of communities



## TRANSFORMATIONS



## Indicators of Impact

This section outlines the core group's thoughts about the change and impact of their work. Perceptions and feelings are important; whilst they are difficult to measure, they reflect what is valued by Randwick.<sup>3</sup>

**Seeing things happen - dreams coming true**  
 DT: There is kind of a key theme that comes through poverty that we are a nobody that we don't count for anything and what life gives us is what we deserve, but (we) challenge that belief... and there is a whole load of possibilities that start to happen. WB: Like if we can get the good things that are happening... is huge for some kids round here...They thought 'nah, I'm gonna end up a druggie, I'm gonna work on a tinny shop door'. DT: But it's like Walz said 'I never dreamed I would be able to design my own skate park' - and his dream is becoming a reality. DT: The guys were starting to ask 'what's next?' WoC: The more bad stuff the more you are wanting to do the good stuff.

MB: I see the difference it makes, because thousands of people turn up at these events... they rave at how awesome it was... and it's exciting to jump on board with something that's moving. BH: Angela and Co. support, they have

actually seen for themselves the potential within this community.

**Care, belonging, ownership, responsibility, pride**

MB: I've given to this community because... I want it to be a cool place to be, so you sort of look after each other. I think we are designed to be community, we are designed to need each other. DT: If I know my neighbours care for me, I don't want to leave. WB: Which is why most of the children come to the skate park because it's a place they feel wanted, appreciated, feel like they belong. Skate boarding saves lives, it really does. MB: The dirt of next door on my windowsills is the proof... you sit there and go actually you come part of that and I see the diggers and we all are part of that, we all have a little piece of it.



<sup>3</sup> In telling this story, the work has intended to take stock, understand, and celebrate - rather than to measure and assess - who we are, what do we do, why we do it, and what has made the difference in this community. As part of the ongoing capacity development of Randwick there is an opportunity for the community to work with its network of groups and agencies to establish indicators that help measure and quantify change into the future. This will help when communicating their successes and impact to the community (to recruit, engage and get more people involved) and those outside such as media, funders and agencies such as council, and will strengthen relationships of trust, accountability and credibility.

TR: Out of all this, the value I think that could come out is that the council is willing to listen but to appreciate that something better that's going to come out later on, and these communities, and (is) going to bring these communities back.

### An abundance of appreciation

What I have seen is this abundance of appreciation. Here people appreciate when something good comes, when they find that goodness. JT: I think when you show respect and when you do things for people and really genuinely show concern and practical support then people reciprocate that. MB: Although you're not intending to do it for any return, it does it just comes back to you, it's just the way it works. WoC: This community know what it's like to not have and so they give like everything they got in their cupboards, this community got it for us, but they gave so much.

### A neighbourhood that is looking after the kids and keeping on each other

MB: If you run an event and say the children are performing, you get thousands of people turn up. BH: Ultimately having that stability within the whanau concept I think it's re-connecting people to who they are... and once they recognise who they are, they have a history, they have a culture, they have something to stand on as a foundation. WB: I

like to go and speak to the family, without the Police knocking on the door... it's my way of making the connections with mum and dad and grandmother... sometimes they offer me to come inside and other times they tell me to get lost... but they find a little piece of respect for me for knocking on their door. WB: We do keep going until we get stuff done... I think that's why Randwick is thriving, because we never give up... Randwick has got a pretty unique style of keeping on people that can help us. We keep emailing people to get things moving... till we get to the point to where we get what we need to help other people.

JT: So there's a whole lot of listening going on and a whole lot of building up trust by just supporting and resourcing and letting them open up the door. MB: But there are also lots of people standing next to these people and one by one are making a difference. DP: There is now a vibrant netball league there - involving teenage females. RPS: And there's lots of people... and it's all volunteering.

MB: It's connecting with someone else that's doing stuff in the community and it's acknowledging what they are doing. WB: It's all so nearly there... we already have some of the best skaters in New Zealand coming there and doing skate comps and putting on demos for the young kids. DT: The idea that we can do this stuff ourselves... but to make ourselves unemployed BH: People kind of slot in... and



there come in another group that would assume those roles.

### An enterprising, self-reliant community creating work and employment

RPS: There were a lot of community meetings with WINZ and Housing New Zealand, Council, Police, Education... and one night it was kind of like hey we don't need to meet any more, you know, we are all outsiders who happen to have an interest in Randwick Park it's not up to us to actually lead the way now, they know what they are doing, we are here to support them, but if the residents are ready to do it they are more than capable.

JT: Dave is getting stuff that they are talking about done on the ground. All of a sudden all of the stuff that council used to have to pay for like... events... hah. WK: Yeah, it's all volunteer work, you know. When you have people like John Key... saying you should get out and find a job, well you should look at all the people that are volunteering all their hard time for what, they're not getting paid for it.

DT: When we run events they are run at like a quarter of the price that they pay professionals to do it. Same with the mowing the lawns. Our motivation is how do we get a bunch of men working. DT: So we have set up the Randwick Park Sports and Community Trust (it's) about us having the contract to manage the sports fields and the building so that we can employ

local people and manage that so it works for local people.

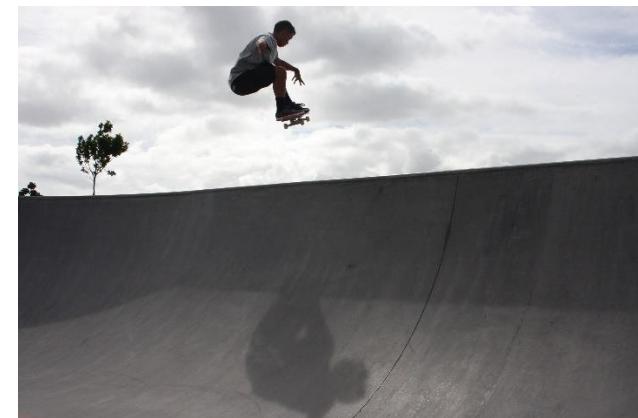
JT: That's why we set up Te Awa Ora Trust (in 2010 just to help with holiday programme to access other like ASB community funding... we just contracted Ray and a few of the guys down there (and) used council's funding to pay them... (we are), employing two local women... (and) targeting about 10 different groups in Randwick to facilitate financial literacy sessions (and) train people to do it... so it's much more sustainable. DT: My wife runs a second hand uniform business... and employed someone under that WINZ scheme. DT: Now some of our young leaders are expressing their dreams now... started believing in themselves and started to find work.

### Feeling safe and confident

DT: When we first moved here the amount of fear was unbelievable. WB: It's safe, it's amazing, people come from outside of here because we have something that they don't. BH: Graffiti is a big cost around communities. But they realised that they didn't want that on their taonga. DP: How do you quantify that - cost of Wally and cost of reduced crime and vandalism? WB: I think the best payment for a youth worker is the smiling kids, you know, every smiling kid, you can't spend a smile, you can't get rid of it, it's never gonna go away.

TR: We've had our ups and downs around here. We miss the helicopter flying around.

WB: As a solo parent I feel comfortable letting (my son) go to the shops. When I was younger there was no way my parents would let me walk to the shops by myself - it was too dangerous. MB: But from my point of view I see more good than bad and it's not fair that we get labelled with this BH: Ultimately to progress this community because it does have a reputation, hey, should it? Is there opportunity to change that? Yes. I think we have demonstrated that ... in terms of moving community initiatives with the support of the Local Board, Angela and Daniel.





## DREAMING AHEAD

It would be He Whanaungatanga bringing family together... the school, Alfriston College, the community house, the resident group, everyone else out there is one big family environment coming together as one and the love we have for that place (*Waina Kapa*).

I think Randwick Park is heading in the right direction... Local leadership, good advocacy, public investment, a relatively affordable place for first home-buyers. These are good foundations for a better future (*Daniel Newman*).

If we could change the way the youth think of themselves and about this area and about their futures. I think help them find themselves. I know people like my age and older are living here lost in their world and don't know what to do with their lives. Just yeah, a future where most of our youth get a future, go explore, hopefully come back and share their experiences... with the next generation. It's possible, we can do it (*Vanessa/ WoC*).

# Futures and Re-Dreaming

To celebrate and acknowledge Randwick's unsung achievers and heroes.

WB: People like Bradley that also have a story to tell. TR: We've got young carvers around here, we've got young orators... And there's some brilliant kids... from this one whole little area here. And they are not from well off families, they've gone through the process of getting scholarships and all this. We've had young sports people, (like) Dan, he's represented New Zealand for the Tai Kwon Do... So we got beautiful people in this community, it's just that we got to pull them out, one at a time and forget about those ones that want to destroy their area.

To understand how the community has been impacted by what has been achieved.

JT: I think it would be great to hear the stories of the people who have been impacted on by the way we have worked and done relationships with them. Now we can spout off what we are doing, but it would be great to have a different picture from others of exactly what was it that we did for them that made the change for them.

To imagine the possibilities offered by the Riverton Reserve park and future facilities.

TR: We call it the taonga up there because it's a gift. BH: It's the catalyst of community. DT: The dream around that is that it will be our home, a place of belonging, of connectedness a bridge where you know kids can all come together... and get the vibe where ethnicities can be broken down through that structure... WK: My big dream for Randwick is to have a marae put there. TR: It's not for one person, it covers all cultures around here. LM: Having that there joins everyone together. TR: So, I said whoever (has) responsibility for the upkeep... they still got to look at the community, sharing with the community and actually sharing outside the community. TR: So, the proposal of a (Trust is) because of the need of the community being involved to make sure the ground is not destroyed, it's utilised properly, it's looked after. LM: They never had something to look after... and it's a good challenge to try.

To chip away at the challenges like alcohol, local amenities, road safety, early childhood education and home ownership.

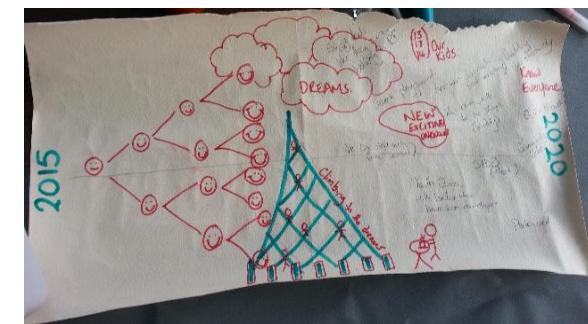
TR: The biggest headache we have round here right now is the alcohol store up the road here, we can't get rid of it because it's saturated itself. MB: I'd like a few more shops, where people can get fresh food. TR: Well my dream is to one day... have a monthly market

day in that car park. TW: I guess that's the only area (shops) that needs a face lift.

TR: We had problems in here with cars going flat out and hitting the houses at the end of intersections. TW: Yeah the Riverton Drive, it's you know, speed limit, must be looked at, but you know we have raised that issue since day one.

RPS: The fact that we have never ever won the battle for an early childhood centre, every politician and every prime minister and every year has promised one and it has never eventuated. The community board is really strong on it, the resident's group is really strong on it, it comes down to being a government thing.

LM: I'd like to see people buy more homes, yeah, instead of people renting... KM: The thing is yeah, it's trying to keep people here instead of shifting, to try to keep people.



### To listen to, hear and enable the dreams of the next generations.

KM: The future is, like I said is the children, it's all for the children to try better themselves and then when they get older, and a lot of guidance from the people around here. WK: What I see for the future of Randwick Park... our kids or the kids there today will carry on the dreams of their parents in all cultures. DT: Ben... his dream is he wants to go back to Raro and start doing youth work... and that's a dream that this neighbourhood has enabled to be birthed in him. WB: The community... for myself my end vision is making athletes.... most of the young people I have met around here are full of this fanatic energy that they need to just get rid of... they climb trees. TR: If you can grab those kids now... don't push them in a corner, come off and let him go and find his own spot.

### To keep developing the community's economic and employment focus.

BH: Re-investing in ourselves. TW: Provide jobs within Randwick Park with the new Riverton project, you can get people proud of it and look after it because the council can't do everything, it's the community as well that needs to be part and look after it. DT: The Randwick Park Sports and Community Trust... can employ local people and manage that so it works for local people. MB: But there's risk. Because you do take a risk in the unknown. It's a lot harder for council to do it the way we

are doing it because if you are council you can go to all the companies who are accountable for what they do, they are proven, but do you hire the unknown?

TR: One of the best things you can put in here is to actually have a business (training hub)... Put it there, it's free... It doesn't have to be for the school youth it can be for the ones that are unemployed... we've just got to get this community on this side of the motorway functional... And then we can get other communities coming in and using it also.

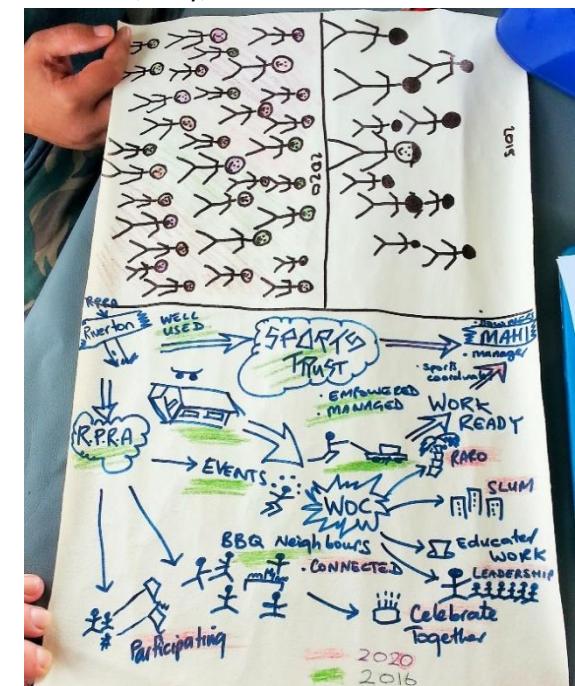
### To connect, bring in and work alongside more of the community, other groups and agencies and do things together.

TW: My vision is to improve our community engagement. LM: The community getting together. MB: To connect more with the people that do have something in the community... but I'm not sure what the key to that is. BH: All these cultures we have it in our community... at some point wouldn't it be nice to just bring everyone together... hey we are all one people in terms of wanting the same in life, a good life, a safe life, a safe community an enriched community. WB: As for the future, I want to see skate schools up there... high schools there for PE or something... some kids don't get into team sports and skate boarding is an individual thing. MB: I think we lost a bit of connection this year with Daniel and Angela at one point... I just think it needs

to be more of a partnership... it needs to be back to us all participating in it. DT: How do we get the institutions to work together and people together so it's not just a few of us planning, but all of us. MB: The more awesome it gets, the more you kind of sit there and go oh we need more people. We really do.

### To promote ourselves – welcome people in

MB: Mine is that this community doesn't get lost... in just becoming another little subdivision of the masses... and we make something of who we are. But if we make ourselves, 'hey, we are Randwick Park' and



then I think it just makes it more community a nicer place to buy a house, a nicer place for people to invest into, and then be part of. TW: Ownership of it... and grow Randwick Park and showcase it to other communities that, how lucky we are. BH: It's trust... I get this sense of the community wants to welcome other communities or other people in here to share the space. I guess it's thriving on diversity and newness and bringing people together and seeing the mix and things. Everyone has said it's ours as a community but it's almost like now we want to welcome other people in to our community.

### To future plan by dreaming together

MB: Because it is amazing what's happening down here and sometimes we don't take the time to sit to see where we have come from. DT: By the end of the year, you know, we will have kind of finished the season of our dreams and so we now need to go back and re-dream again. MB: We have had a lot of discussions about now that one dream has happened what's the next dream... For me, it's what do I want for this community... it's the little things... Dave has all the lets make big change... I love to have ideas and sit with other people, and I like to hear other people's ideas, hear what people want to do in the community and making it happen. BH: At the end of the day we need to come to a compromise on how we achieve our ultimate goal... Some might disagree, and hey that's great and that's

healthy. But let's have a look, let's put it on the table. Let's look at what it looks like, let's plan, future proof it going forward, that's exciting... how we joint venture this with council and the community.

### To define a future role of the Residents Association by walking the talk

TR: Of course the Randwick Park association is a committee and they are only small, they've actually got to keep the dream alive and make it a little bit wider because if you have a lull type of period, the community thinks you are gone to sleep. DT: For us now we have got to sit down as the key leaders and think strategically about where we want to go next... MB: (Walz) keeps saying to me... we need to bring it down... you won't get other people on board if they don't understand it. MB: It's no good going in a direction where we don't have strengths... we all have something to bring... but who is going to walk the walk to get it done? WK: I think they'd rely on me too much because I talk and I can do the walk... I said to them it's based on leadership... you's need to take over the reins... have someone strong that can take the bull by the horns.

TR: Like I said you're not there to be a general, you're meant to be one of the Indians... It's the ones at the bottom who work hard and go in one direction... it's got to be shared. TW: Because when (it) started... our residents group was like anybody can come and talk, freely ...

Once you make it as an Association... it's a separate entity to the community. TR: They need to... get all the community together in one room and say, ok this is your chance to put all your views into one pot. MB: Cause it's not that just because I am the Chair that we are heading in my direction. This is my role at the moment I am just having a turn.

WB: Before we had met each other, I didn't know any of you. Now we are starting to get to know each other. By 2020 I want everybody (in Randwick) to have a face and to matter. MB: In 2020... our children will be teenagers! We can walk to the shops, go for coffee in Randwick. We started by joking that we want to be retired, but it's like a climbing frame – we (Association) are the pegs at the bottom, we are the mentors, watching people climb up their dreams. It's about making more happy people. The more happy people there are, the more happier people are. The unknown is the fun space of the dream.





Produced by

Co-Creationz Ltd

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