

13 NOVEMBER - 16 DECEMBER 2023  
AT 263 HARDY STREET, NELSON

# *What if Whakatū- Nelson...*

Report on public findings  
a community-led engagement  
for city centre revitalisation

MAKE/  
SH/FT  
SPACES



**What if Whakatū-Nelson...**

“... created an urban wetland at Saltwater Creek near the Trafalgar Centre?”

Do you have any ideas for Whakatū-Nelson?  
Go to [whatifnelson.co.nz](http://whatifnelson.co.nz)

**What if Whakatū-Nelson...**

“... held an annual spring-clean of the city, and we all got out there to help?”

Do you have any ideas for Whakatū-Nelson?  
Go to [whatifnelson.co.nz](http://whatifnelson.co.nz)

**What if Whakatū-Nelson...**

“... told more stories from the eight iwi of Te Taihū?”

Do you have any ideas for Whakatū-Nelson?  
Go to [whatifnelson.co.nz](http://whatifnelson.co.nz)

**What if Whakatū-Nelson...**

“... became New Zealand's first carbon-neutral town?”

Do you have any ideas for Whakatū-Nelson?  
Go to [whatifnelson.co.nz](http://whatifnelson.co.nz)

**What if Whakatū-Nelson...**

“... installed fairy lights around the city's trees in winter?”

Do you have any ideas for Whakatū-Nelson?  
Go to [whatifnelson.co.nz](http://whatifnelson.co.nz)

**What if Whakatū-Nelson...**

“... made it mandatory to consider future generations with every decision?”

Do you have any ideas for Whakatū-Nelson?  
Go to [whatifnelson.co.nz](http://whatifnelson.co.nz)



**What if Whakatū-Nelson...**

“... displayed some of Te Ramaroa's artworks all year round?”

Do you have any ideas for Whakatū-Nelson?  
Go to [whatifnelson.co.nz](http://whatifnelson.co.nz)

**What if Whakatū-Nelson...**

“... had places in the city where we could touch the Maitai River?”

Do you have any ideas for Whakatū-Nelson?  
Go to [whatifnelson.co.nz](http://whatifnelson.co.nz)

**What if Whakatū-Nelson...**

“... had a makerspace to use equipment, get materials & share knowledge?”

Do you have any ideas for Whakatū-Nelson?  
Go to [whatifnelson.co.nz](http://whatifnelson.co.nz)

**What if Whakatū-Nelson...**

“... had working artists' studios & workshops in the city?”

Do you have any ideas for Whakatū-Nelson?  
Go to [whatifnelson.co.nz](http://whatifnelson.co.nz)



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***WHAT IF WHAKATŪ NELSON...?***  
**REPORT ON PUBLIC FINDINGS**  
**A MAKE/SHIFT SPACE**  
**13 NOVEMBER - 16 DECEMBER 2023**

**whatifnelson.co.nz – ideas@whatifnelson.co.nz**  
**makeshiftspaces.nz**

*Edition One - First published Friday 22 March 2024*

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The team at Make/Shift Spaces set up a space at 263 Hardy Street to engage the community in conversation around the revitalisation of our CBD and beyond.

### **WHY WE DID IT**

Nelson residents are concerned that a lack of investment in the CBD has had a detrimental effect on the identity, and economic vibrancy of the city in recent times.

### **WHAT IT WAS**

Starting as a series of lunchtime talks, *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* also branched out to a number of evening sessions, as more people found the platform a useful space to share ideas. It was seen as a neutral space for residents to visit to share thoughts and feelings about the direction of Whakatū Nelson.

### **WHO CAME THROUGH**

Over five weeks 29 talks and panel discussions were delivered by 62 presenters. The space was visited by primary school children with their parents, teens, right through to retirees. Approximately 300 positive ideas were posted to *whatifnelson.co.nz* and printed and hung on the walls in the space.

### **WHAT WE HEARD – GROUPED BY THEMES**

The weeks were themed: beginning with 'Our Built Environment', 'Community Led Development', 'Our Creative City', and rounding off with 'Economic Drivers of our City'. We invited experts to share ideas around what can be done to revitalise our city.

The ideas generated from the public were sorted into themes and provided a valuable insight into the views of residents in late 2023.

### **EASY WINS**

*What if Whakatū Nelson...?* revealed a movement of public interest, with a rich potential for evolving collaborative partnerships that are community-led.

There is a genuine willingness from different sectors across our community, to play a transformative role. Rich resources are present within the city, ready to be activated, enabled and delivered. A series of smaller projects to enhance the economic viability and identity of the city centre can be achieved and rolled out in the short to medium term. See APPENDIX IV on PAGE 68-73 for BUILT ENVIRONMENT & URBAN WORKING GROUP for examples of considered projects based on the *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* ideas.

### **SHORT, MEDIUM & LONGER TERM ASPIRATIONS**

While, *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* was about gleaning ideas and projections, it is still vital to include Nelson City Council in the pivotal role of enabler. The upcoming NCC Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024-2034 needs to demonstrate this. The city can be revitalised with collaborative partnership delivery of strategic projects that include NCC investment, matched (and exceeded) by the private sector, funding agencies, donors, sponsors, and in-kind supporters.

Civic Investment by NCC was also a major public concern in the medium and longer term, as observations from other regional towns reveal a more proactive approach to utilising civic infrastructure as a catalyst attracting locals and visitors into our city!

Our city and community face a fiscally difficult climate with national and local government spending cuts. We have not seen an environment like this since the 1980's.

It is the strong view of the *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* project team that the only way to alleviate this, is to work collaboratively, maximise resources and foster a civic pride campaign that uses the strength of the call: “we are all in this together”. It requires creativity, innovation, and a can-do attitude to achieve a well-designed urban environment, that is technically advanced and socially cohesive for us to live, work, play and in.

### **PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT**

This document serves as a record of the public findings of *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* a community-led project which operated for five weeks in late 2023 from a Make/Shift Space at 263 Hardy Street, a vacant shop. This document represents the extensive public participation and the reimagining of what Whakatū Nelson as a regionally distinctive, liveable city could be like from 2024 -2034 and beyond.



## INTRODUCTION

### **WHAT IF WHAKATŪ NELSON... OUR CITY COULD BE EVERYTHING WE WANTED IT TO BE?**

Everything starts with an idea. The genesis of *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* was to encourage people to share their positive ideas for what Whakatū Nelson could be.

#### **PUBLIC CONCERN**

Public concern has surged recently over the city's economic direction, with anxieties further fuelled by changing trends in retail, post-covid recovery, inflation, vacant shops and issues with building costs and earthquake remediation, as well as debate relating to transport, parking and cycleways.

Also coming into public awareness, is the migration of larger chain stores to The Junction, and the proposed Plan 29 changes concerning proposed densification of the city. Added to this are the shortages of land for housing, including urban sprawl into productive food producing land.

“What if”, thought the Make/Shift Spaces team, “we had a space where people could come and hear a series of speakers, post positive ideas that could make it a vibrant and liveable city for everyone?” And then, quite suddenly, a shop space became available for a six-week period generously loaned by property owners Fleur Stewart and Susan Johnston.

*What if Whakatū Nelson...?* project was started with informal citizen discussion groups across our city and continued with conversations between Make/Shift Spaces, Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce and Te Kāhui Whaihanga NZ Institute of Architects, with input from various sectors including arts, education and social welfare, amongst others. and others....?

Simultaneously to the *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* space being set up, the *Nelson Mail* launched a series of themed articles about revitalising the Nelson CBD, which then included features articles on many of the 29 lunchtime speakers. The media coverage gave solid exposure to the project, driving more engagement.

*What if Whakatū Nelson...?* presented a series of 29 lunchtimes and after-five talks, panel discussions, and workshops, with speakers and participants who had a broad cross-section of ideas and visions for Nelson. These sessions were for the general public with the intention of creating further conversation to help these ideas flourish and gain traction.

Speakers were drawn from across the community including architects, landscape architects, artists, the business sector, digital economy, retailers, developers, migrant communities, and iwi organisations, as well as Whakatū Nelson's social, cultural, arts and economic and environmental sectors. There were also some added guest speakers flying in from Auckland and Wellington. All of the speakers offered their time voluntarily.

The independent space gave the public confidence to share their views willingly. The feedback was considered and enthusiastic, completely outweighing any expectations.

It was also acknowledged that some interest groups were unable to participate in lunchtime talks because of work commitments.

The conversations emerging from the daily talks continued across the community. It was clear that the concerns and suggestions brought forward by *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* had been simmering away for some time.

## ABOUT MAKE/SHIFT SPACES

Make/Shift Spaces Incorporated is a not-for-profit organisation that works with a range of artists, creatives, property owners, community, and special interest groups to fill empty spaces in Nelson with vibrant installations and activity. It uses some of the spaces to tell stories about Nelson's community with window displays and images. The duration of each installation varies.

*What if Whakatū Nelson...?* was the first time Make/Shift Spaces had presented a series of speakers, and was coordinated by Anne Rush and Tracy Allan, with input from our two Partners.

## OUR PARTNERS

### TE KĀHUI WHAIHANGA NZ INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

The Nelson & Marlborough branch of *Te Kāhui Whaihanga New Zealand Institute of Architects* [NZIA] represents 78 local members including registered architects, academics, retired architects, emerging professionals, and students. Members of the NZIA have significant expertise in shaping our local built environment and urban landscape and are actively engaged in designing and advocating for a better future for our city and community.

The *What if Project* emerged in part out of an event jointly run between the NZIA and *Tuia Pito Ora New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects* [NZILA], where local design professionals engaged in a one-day workshop to come up with visions of what Nelson could look like in 2050. This exercise raised a number of conversations and questions about the future direction of our city that led to the establishment of *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* with Make/Shift Spaces.

*"We are at a point in our history where we have the opportunity to bring truly positive transformation to Nelson, but to get there we need to have a shared vision and aspiration for what our city can become."* **William Samuels**

### THE NELSON TASMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce (NTCC) was established in 1858 and has a membership of 540 businesses representing a wider network of around 8,000 individuals. The primary purpose of NTCC is to help create the best environment for businesses to operate. The mission is to support Strong Business, Strong Community and a Strong Region.

The economic vitality of Nelson City and the CBD is essential for the economic prosperity of the wider region and *What If Whakatū Nelson...?* has provided useful insight into the issues that face the City and opportunities that present themselves. Collaboration is central to the success of any project, and it is by working together that Nelson City will reach its full potential and the Chamber of Commerce is poised to be part of the next step. No one agency can do this alone, it must be a community-wide effort with everyone playing their part.

We are all responsible for making Nelson City the best place to live, work and visit, be that through creating a built environment that attracts businesses and residents, delivering fabulous events to tempt locals and visitors or enhancing our public spaces with stories of our rich diverse history through creative expression and works of art. Let's get moving.

# **PART A**

## **WHAT IF WHAKATŪ NELSON...? SPEAKER SERIES**

### **SHORT SUMMARIES**

The programme for the 29 speakers evolved as the weeks progressed. Make/Shift Spaces was overwhelmed with the number of people who came forward to volunteer to speak, with not everyone being accommodated within the five-week series. From the first week, the motivation and commitment of the speakers and participants drove the project forward, exceeding everyone's expectations.

Below is a short summary of each week and any themes and actions that emerged. For a more detailed summary of the talks please refer to APPENDIX I (PAGE 26).

#### **WEEK ONE: THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT 13 - 18 NOV 2023**

Starting with the built environment, the aim was to explore the question of what our city could look like in 10, 20 or even 50 years' time. How will we live, work, and relax in Nelson, and how can the design of our city facilitate this?

Speakers discussed current and future projects that have the capacity to transform Nelson, and explored ways that well designed buildings and public spaces will impact our experience of our city. Topics such as housing, intensification, civic buildings, landscape, and the urban realm are critically important when we think about what the vision for our city and our community might look like.

*"What could well-designed housing within the CBD look like, how can we create public areas that are enjoyable to occupy and allow people to linger and better engage with our retail and hospitality sectors? What if we provided spaces that properly catered for families, youth, elderly, tourists, students? These are all big questions that we need to discuss if we want to create a collective vision for Nelson and to enable real and tangible progress for our city."* **William Samuels - Architect**

#### **VIBRANT WHAKATŪ CITY CENTRE IN 2035 - 13 NOV 12.30 PM**

**William Samuels, Architect & NZIA Branch Chair**

**Luke Porter, Senior Principal Landscape Architect Boffa Miskell & NZILA, Branch Chair**

William and Luke Introduced a workshop focusing on brainstorming ideas for central Nelson's future in 2035.

- Emphasised evolving ideas, rather than completely overhauling, as well as utilising innovative solutions.
- Ideas presented by eight teams involved repurposing squares, prioritising green spaces, and connecting with the Maitai River.
- Reflected on a lack of investment in the city centre for about 30 years, and the need to challenge entrenched views.

#### **BRIDGE TO BETTER PROJECT - 14 NOV 12.30 PM**

**Alan Gray, Principal Landscape Architect Boffa Miskell**

Overview of the Bridge to Better project for Bridge St in the inner city, which was awarded \$36 million in government funding.

- Aim to upgrade water supply, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure, transforming Bridge St and Haven Rd into a people-focused corridor.
- Emphasis on collaboration with stakeholders, including retailers, property owners, and consultants.

- Stakeholder involvement through a two-stage process for diverse perspectives and community alignment.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH AFFORDABLE HOUSING - 15 NOV 12.30 PM**  
**Chloë Howorth, Business Development Manager, Habitat for Humanity**

Chloë discussed community development through affordable housing.

- Affordable homes are essential for a vibrant city, catering to a diverse population including various age groups, cultures, and professions.
- Decent housing is a basic human right, providing the foundation for health, well-being, and stability, enabling people to contribute to the community with a sense of belonging.
- Strengthening communities can be achieved through intentional planning and development processes, creating a circular system that fosters further development and community vibrancy.
- Community partnerships, intentional design, and local engagement during construction contribute to the overall development of a strong community.

**TRANSFORMING NELSON'S DOUGHNUT EFFECT - 16 NOV 12.30 PM**  
**Magdalena Garbarczyk, Architect & Director, Fineline Architecture**  
**Timo Neubauer, Urban Designer & local business owner**

Advocates for 'Quality Intensification' to combat the 'doughnut effect' of suburban sprawl leaving the city centre empty.

- Six guiding principles include community prioritisation, density redefinition, diversity reflection, accessibility emphasis, sustainability urgency, and affordability consideration.
- Proposed a balanced approach combining higher density living with improved amenities, sustainable transport, urban parks, playgrounds, backyard gardens, and greener streets.

**CITY AS A MOSAIC OF SUBCULTURES - 17 NOV 12.30 PM**  
**Richard Sellars, Architect & Artist**

Discussion on Christopher Alexander's patterns, focusing on three – Mosaic of Subcultures, Network of Learning, and Communal Eating.

- Mosaic of Subcultures emphasises preserving and celebrating unique characteristics of each subculture.
- Network of Learning highlights the importance of creating spaces for continuous education and knowledge sharing.
- Communal Eating as a fundamental aspect of human social interaction.
- Promote the region's strengths and uniqueness, creating a strong identity and differentiating itself from others.
- Action items include showcasing local cuisine, setting up opportunities for communal eating, initiating competitions, and promoting regional strengths.

In this first week, the presentations collectively offer a comprehensive set of ideas for shaping Nelson's future, covering urban design, infrastructure, community engagement, affordable housing, and cultural vibrancy. The emphasis was on sustainability, community involvement, and creating a vibrant, liveable city.

**WEEK TWO - COMMUNITY LED DEVELOPMENT 20 - 25 NOV 2023**

**COMMUNITY LED APPROACH**

Nelson has a significant number of not-for-profit community organisations (approx. 1400) who deliver valuable social, cultural, and environmental services. Guests spoke as representatives of their communities - offering potential housing solutions and identified what could happen if community groups joined forces and collaborated. They discussed cultural needs,

demonstrated play games that are helping to shape the future urban design of the CBD facing climate change, and lastly, an inspirational advocate for grassroots community-led activism.

### **HOUSING ABOVE PUBLIC CAR PARKS - 20 NOV 12.30 PM**

**Matt Lawrey, Host of The Nelson Pod and Bike Hub Nelson co-ordinator**

**Pierre Hammond, Architect**

Proposal for a four-story, eco-friendly apartment block on stilts above Buxton Square public car park that would:

- Address housing affordability, reduce carbon emissions, and inject vibrancy into the city.
- Have sustainable features including locally sourced pine, grid-based construction, and extensive greenery.
- Retain the car park, adapting it to retail spaces if/when parking demand decreases, as well as allowance for a car-sharing service.

### **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY - 21 NOV 12.30 PM**

**Leigh Mason, CAN and the Regional Community Development Agency**

Discussed the potential establishment of a regional community development agency supporting not-for-profit and for-purpose organisations.

- Highlights challenges faced by NFPs, shift towards community-driven service design, and the need to leverage upcoming government reforms.
- Proposed functions include supporting strategic direction, facilitating networking, providing back-office functions, and aligning with the Intergenerational Strategy.
- Overall aim is to allow NFP organisations to focus on community well-being.

### **SHARED COMMUNITIES FOR MIGRANTS & FORMER REFUGEES - 22 NOV 12.30 PM**

**Karolina Serrano, Cultural Navigator, Shared Communities**

**Anjali Puri, NAATA Indian Community Trust**

**Pania Walton, Director, Content & Engagement, Fresh FM**

The Shared Communities initiative aims to preserve and promote the arts, heritage, and culture of migrant and former refugee communities.

- Supports community-driven projects and fosters self-sufficiency.
- Addresses challenges identified in the Engagement Report (2022) by the Shared Communities Consortium, including cultural sharing and information accessibility.
- Involves cultural competency workshops, supporting various projects, and fostering collaborations.

### **PLAYPEN URBAN DESIGN GAME - 23 NOV 12.30PM**

**Construct of Architects**

PlayPen is a place-making game for urban design, providing an analogue way to prototype urban design.

- Designed to rapidly prototype urban design with multiple participants collaborating to reimagine the central area.
- Encourage a playful approach to responding to local, social, economic, and environmental imperatives.

### **AUCKLAND WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT - 24 NOV 12.30 PM**

**Julie Stout, Architect & recipient of the 2021 Te Kāhui Whaihangā New Zealand**

**Institute of Architects Gold Medal**

Julie Stout discussed civic action campaigns to improve public spaces in Auckland over the past 25+ years.

- Highlighted key projects transforming Auckland's waterfront and the success of protests and court cases.

- Emphasised the importance of public-private partnerships, strategic planning, and grassroots engagement.
- Discussed mobilising Nelson residents to shape the city and waterfront's future, learning from Auckland's experience.

*“Out of that, (in Auckland) there became a far greater awareness of the power of urban design and how positive an effect that a design-led city could be.” **Julie Stout***

In this second week, the presentations collectively offered a diverse range of ideas for shaping Nelson's future, covering aspects like housing, community development, cultural integration, urban design, and leveraging lessons from other cities' experiences. The emphasis is on sustainability, community engagement, and holistic urban planning.

### **WEEK THREE: OUR CREATIVE CITY 27 NOV - 1 DEC 2023**

#### **WHAKATŪ NELSON - A PLACE THAT IS KNOWN FOR ITS CREATIVITY!**

*What if Whakatū Nelson...?* invited festival directors, executives from our leading cultural institutions, team members behind a \$14.9million museum construction project, our local arts council, and the visionaries of Āwhio- Toi Māori Arts Centre.

Nelson has a lot to shout about, with our cultural destinations punching above their weight. The Theatre Royal opened in 1878, Nelson Centre of Musical Arts in 1894, and The Suter Art Gallery in 1899. In the mid/late 20th century, Nelson was celebrated for its arts and crafts, with a well-recognised community of artists and designers. But what needs to happen to ensure that Nelson continues to thrive and develop as a creative city? What are the gains for Whakatū Nelson if it identifies as a Creative City?

#### **ROLE OF FESTIVALS IN REVITALISING THE CITY CENTRE - 27 NOV 12.30 PM**

**Facilitated panel discussion by Ali Boswijk, CEO, Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce & Chair of Nelson Arts Festival Trust**

**Lydia Zanetti, Executive & Artistic Director Nelson Arts Festival**

**Annette Milligan, Chairperson, Te Ramaroa**

**Sophie Kelly, Manager Adam Chamber Festival**

**Giles Burton, Director, Nelson Fringe Festival**

The panel discussion explored the role of arts festivals in revitalising Nelson city and the wider region. Panellists representing major Nelson festivals shared insights from their experience in producing events locally and abroad.

- **Urban Activation:** Festivals are seen as a tool to activate urban spaces, bringing energy and creativity to neglected areas, reframing perceptions of public spaces, and helping people connect with different parts of the city.
- **Career Development:** The panel discussed how festivals could be platforms for upskilling event crews, providing career development opportunities, and potentially coordinating a regional internship program to retain talent locally.
- **Climate Consciousness:** Panellists talked about considering the balance between artistic goals and environmental impacts, exploring ways to address festival carbon footprints, and using events as platforms for climate change conversations.
- **Local Identity and Cultural Heritage:** The panel all highlighted the importance of reflecting local identity and cultural heritage in festival programming and connecting with diverse communities.

- Collaboration Across Sectors: There are numerous opportunities for festivals to bring together community partners, corporate sponsors, and local government for shared goals, facilitating personal connections here in Nelson.

#### **ARTS COUNCIL NELSON & REFINERY ARTSPACE PANEL - 28 NOV 12.30 PM**

**Lloyd Harwood, Community Arts Manager, Arts Council Nelson**

**Janja Heathfield, Manager, Refinery ArtSpace**

**Rohan O'Neill-Stevens, Nelson City Councillor and Deputy Mayor**

- The aim of Arts Council Nelson is to build a thriving arts community in Nelson, using its 54-year history and collective experience and knowledge, to promote arts, provide diverse services, and develop future plans.
- Arts Council Nelson provides advisory services, administers funding schemes, and supports events.
- The Refinery ArtsSpace (part of ACN) hosts over 30 events annually, supporting artists and attracting thousands of visitors.
- One of the major challenges is funding support and coordination within the arts community. An arts development agency will potentially help to overcome these challenges.

#### **CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS PANEL DISCUSSION - 29 NOV 12.30 PM**

**A facilitated discussion led by Anne Rush, Manager of Make/Shift Spaces with**

**Julie Catchpole, Director, The Suter Te Aratoi o Whakatū**

**James Donaldson, Director, Nelson Centre of Musical Arts**

**Judene Edgar, Chairperson, Theatre Royal**

This discussion among directors of The Suter Art Gallery, Nelson Centre of Musical Arts, and chairperson of Theatre Royal focused on their roles as cultural landmarks and economic drivers for Nelson.

- Challenges: Sustainability and funding deficits were acknowledged, with emphasis on increasing community support and collaborative fundraising campaigns.
- Ideas: Proposals include a regional arts organisation for coordination, policy of public art requirements in new developments, and seeking more support from the business sector and other organisations as well as philanthropists.

#### **NELSON PROVINCIAL MUSEUM - 30 NOV 12.30 PM**

**Lucinda Blackley-Jimson, Chief Executive, Nelson Provincial Museum and Board member of Museums Aotearoa**

**Belinda Wheatley, Project Manager**

Nelson Provincial Museum plans to build a new archive, research, and collections facility on Church Street to preserve its \$20million heritage collection.

- Current storage conditions are inadequate, posing risks to the collection. The new facility aims to address these issues.
- A \$14.9 million budget is outlined, with over \$6 million secured. Further fundraising campaigns are planned, with construction targeted to begin in mid-2023.

#### **ĀWHIO, A TOI MĀORI CULTURAL HUB - 1 DEC 12.30 PM**

**Donna McLeod, Te Ātiawa Ngāti Rārua**

**Louisa Paul, Ngāti Toa, Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Rangiwewehi**

Āwhio aims to be a Māori arts and culture centre, providing spaces for Māori artists to create, exhibit, and sell works, as well as promoting Māori arts locally and nationally.

- Funding Needs: The group has identified a venue but needs sustainable funding of \$150k per year to secure the lease. Half has already been raised through pledges.
- Action Items: Initiatives include sharing presentations and pledge forms, exploring online fundraising campaigns, and scheduling venue site walkthroughs for interested artists.

### **Week Three highlighted common actions:**

- Commission installations and events in unused Nelson CBD locations to showcase creative potential.
- Launch a regional technical training program to retain performing arts talent and skills locally.
- Research other small 'festival towns' such as Edinburgh and Hobart for collaborative models and placemaking inspiration.
- Develop cross-sectoral collaboration strategies.
- Establishing a regional arts organisation for advocacy, coordination, and fundraising.
- Develop communication plans and campaigns to increase community support and cultural investment.
- Explore funding relationships with local businesses, Chamber of Commerce, and potential donors.
- Continuous fundraising campaigns and public launches for museum projects.
- Finalising detailed architectural designs and submitting building consent applications are contingent on funding.

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### **WEEK FOUR - OUR CITY 4 DEC - 8 DEC 2023**

Themes began to emerge around the development of our library and civic spaces, a pressing need for a youth hub, and a civic pride campaign. This week speakers were from the hospitality and retail sectors, and creative thinkers with a focus on integrating play into our CBD that could span generations.

#### **TE MATAPIHI KI TE AO NUI WELLINGTON LIBRARY REDEVELOPMENT - 4 DEC**

**12.30 PM**

**Gisella Carr, Lead, Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui**

Gisella spoke about the transformation of Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Wellington Library into an inclusive civic and cultural hub.

- The vision for Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Wellington Library involved community engagement, indigenous involvement, and support for future generations.
- The guiding design principles emphasised visitor experience, accessibility, and partnerships.
- The architectural plans focused on differentiation, visibility, and integration with the city.

#### **3D CAPITAL OF AOTEAROA - 5 DEC 12.30 PM**

**Simon Duffy, Manager, Uniquely Nelson**

Proposed making Nelson the '3D Capital of New Zealand' with interactive 3D pavement artworks.

- Initial plan involves ten artworks created by NMIT students and local artists.
- Safety concerns addressed with overseas approaches using colour codes.
- Seeking sponsorship for funding.

#### **PLAYFUL HEART IN NELSON CBD - 6 DEC 12.30 PM**

**Lance Roozenburg, Landscape Architect, Boffa Miskell**

Addressed the lack of play spaces in Nelson's CBD, especially for children.

- Highlighted the benefits of play for all ages in light of the reality of global decline in outdoor play.



- Proposes temporary and permanent play installations, including chess tables and sculptures.
- Emphasised collaboration with developers and councils for sensory and active elements.

### **COHOUSING AND COMMUNITY-FOCUSED HOUSING - 6 DEC 5 – 6 PM**

**William Samuels, William Samuels Architect**

**Bronwen Newton, Cohousing Developer**

Advocates for co-housing communities with shared amenities for stronger communities.

- Critique of current housing approaches for lacking diversity and community spaces.
- Examples from Wellington, Auckland, Dunedin, and Golden Bay.
- Discussion around opportunities and barriers for co-housing in Nelson.

### **HAMPDEN STREET SCHOOL PROJECT - 7 DEC 12.30 PM**

**Don McLean, Principal, Hampden Street School with Students**

- Calls for a youth hub in the CBD for teenagers to gather safely.
- Students suggest improvements such as more parks, green spaces, and native trees.
- Advocates for affordable shops, inner-city apartments, and additional parking options.
- Emphasised child-centric community decisions and collaboration between schools and artists.

### **VOICE OF THE PEOPLE - 8 DEC 12.30 PM**

**Malachai Ayre (Age 12)**

**Mike Ward, Nelson artist, business owner and former Green Party MP**

- Proposed making biking safer for school kids and progressive changes in schools.
- Advocates for a better apprenticeship scheme, political education for kids, and community engagement.
- Suggested rates benefit for efficient space use, easier access to commodities for those with less, and pods for the homeless.
- Calls for blending houses into their locations, a council-funded art scholarship, and support for green companies.

In Week Four, the ideas collectively emphasised the importance of community engagement, inclusivity, vibrant public spaces, and innovative approaches to urban development for Nelson's future.

## **WEEK FIVE: OUR ECONOMIC DRIVERS CITY 11 DEC - 15 DEC 2023**

Our final week's programme was shaped by the Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce.

Speakers were from Nelson's main tertiary institution, a global tech entrepreneur, architect, urban designer, leading voices of the climate response, mana whenua, and the Director of Wakatū Incorporation.

They all shared their vision of how our concerted efforts can foster a creative and thriving economy with a paramount focus on sustainability.

### **IMPORTANCE OF TERTIARY EDUCATION - 11 DEC 12.30 PM**

**Olivia Hall, Executive Director, Region 3, at Te Pūkenga, Chair of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua and National Iwi Chairs Mātauranga Iwi Leaders Group.**

Olivia Hall discussed the current state of tertiary education in Nelson and Tasman, its offerings, and the impact on social, cultural, economic, and environmental aspects.

- Specialisation: the talk highlighted the potential for specialisation in areas including the arts and forming partnerships with industries to leverage local creativity.
- Barriers: accommodation availability is a barrier for attracting students and needs community input for opportunities and solutions.

### **WHAT IF IWI TOLD THEIR STORIES? - 11 DEC 5 - 6 PM**

**Hemi Sundgren, Te Pouwhakahaere, Ngati Tama**

**Donna McLeod, Ngati Rarua, Te Atiawa**

Hemi and Donna emphasised the importance of engaging Māori communities early in the planning process to ensure cultural safety and appropriate representation of narratives.

- Māori Engagement: Shared Community Values: A proposed dialogue to articulate shared community values and align architectural and infrastructure decisions with these core principles.
- Built Spaces for Narratives: Explore opportunities to tell stories through architecture and public art, advocating for cultural trails and spaces enabling artistic creation.

*“What if we could tell our stories? I think we could tell our stories through architecture, our buildings, and public spaces. I think we've got a heck of a lot of opportunity to be able to do that through various manifestations, opportunities, and creation of the right spaces for our people to come together.”* **Hemi Sundgren**

### **IMPORTANCE OF ARTS AND CULTURE - 12 DEC 12.30 PM**

**A conversation between Ali Boswijk, CEO, Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce**

**Richard Chadderton**

- Vibrant City Centre: a discussion on the need for transforming Nelson city centre into a vibrant, sustainable community through urban intensification, focusing on increasing inner-city population density.
- Learning from European Cities: envisioning a denser and more vibrant city centre modelled after European cities to create self-sustaining sub-communities.
- Incremental Approach: highlighting the importance of taking an incremental 'street-by-street' approach and fostering respectful conversations between stakeholders.

### **RETHINKING CITIES FOR PEOPLE OVER CARS - 12 DEC 5 PM**

**George Weeks, Principal Urban Designer, Kāinga Ora Auckland**

- Debunking Myths: George came to the *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* from Auckland. He addressed common myths about European cities, challenged assumptions about Kiwis' preferences for cars, and highlighted the need for a shift in mindset towards pedestrian, cyclist, and public transport-friendly urban planning.
- Examples from Europe: examples from France, showcasing the success of light rail systems and rapid-transit buses in European cities.
- Space Efficiency: emphasised the significant difference in space efficiency between cars and alternative modes of transport, advocating for a focus on pedestrians, cyclists, and public transport.

### **IMPORTANCE OF CREATIVITY FOR ECONOMIC ACTIVITY - 13 DEC 12.30 PM**

**Jonny Hendriksen, CEO, Shuttlerock**

- Creativity and Entrepreneurship: discussion on the importance of creativity and the arts for vibrant and entrepreneurial cities, drawing on Richard Florida's 2002 book, *The Rise of the Creative Class*.
- Leveraging Nelson's Lifestyle: highlighting how Nelson's lifestyle, talent, and quietness can foster innovation and creativity, making it an ideal environment for global innovation.

- Supporting Entrepreneurial Mindsets: advocating for encouraging entrepreneurial thinking, quick testing of ideas, and showcasing local success stories.

### **ADAPTABLE ARCHITECTURE - 14 DEC 12.30 PM**

**Jeremy Smith, Design Director, Irving Smith Architects**

Strategies for Adaptable Architecture: Jeremy explored strategies for adaptable architecture, emphasising the importance of smaller components to enable change.

- Example: Showcased the Scion building Te Whare Nui o Tuteata in Rotorua, made of renewable timber structured for disassembly as an example of sustainable construction choices.
- Carbon Accounting: a critique of current carbon accounting methods and a call for analysing carbon costs over full building life cycles.

### **CLIMATE RESPONSIVE DESIGN - 14 DEC 5 – 6 PM**

**Lindsay Wood MNZN, Director, Resilienz Ltd**

**Jan Heijns, Retired Engineer**

- Climate Threats: addressing the urgency of climate threats, emphasising the need for transformative action, and imagining a sustainable future city.
- Sponge City Approach: exploring the concept of a 'sponge city' approach to stormwater infrastructure, integrating green infrastructure for flooding mitigation and urban greening.
- Local Vulnerabilities: both speakers highlighted Nelson's vulnerabilities, including climate exposure, limited transport links, and reliance on threatened industries such as fishing and forestry.

### **INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMMES OF WORK - 15 DEC 12.30 PM**

**Miriana Stephens, Ngāti Rārua, Ngai Te Rangī, Ngāti Ranginui, Āwhina Marae Trustee, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua, Director of Wakatū Incorporation**

- Te Tauihu Intergenerational Strategy: discussion around the Te Tauihu Intergenerational Regional Strategy (TTI) and priority projects under it, such as housing development and the Climatorium climate innovation hub.
- Partnerships and Mapping: acknowledged shared partnerships with Denmark on the Climatorium, mapping native plant species, and initiatives to reconnect people to ancestral lands and traditional crops.
- Action Items: Identified action items like bringing more projects under the TTI banner, growing the Climatorium startup ecosystem, and leading New Zealand's transition to regenerative organic agriculture.

In Week Five, these talks highlight the diverse economic opportunities for Nelson, ranging from education and arts to adaptable architecture, climate-responsive design, and intergenerational strategies for sustainability and innovation. The themes converged on creating a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient economic hub for Nelson. We would also like to make note of the thought-provoking talk *'What if iwi told their stories?'* by Donna McLeod and Hemi Sundgren.

# **PART B**

## **WHAT IF WHAKATŪ NELSON...?**

### **THEMES IDENTIFIED FROM 300 CITIZEN POSTINGS**

Throughout the five weeks *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* was operating, residents were invited to post a positive suggestion they thought would contribute to the revitalisation of the Nelson City Centre. Each idea was integrated into a colourful *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* poster and randomly placed on the walls. Around 300 ideas were submitted. By the end of week five, the walls were covered and formed the trigger for hundreds of conversations, reactions, and opinions.

*What if Whakatū Nelson...?* attracted feedback from a wide demographic of residents. There were stark generational differences on how contributors perceived what was important to their generation. Youth focused on improved cycleways and a yearning for spaces to hang out, while older residents voiced concerns over lack of shade, green space and somewhere to meet for a coffee after 2 pm. Clearly, our community wants the opportunity to gather and stay connected. It became apparent that Nelsonians are an environmentally conscious group, eager for public spaces which allow a connection with water, our ocean, waterfront, marina, and rivers.

*What if Whakatū Nelson...?* triggered an appetite for more opportunities to share, learn, and work together on community-led projects in the short, medium, and longer term to enrich, care and love our city. There was a collective realisation by participants of the immense resources that lie untapped in our city.

There was stimulation in being able to share and listen to a wide range of ideas that were different to our own. Along with the potential the community itself could lead and collaboratively partner for mutual benefit of the city.

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## **THEMES IDENTIFIED**

### **WHAT IF WHAKATŪ NELSON...? 300 CITIZEN POSTINGS**

**SEE APPENDIX II (PAGE 55) FOR A FULL LIST**

Working groups have and are emerging to explore *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* actions on some of the ideas and themes listed below and in Diagram 1.

- *Mana Whenua*
- *Nelson City Council*
- *Investment*
- *Transport*
- *Policy*
- *Library/Civic Centre*
- *Civic Investment*
- *Public Spaces*
- *Advocacy*
- *Arts, Culture & Heritage*
- *Arts Precinct*
- *WOW*
- *Public Art*
- *Greening of Whakatū Nelson*
- *Urban Design & Development*
- *Water - Access to Water - the Ocean & Rivers*
- *Social Cohesion*
- *Events & Identity*
- *Business, Hospitality & Retail*
- *Civic Pride Campaign / Spring Clean of the CBD*
- *Families & Youth*
- *Alternative Ideas*



Diagram 1 – What if Whakatū Nelson...? Themes Identified

# PART C

## WHAT IF WHAKATŪ NELSON...? WAS A CITY FOR PEOPLE?

### CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 1 ADOPT A COMMUNITY-LED DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

*What if Whakatū Nelson...?* is an evolutionary and ongoing process where small community-led collaborative initiatives will contribute by adding unique identities and differentiation from other regional cities, enhancing our sense of community and wellbeing.

Cities are dynamic entities, constantly evolving and adapting to the needs and aspirations of their residents. Community-led development recognises that the people who live and work in a city are its greatest assets. By harnessing the collective wisdom, skills, and energy of the community, cities can address complex challenges, promote social cohesion, and create spaces that reflect the diverse needs of their residents.

This powerful process empowers residents to actively participate in shaping the future of their cities. In recent years, this model has gained increasing recognition for its potential to foster inclusive, sustainable, and vibrant urban environments. At its core, community-led development emphasises the importance of involving residents, stakeholders, and grassroots organisations in decision-making processes related to urban planning, infrastructure development, social, cultural, and environmental initiatives.

This approach stands in contrast to traditional top-down models of urban development, where decisions are often made by a select few without sufficient input from those directly affected. Community-led development seeks to bridge this gap, fostering a sense of ownership and pride among residents as they actively contribute to the design and implementation of projects that impact their daily lives.

**RECOMMENDATION: Enable *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* to evolve so that community-led collaborative partnerships develop and contribute to a unique city identity that differentiates our city from other regional cities, enhancing our distinct sense of place, community, and wellbeing**

#### 2 WHAKATŪ NELSON - IDENTIFY AND PROMOTE AS A CREATIVE CITY?

The power of creativity within a city is more than just aesthetics, it reaches deep into the core of urban dynamics, influencing every aspect of communal life. When creativity flourishes in a city, it becomes a catalyst for transformation, fostering innovation, economic vitality, and a profound sense of identity. The infusion of artistic expression, design innovation, and cultural vibrancy imbues a city with a unique character that resonates with both residents and visitors.

*“The arts can be entertaining and good for our mental health. They can also be really challenging, opening up your past and creating a path for your future.”* **Annette Milligan - Te Ramaroa**

The impact of creativity on a city's economic landscape cannot be overstated. Creative industries contribute significantly to job creation and economic growth. The intersection of technology, arts, and commerce transforms urban centres into incubators of ideas, where startups, cultural institutions, and tech hubs converge to shape the future. The creative pulse of a city generates a ripple effect, influencing not only the cultural and economic spheres but also the overall well-being of its inhabitants.

*“Nelson has a really unique opportunity, I think, to be the most entrepreneurial city in New Zealand.” Jonny Hendriksen*

A city that embraces creativity becomes a canvas for social cohesion and inclusivity. Public art installations, cultural events, and community-driven projects provide avenues for shared experiences, fostering a sense of pride and unity among diverse populations. Creativity breaks down barriers, encouraging dialogue and understanding among individuals with different backgrounds, contributing to the rich tapestry of urban life.

Creativity in a city is not confined to traditional artistic endeavours; it shows up in urban planning, business innovation, and social interactions. A city where creativity thrives becomes a hub for diverse talents, attracting individuals who seek an environment that values imagination and fosters unconventional thinking.

*“I do think that a few more creative industry companies within the central city would definitely help the central city” Jonny Hendriksen*

**RECOMMENDATION: Identify, position and market Whakatū Nelson as a Creative City and tell our stories with a set of walking and digital guides, art precincts, festivals, feature etc to revitalise the city centre. These will bring people into city and encourage locals and visitors to explore ‘our city’, stay longer and contribute to a distinct city and destination**

### **3 WHAKATŪ NELSON - HERITAGE STORYTELLING**

Heritage storytelling in Nelson's CBD, encompassing mana whenua, colonial, and migrant narratives, offers profound benefits. It enriches the city's cultural identity, fostering unity and respect. Incorporating mana whenua stories honours indigenous heritage, while colonial narratives provide historical depth. Highlighting refugee and migrant experiences adds contemporary richness, promoting understanding and social cohesion. Beyond cultural enrichment, heritage storytelling attracts tourism, benefitting local businesses and stimulating economic growth. In essence, this initiative becomes a catalyst for community pride, shaping Nelson as a resilient, empathetic, and culturally vibrant urban environment.

*“From a, what if we could tell our stories perspective, I'd like to see that we start on the basis of first principles and values that resonate with our young, because ultimately, they're going to be the people that are the caretakers, the kaitiaki and the ones that are able to talk to what manifests itself out of the course of these developments.” Hemi Sundgren*

**RECOMMENDATION: Facilitate working groups to research the feasibility of The Boulder Bank - Te Pokohiwi becoming a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and Heritage storytelling walks authenticated to who is telling or authorising the story**

### **4 WHAKATŪ NELSON - RESEARCH AND SET UP PHILANTHROPIC BROKERAGE SERVICE TO MATCH PROJECTS WITH DONORS & FUNDERS PUBLISH AN ANNUAL WHAKATŪ NELSON COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROSPECTUS**

The establishment of a philanthropic brokerage service for Whakatū Nelson brings a multitude of benefits by bridging projects with donors and funders. This intermediary role streamlines the process, ensuring projects align with philanthropic goals.

An annual Whakatū Nelson Community Prospectus becomes a powerful tool, showcasing initiatives and fostering transparency. Donors gain a comprehensive overview, enabling strategic and informed giving. This service catalyses community development, amplifying the impact of philanthropy. It encourages collaborative partnerships, nurtures local projects, and

strengthens community bonds. Ultimately, the philanthropic brokerage service becomes a driving force in propelling Whakatū Nelson's social and economic well-being through targeted and impactful giving.

**RECOMMENDATION: Research the formation of a working group with potential partners that might include Civic Trust, NCC, Make/Shift Spaces, and other parties that could assist in activation and matching. Produce an annual prospectus and a confidential brokerage service**

## **5 URBAN DEVELOPMENT / CIVIC INVESTMENT**

Collaborating with urban developers, and the investment in civic infrastructure and visionary urban development stands as a cornerstone for transforming Nelson CBD. This strategic initiative revitalises the cityscape, creating an aesthetically pleasing and functional environment. Improved infrastructure, pedestrian-friendly spaces, and innovative architecture enhance the urban fabric, attracting residents and businesses alike.

*"I think there's an opportunity to liaise with developers on integrating play into architectural improvements, whether that's sensory or active experiential elements, it could be climbing walls on the side of buildings potentially, or it could be tactile sensory elements. Work with councils on city development, optics and capex, and existing maintenance contracts. Where there's potential for renewal - look at how sensory play might be included in that." **Lance Roozenburg***

The synergy of well-planned development fosters economic growth, making Nelson a more attractive destination for investors. Furthermore, the revitalised CBD becomes a vibrant community hub, stimulating social interactions, and enhancing the overall quality of life for residents. In essence, this investment seeds the groundwork for a flourishing, sustainable, and appealing urban centre.

*"It took time to get the momentum going but once it happened [in Auckland], people now 'get' urbanism, they get intensification" **Julie Stout***

## **6 ĀWHIO, A TOI MĀORI CULTURAL CENTRE**

The establishment of Āwhio, a Toi Māori Cultural Centre on the Maitai River's banks, will be a transformative endeavour set to enrich Nelson's cultural and creative core. This centre will become a focal point for Māori arts, connecting the community with indigenous heritage. The picturesque riverside location fosters a vibrant atmosphere for cultural exchange and artistic expression.

Āwhio not only preserves and celebrates Māori traditions but also promotes cross-cultural dialogue, contributing to a more diverse and interconnected local identity. This cultural epicentre in the heart of Nelson's CBD will be a catalyst for creativity, fostering a dynamic and inclusive cultural landscape.

*"Āwhio will provide an inner-city Māori arts creative space, an education space for all with workshops with a Toi Māori focus, a gathering place for all creatives, a place for collaborative work within their given field, a place for exhibiting and purchasing authentic local Māori art." **Louisa Paul***

**This project is in a feasibility and developmental phase at present**



## **7 WHAKATŪ NELSON - ESTABLISH A COLLABORATION BETWEEN CITY ENTITIES AND ROLL OUT A CIVIC PRIDE CAMPAIGN**

Running civic pride initiatives in cities, driven by local volunteers, businesses, and local government collaboration, yields numerous benefits. Firstly, it fosters a sense of community ownership, as volunteers actively contribute to city improvements, creating a shared sense of responsibility. Local businesses engaging in these initiatives not only enhance their corporate social responsibility but also strengthen community ties, building a positive reputation.

With local government involvement, civic pride initiatives become more structured, benefiting from resources and strategic planning. The combined efforts result in a more vibrant, attractive cityscape, boosting tourism and local morale. Ultimately, these collaborative endeavours promote a resilient and thriving urban environment, reflecting the collective pride of its residents.

**This project is in a research, feasibility and developmental phase to identify partners who may collaborate together to trial and deliver an ongoing Civic Pride Campaign**

## **8 GREENING OF OUR CITY**

Nelson can strategically embrace sustainability and urban greening initiatives to transform its CBD into a vibrant, eco-friendly hub. Implementing green spaces, pedestrian-friendly zones, and sustainable infrastructure not only enhances the city's aesthetics but also fosters a healthier environment. Such measures encourage community engagement, providing spaces for social interaction, and promoting physical and mental well-being. A sustainable CBD not only attracts environmentally conscious residents but also boosts the city's overall appeal, contributing to a sense of pride and unity. By prioritising green initiatives, Nelson can create a harmonious urban landscape that nurtures social cohesion and improves the well-being of its inhabitants.

*"We want to have a thousand knowledge workers, entrepreneurs, businesses here based in the region. We think a lot about green tourism. You know, because of those big international collaborations that we have got going, they want to come here."*

***Miriana Stephens Wakatū Inc***

**Further research is required to identify potential collaborators**

## **9 TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURIAL BUSINESSES**

Embracing technology, innovation, and entrepreneurial businesses is pivotal for elevating Nelson's CBD. Integrating smart infrastructure enhances connectivity, making the city more accessible and attractive. Innovative startups contribute to economic dynamism, fostering a thriving business ecosystem. These ventures not only generate employment opportunities but also inject creativity into the urban landscape. Technology-driven solutions improve efficiency, creating a seamless urban experience for residents and visitors. As Nelson becomes a hub for entrepreneurial endeavours, it not only cultivates a reputation for innovation but also ensures the sustainability and resilience of its CBD in the rapidly evolving global landscape.

The non-profit, community-led Nelson AI Sandbox [NAIS] was spawned through work of the Whakatū Intellectual Capital Kohanga [WICK} to help build Nelson's knowledge and creative economy – toward outcomes of greater prosperity, equitability, liveability, sustainability and vitality in our city. NAIS has been created as a not-for-profit educational subsidiary of the Nelson AI Institute [NAI], running a store-front discovery space in the Nelson CBD where anyone can have a free hands-on AI experience, and learn about AI and its applications.

The Sandbox operates from donated-premises at 228 Trafalgar Street, Nelson, adjacent to the main entrance to the public market, a high-traffic and highly desirable location with central proximity to all residents. The aim of this initiative is to encourage all members of the

community to explore the uses and applications of AI, not only for commercial and education purposes, but for social outcomes as well.

*“I’m excited about the future and I think that we as a city have the opportunity to be a real incubation hub for entrepreneurial new ideas and the key thing is to really encourage youth, or anyone at any age to actually start new types of business.”*  
**Jonny Hendriksen Shuttlerock**

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## CONCLUSION

*What if Whakatū Nelson...?* revealed positive public interest and a potential for evolving collaborative partnerships that are community-led, right across projects that could be delivered in the short, medium and longer term to inject distinct identity and vibrancy into the city centre.

While, *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* was about gleaning ideas and projections, it is still vital to include Nelson City Council in the pivotal role of an enabler. The upcoming NCC Long term plan 2023-43 needs to demonstrate this. The city can be revitalised with collaborative partnership delivery of strategic projects that include NCC investment, matched (and exceeded) by the private sector, donors, sponsors, and in-kind supporters.

Our city and community face a fiscally difficult climate with national and local government spending cuts. We have not seen an environment like this since the 1980’s.

It is the strong view of the *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* project that the only way to alleviate this is to work collaboratively, maximise resources and foster a civic pride campaign that uses the strength of the call: “we are all in this together”. It requires creativity, innovation, and a can-do attitude.

*What if Whakatū Nelson ...?* demonstrated community willingness to contribute in multiple ways. There is an obvious mood for positive change. The fundamental question is how we can capitalise and nurture this movement, drawing on the rich resources that sit within the community, waiting to be harnessed and delivered in the revitalisation of Whakatū Nelson.

# APPENDICIES

## APPENDIX I - LONGER SUMMARIES OF 29 TALKS & PANEL DISCUSSIONS

### WEEK ONE - OUR BUILT ENVIRONMENT

#### WHAT DOES A VIBRANT WHAKATŪ CITY CENTRE LOOK LIKE IN 2035? - 13 NOV 12.30 PM

**William Samuels, Architect & NZIA branch chair**

**Luke Porter, Landscape Architect & NZILA, branch chair**

A workshop of designers gathered in a former church in September 2023 dedicating eight hours to brainstorm ideas for central Nelson's future in 2035. The workshop aimed to foster "blue-sky" thinking, presenting ideas to stimulate conversations about the city's evolution.

#### **Building Blocks and Evolution**

- Emphasised Nelson's existing strengths, including heritage buildings, squares, and the Maitai River.
- Proposed an evolution rather than a complete overhaul, citing the need for innovative solutions.
- Common concepts included repurposing Montgomery and Buxton Squares, prioritising green spaces, and better connecting with the Maitai River.

#### **Presented Workshop Ideas**

*Heart to Soul:* Transforming Buxton and Montgomery Squares into green and recreation spaces, creating laneways, and establishing a pedestrian overbridge to the marina.

*Super Nature:* Introducing organic cell-like growth, increased housing density, reduced roads, and more green areas.

*Market Forces:* Enhancing the Saturday market, covering carparks, and reorienting buildings for a pedestrian-friendly civic space.

*Decolonising Whakatū:* Incorporating Māori history into urban planning, renaming areas, and highlighting cultural stories.

*Drop of Vitality:* Redeveloping key areas with urban parks, green corridors, and nodes like a Climatorium/innovation hub and a performing arts centre.

*Bridge to Brunch:* Transforming Montgomery Square into a park and urban plaza, with a library/civic hub and recreation spaces.

*Evolution of Nelson:* Celebrating strengths with new developments like a fish market, urban parks, arts/culture precinct, and a library in Buxton Square.

*Play:* Integrating play spaces into a revitalised city, creating green connections to existing open spaces.

#### **Reflections and Challenges**

- Recognition of a lack of investment in the city centre for around 30 years.
- Opportunity to challenge entrenched views, particularly regarding car parking, with strong advocacy from urban design professionals and community buy-in

#### **Actions**

1. Explore repurposing Montgomery and Buxton Squares for civic and recreational purposes.

2. Prioritise green spaces and enhance connections with the Maitai River.
3. Foster a city evolution, preserving existing strengths and utilising innovative solutions.
4. Advocate for strong political support and community involvement in revitalisation efforts.
5. Consider implementing the presented ideas gradually to transform Nelson into a vibrant, attractive, and liveable city by 2035.

## **BRIDGE TO BETTER – 14 NOV 12.30 PM**

**Alan Gray, Principal Landscape Architect, Boffa Miskell**

Nelson City Council has announced an "extended programme of community engagement" for the \$68.4 million "Bridge to Better" project. The Central Government is committing \$36.4 million from the Infrastructure Acceleration Fund, with the council contributing \$32 million.

### **Project Goals and Infrastructure Upgrade**

- Aims to upgrade water supply, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure, facilitating inner-city apartment developments and reducing flooding in Wakatu Square car park during king tides.
- Upon completing underground work, Bridge St and Haven Rd will transform into a people-focused corridor with green spaces, social areas, a sustainable commercial environment, and diverse transport choices.

### **Design Opportunity and Collaboration**

This infrastructure work is an opportunity to redesign the area. with an emphasis on collaboration with retailers, property owners, and consultants for seamless construction management and the delivery of a revitalised city space.

### **Stakeholder Involvement and Concept Design**

- The first stage of engagement until the end of February involves stakeholder groups, including retailers, older adults, youth representatives, and civic institutions.
- Mixing groups to encourage diverse perspectives and common ground discovery.
- Boffa Miskell plans to deliver the concept design in early 2024 based on stakeholder feedback.

### **Future Engagement and Public Feedback**

Concept design leads to another community engagement process for public feedback, ensuring the project aligns with the community's vision.

### **Actions**

1. Upgrade water supply, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure to support inner-city development.
2. Transform Bridge St and Haven Rd into a people-focused corridor with green spaces, social areas, and diverse transport choices.
3. Collaborate with retailers, property owners, and consultants for effective construction management.
4. Engage stakeholders, including the public, through a two-stage process to gather diverse perspectives and ensure community alignment.
5. Deliver a revitalised and vibrant city space by early 2024.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH AFFORDABLE HOUSING - 15 NOV 12.30 PM Chloë Howorth, Business Development Manager, Habitat for Humanity**

### **Summary**

If Nelson wants 'vibrancy' in our city, there is a need for affordable homes for a diversity of people – young, old, different cultures, different abilities, artists, migrants, tangata whenua, students, retail workers, creative and tech industries workers. Decent housing enables people to contribute to a community with mana and a sense of belonging.

Housing is essential infrastructure for a healthy, vibrant community. A decent and secure long-term home is not only a basic human right (recognised by the NZ Human Rights Commission), but it is the foundation for people to achieve health, wellbeing and stability in all aspects of life. If you don't know where you'll be living next month (let alone tomorrow), then it is very difficult to form social connections or commit to long term education or employment opportunities or contribute to the local economy.

We need genuine affordable housing in the city – not only high-end apartments or Airbnb's – we need a diversity of housing types and tenures for a diversity of people and household types.

Chloë explained how communities can be strengthened through all stages of the planning and development process, leading to a circular system that enables further development and community vibrancy.

### **Community Development through Affordable Housing**

- What if through the process of building homes, we could also build the 'soft' infrastructure of the community? It has only been in very recent history that housing has become a financial commodity and that the planning, design, and construction of housing has become developer led.
- Prior to this, land would have been available within the community, and locals would have had the skills and finance to build affordable homes for people in the community who needed them - building homes was a function of community life.
- Today, the provision of new housing is the domain of the development industry, and the availability of land and capital has become a major constraint. It is a constraint, but if we think creatively – there is land available, there is finance, we do have the skills within our community if a collaborative approach is taken.

### **Land and Finance**

Community partnerships can provide access to land and finance. Habitat for Humanity's partners with other community organisations within Nelson Tasman who have land available but may not have the same access to development capital that another community organisation (such as Habitat) can contribute.

### **Planning and Design**

A sense of community can be developed through intentional design – from the choice of a project's location, through to designing common areas, such as shared gardens into a development to encourage interaction and foster a sense of community.

### **Construction**

Through the construction process, we can support traineeships and local businesses. Habitat intentionally uses local trades and services wherever possible. In turn, these businesses support Habitat and increase their capacity to build homes for others in the region.

## **Community Development**

By nurturing a community, we build capacity and resilience. Chloë explained how Habitat selects residents for its homes before construction is completed so that they can be involved in painting and landscaping their homes, and they can meet their neighbours and start forming connections. They also often end up volunteering at Habitat's ReStore, which in turn, increases Habitat's ability to build more homes.

## **Expanding the Impact**

A strong community then has the capacity and skills to lead its own affordable housing projects – community housing organisations with access to land and capital to build homes, local trades and services with the skills and experience to deliver, and individuals with the stability and security to give back to the community.

## **Action Items**

1. Affordable and diverse housing is integral for creating a vibrant urban community.
2. Maximising community benefit should be at the forefront of all stages of planning, design and construction for new developments.
3. Get creative with partnership options and funding models – new outcomes won't be created through existing methods.

## **HOW TO TURN NELSON'S UNHEALTHY DONUT INTO A NICE BUN - 16 NOV 2023**

**12.30 PM**

**Magdalena Garbarczyk, Architect, and director at Finline Architecture**

**Timo Neubauer, Urban designer & local business owner**

### **Summary**

Magdalena Garbarczyk and Timo Neubauer are co-founding members of NelsonTasman2050, a think tank of urban environment professionals advocating for best practice urban design. The group envisions the region becoming Aotearoa New Zealand's most vibrant and liveable place with the smallest environmental footprint.

To achieve this goal, some fundamental changes need to occur in the way Nelson is planned and developed.

Magdalena emphasises the need to constrain urban sprawl and minimise backyard infill, create region-specific medium density design guides, along the creation of a Nelson Tasman Urban Development Agency (UDA), to partner with public and private entities on transformative projects.

Timo addresses the ongoing "doughnut effect" in Nelson City, where the population relocates to car-dependent suburbs, leaving the city centre empty and struggling without investment. He cautions against the negative impact of additional car parks, supposedly intended to attract more people to the city.

Instead, Timo advocates for highlighting Nelson's unique qualities, including its fine-grained, boutique shopping experience, signature foods, and cultural richness. He proposes a balanced approach, combining higher density living with improved amenities, better sustainable transport, urban parks, playgrounds, backyard gardens, and greener streets.

Timo emphasises the necessity of strong political support from both councils, prioritising "internal before external development". He reiterates that cars occupy excessive space, are costly to accommodate, and hinder the creation of a people-friendly city centre - the very characteristic that attracts people into an urban centre rather than into a suburban shopping

mall. According to him, the valuable land should be utilized to house more people and customers directly in the heart of the town.

In response to the "doughnut effect" and to transform the city into a liveable and vibrant space, NelsonTasman2050 champions what the group term "Quality Intensification", as clarified by Magdalena through six guiding principles:

- **Community:** Prioritising common good over private interests, encouraging community-led developments, papakāinga, cohousing, etc.
- **Density:** Redefining typologies for efficient space usage, smaller footprints, and less reliance on cars.
- **Diversity:** Reflect the diversities of our communities in terms of culture, age and socio-economic backgrounds, provide more housing options, covering the 'missing middle' typologies.
- **Accessibility:** Prioritise walking and cycling, ensuring daily activities are within a 15-minute walk or cycle.
- **Sustainability:** Urgently adopt low carbon impact development, align with our carbon zero targets, set sustainability guidelines now
- **Affordability:** Strategically consider housing affordability, linked to diverse models, density, and smaller but better housing.

NelsonTasman2050 believes that alternatives exist and is committed to continue advocating for better urban design solutions to ensure that the next 30, 50, 100 years of development follow a regenerative path.

## **THE CITY IS A MOSAIC OF SUBCULTURES - 17 NOV 12.30 PM**

**Richard Sellars, Architect and Artist**

**A network of learning and places of communal eating. This discussion focuses on three patterns from Christopher Alexander's 'a pattern of language'.**

### **Summary**

Christopher Alexander's patterns in "A Pattern Language" 1977 refer to recurring solutions to common problems in architecture and urban design. These patterns are a part of a larger system of design 'rules of thumb' that Alexander proposes, which aim to create more liveable, sustainable, and harmonious built environments. Each pattern describes a specific problem and provides a solution in the form of a configuration of elements that can be applied in a variety of contexts. The patterns are interconnected and build upon each other, creating a "language" that designers can use to communicate and create successful buildings and communities.

**Mosaic of Subcultures:** This pattern emphasises the importance of preserving and celebrating the unique characteristics of each subculture within a larger community. Each subculture can be culturally based or simply sharing a common interest.

**Network of Learning:** A network of learning highlights the significance of creating spaces and opportunities for continuous education and knowledge sharing. From chance conversations on a bus to educational institutions like Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) this pattern uses the city and its community organisations to foster a culture of lifelong learning among residents.

**Communal Eating:** The practice of communal eating is a fundamental aspect of human social interaction, promoting unity, communication, and shared experiences. In the Nelson region, communal eating can play a crucial role in bringing people together, whether it be through potluck dinners, food festivals, or community meals organised by local groups.

**Promote the Region's Strengths and Uniqueness:** Promoting a region's strengths and uniqueness is essential for attracting visitors, investors, and residents. By showcasing what makes a region special, it can differentiate itself from others and create a strong identity.

### **Actions**

1. Showcase local cuisine through food tours, cooking classes, farmers' markets, and
2. gastronomic events can celebrate the various region's culinary traditions
3. Set up opportunities to share knowledge, foods, and conversation around communal eating.
4. Initiate a competition for best regional dish/soup
5. Make Nelson famous for its annual celebration of its regional dish
6. Encourage other local industries to participate, wine, pottery, music etc.

### **WHAT IF NELSON CREATED HOUSING ABOVE ITS PUBLIC CARPARKS? - 20 NOV 12.30 PM**

**Matt Lawrey, Host of The Nelson Pod and Bike Hub Nelson co-ordinator**  
**Pierre Hammond, Architect**

#### **Summary**

Host of The Nelson Pod and Bike Hub Nelson co-ordinator Matt Lawrey, and architect Pierre Hammond presented an ambitious plan to construct a four-story eco-friendly apartment block on stilts above the existing Buxton Square public car park in central Nelson. The project aims to address housing affordability, reduce carbon emissions, and inject vibrancy into the city. Hammond's design incorporates sustainable features, such as locally sourced pine for the main structure, grid-based construction for flexible unit sizes, and extensive greenery on balconies and rooftops. There are potential economic benefits for businesses, city life, and the economy by increasing the city's residential population. The plan retains the car park, adapting it to retail spaces if parking demand decreases, and considers incorporating a car-sharing service. The proposal, targeting those seeking a car-free lifestyle, aligns with changing urban dynamics, encouraging smarter city centre development.

The proposal of an apartment block over Buxton Square car park aims to provide affordable housing and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

#### **Architectural Design and Sustainability**

Designed by Pierre Hammond with eco-friendly features: locally grown pine, grid-based construction, and greenery and an emphasis on smaller carbon footprint and cost-effectiveness.

#### **Urban Regeneration Inspiration**

Inspired by European urban regeneration developments, the proposal addresses the challenge of housing shortage and urban revitalisation.

#### **Economic and Environmental Considerations**

The potential benefits of increased residential population in Nelson CBD. The use of "standardised" materials for cost-effectiveness and quick construction. Incorporation of sustainable features like rain gardens.

#### **Adaptability and Flexibility**

A grid-based construction allows for variable unit sizes, and the option to adapt to changing housing demand without building new structures.



## **Addressing City Centre Challenges**

The challenge is maintaining the existing car park to alleviate concerns about parking, however there is potential to transform parking spaces into retail areas based on demand. The proposal has been pitched as a response to changing retail and work dynamics.

### **Actions**

1. Advocate for the construction of a four-story eco-friendly apartment block on stilts above the Buxton Square car park.
2. Emphasise the benefits of increased residential population in city centres, including economic stimulation and reduced environmental impact.
3. Highlight sustainable features of the design, such as locally sourced pine, grid-based construction, and extensive greenery.
4. Address concerns about parking by retaining the existing car park, allowing for potential transformation into retail spaces based on demand.
5. Consider the inclusion of a car-sharing service to cater to residents opting for a car-free lifestyle.

## **WHAT IF WE HAD A REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY? - 21 NOV 12.30 PM Leigh Mason, CAN, and the Regional Community Development Agency**

**What if we had an agency that was supporting not-for-profit, and for purpose, organisations with all their administrative back-office stuff so they had more energy and resources to put towards increasing our wellbeing? What else would be useful to have an agency do to support the community sector?**

### **Summary**

Leigh Mason discussed the potential establishment of a regional community development agency in Te Tauihu, emphasising its role in supporting not-for-profit (NFP) and for-purpose organisations. The agency aims to handle administrative back-office tasks for these organisations, enabling them to redirect more resources towards improving community wellbeing. The idea is not new, and recent momentum has been gained, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. A feasibility study in 2021 confirmed the value of such an agency, with strong community support indicated in a 2022 survey. The talk highlights the challenges faced by NFPs, the current shift towards community-driven service design, and the need to leverage upcoming government reforms.

Leigh introduced herself and explored the concept of a regional community development agency. She gave historical context and the idea's development over the years.

### **Progress and Support**

A feasibility study was carried out in 2021 and a community survey in 2022, both indicated support. There has been engagement with community organisations and government personnel in 2023.

### **Current Challenges**

- NFPs are overburdened, facing regulatory and back-office challenges.
- There are inefficiencies due to funding struggles and regulatory burdens.
- There is a desire for ongoing training and collaboration among NFPs.

### **The Need for Action**

- The urgency highlighted in the current Intergenerational Strategy.
- There has been a shift from top-down to community-driven service design and delivery.

- The potential is for redirection of government funding and untapped collaboration.

### **Proposed Agency Functions**

- Supporting shared strategic direction and advocacy.
- Facilitating networking and collaboration among community groups.
- Providing back-office functions, governance services, and training.
- Supporting actions aligned with the Intergenerational Strategy.

### **Actions**

1. Community Engagement: Encourage community members to participate in the ongoing survey.
2. Support for the Agency: Advocate for the establishment of the agency based on the confirmed need.
3. Collaboration and Networking: Encourage NFPs to collaborate and find networking opportunities.
4. Capacity Building: Support ongoing training for staff and governance in areas like te ao Māori, Te Reo, and tikanga.
5. Contribute to the Establishment Group: Encourage stakeholders to participate in the establishment group's activities.
6. Align with Intergenerational Strategy: Encourage NFPs to consider actions that align with the Intergenerational Strategy.
7. Stay Informed: Stay updated on the progress of the agency's establishment and upcoming developments.
8. Advocacy for Wellbeing Funding: Position the region to leverage upcoming government shifts towards community-driven well-being initiatives.

## **SHARED COMMUNITIES - MIGRANT AND FORMER REFUGEE COMMUNITIES - 22 NOV 12.30 PM**

### **Panel discussion between**

**Karolina Serrano, Shared Communities Cultural Navigator**

**Anjali Puri, NAATA Indian Community Trust**

**Pania Walton, Content and Engagement Director Fresh FM (former)**

### **Summary**

Karolina Serrano, Cultural Navigator of the Shared Communities (SC) initiative, revealed the initiative's mission to preserve and promote the arts, heritage, and culture of migrant and former refugee communities in Nelson. The SC initiative emerged from the Shared Communities Whakatū Nelson Arts, Culture, and Heritage engagement report, funded by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage. The report identified key challenges, including the importance of cultural traditions, the need for understanding through cultural sharing, and difficulties in accessing information and opportunities.

The SC initiative addresses these challenges by supporting projects originating directly from communities, fostering self-sufficiency and capability. An advisory group, comprising community members from the engagement report, community leaders, cross-cultural workers, and project registrants, ensures diverse voices are heard.

Projects range from cultural celebrations and traditional weaving to pottery workshops and language programs, demonstrating the initiative's commitment to community-driven endeavours. There are significant bridging opportunities, connecting communities with projects like museum exhibitions, multicultural markets, and arts festivals.

The initiative is actively involved in delivering cultural competency workshops to raise awareness and understanding of barriers faced by migrant and refugee communities. Despite encountering language barriers and varying communication preferences, the SC initiative has successfully supported 10 projects in the past two months, with 12 more in progress.

It can be a challenge for migrant and refugee communities to access information. It was suggested to make a collaborative effort for information and opportunities more accessible, to consider language barriers and diverse communication methods.

Anjali Puri organised Nelson Diwali 2023 at Founders Heritage Park and was supported by the SC initiative. Pania Walton from Fresh FM showcased the collaborative efforts fostering cultural diversity and community integration.

The Shared Communities initiative has emerged as a catalyst for positive change, connecting communities and breaking down barriers to create a more inclusive and vibrant cultural landscape in Nelson.

Find out more at > <https://www.sharedcommunities.org.nz/>

*Shared Communities Whakatū Nelson, Engagement with Nelson Migrant and Former Refugee Communities Report - August 2022*

### **PLAYPEN BY THE COLLECTIVE CONSTRUCT OF ARCHITECTS - 23 NOV 12.30 PM**

**Rachel Dodd, Stephanie Phillips, Lyn Russell and Vicki Smith**

**PlayPen is an explorative place-making game that playfully seeks to engage the community in creating solutions to adapting Whakatū / Nelson's urban environment to future impacts.**

**Construct of Architects** & NCC Climate Change lead a Q&A event regarding the game PlayPen and future scenarios <https://ada.net.nz/artbase/play-pen/>

The collective came about in late 2021 to explore the idea of creating an artwork out of our discussions around place, architecture, and environmental pressures.

PlayPen was devised as a place making installation providing an analogue way to rapidly prototype urban design. Multiple participants collaborate to re-imagine the central area within an abstracted urban map and with a simplified set of building types. Playpen requires minimal understanding and few rules, cityscapes are constructed, reassembled and evolve over time. The scale and intimacy encourage a playful approach to responding to local, social, economic and environmental imperatives.

### **MY EXPERIENCE WITH A GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT TO INFLUENCE THE AUCKLAND WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT - 24 NOV 12.30 PM**

**Julie Stout - Architect & recipient of the 2021 Te Kāhui Whaihanga New Zealand Institute of Architects Gold Medal**

#### **Summary**

Architect Julie Stout joined us from Auckland to discuss civic action campaigns to improve public spaces in Auckland, New Zealand over the past 25+ years. She covers key projects transforming Auckland's waterfront from industrial fences to vibrant parks, how protests and court cases successfully blocked port expansion encroaching on the Waitemātā Harbour, and ongoing advocacy to balance cruise ships, heritage preservation and community access. Julie analysed lessons on effective urban planning processes, the importance of public-private partnerships, and how artists, students and universities can spark grassroots engagement. There was a discussion on mobilising Nelson residents to shape their city and waterfront's future drawing on Auckland's experience.

## **Introduction and Auckland Background**

Julie Stout introduced her background in architecture and urban design. She discussed her early years finding Auckland rundown despite the beautiful harbour and getting involved in advocacy groups pushing for waterfront access and better urban planning.

## **Campaigns Opening Auckland's Waterfront**

Julie explained key campaigns and projects transforming Auckland's waterfront over 25 years - removing fences to create parks and public spaces like the Viaduct Harbour, defeating port expansion in the Waitematā Harbour through protests and legal action, and ongoing work balancing cruise ships with community access.

## **Using Civic Action and Partnerships**

Julie shared lessons on getting results through civic action like protests, how public-private partnerships can fund public goods, the role of artists and students in engagement, and the need for strategic plans balancing vision with achievable goals.

## **Discussion on Shaping Nelson's Future**

To round off there was a discussion on mobilising Nelson residents to shape the city and waterfront's future, using heritage buildings to generate investment, learning from Auckland's experience, and converting ideas into tangible progress.

## **Actions**

1. Develop a 5-year strategic plan identifying short and long-term goals for the Nelson waterfront.
2. Explore public-private partnership options and potential funding models.
3. Engage Iwi in visioning process and storytelling possibilities.
4. Engage local artists and university students in the waterfront visioning process.

*"I personally don't know...where they've taken the cars out and then said, Damn, that was a mistake. We'll put them back. People have gone generally, wow, this is so much better than we thought around Auckland in particular, in the central city."* **Julie Stout**

## **THE ROLE OF FESTIVALS IN THE REVITALISATION OF THE CITY CENTRE - 27 NOV 12.30 PM**

**Facilitated discussion by Ali Boswijk, CEO Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce and Chair of Nelson Arts Festival between  
Lydia Zanetti, Executive & Artistic Director Nelson Arts Festival  
Annette Milligan, Chairperson Te Ramaroa  
Sophie Kelly Director, Adam Chamber Festival  
Giles Burton Director, Nelson Fringe Festival**

## **Summary**

Ali Boswijk facilitated a panel discussion on the role of arts festivals in revitalising Nelson city and the wider region. Key topics covered included using festivals to activate urban spaces, career development opportunities, sustainability practices, and cross-sector collaboration. The four panellists representing major Nelson festivals shared insights from their extensive experience producing events locally and abroad. While no formal decisions are made, there is clear agreement on the value of festivals for placemaking, creative sector growth, and community building. Specific ideas mentioned include commissioning installations in unused CBD locations, coordinating a regional technical training program, and learning from other small 'festival towns' like Edinburgh and Hobart.

## **Introducing the Panel and Discussion Topics**

Ali Boswijk introduced herself, giving context on her arts background, and framed the purpose of discussing how festivals can help revitalise Nelson's urban spaces. She then introduces the four panellists - Annette Milligan (Te Ramaroa Festival), Sophie Kelly (Adam Chamber Music Festival), Giles Burton (Nelson Fringe Festival), and Lydia Zanetti (Nelson Arts Festival) - along with their respective backgrounds.

## **Perspectives on Using Festivals for Urban Activation**

The panellists highlighted how festivals can reframe perceptions of public spaces, bringing energy and creativity to neglected areas, and help people see and connect with parts of the city they haven't experienced before. Lydia and Annette gave examples from recent installations and events.

## **Festivals as Career Development Platforms**

The panel discussed festivals as opportunities for upskilling event crews, developing sustainable creative careers so talent stays local, and potentially coordinating a regional internship program. They noted the loss of technicians nationwide during the pandemic.

## **Incorporating Climate Consciousness**

Panellists considered balancing artistic goals with environmental impacts, the complexities of offsetting festival carbon footprints, and using events as a platform for climate change conversations and education. Annette outlined the sustainability efforts of Te Ramararoa.

## **Reflecting Local Identity and Cultural Heritage**

Sophie contrasted expectations for international work versus increased audience interest in local stories. Lydia emphasised programming that helps people feel seen and connected across Nelson's diverse communities.

## **Collaborating Across Sectors**

The panellists highlighted the opportunities for festivals to bring together community partners, corporate sponsors and local government around shared goals, enabled by personal connections in Nelson.

## **Actions**

1. Commission installations and events in unused Nelson CBD locations to showcase creative potential
2. Launch a regional technical training program to retain performing arts talent and skills locally
3. Research other small 'festival towns' such as Edinburgh and Hobart for collaborative models and placemaking inspiration.
4. Develop cross sectoral collaboration strategies

NB- Make/Shift Spaces acknowledges Nelson has a broad range of cultural festivals and celebrations including Matariki, Waitangi Day at Whakatū Marae and Founders Heritage Park Te Tiriti celebrations, and Multicultural Nelson Tasman Festivals

## **Role of Festivals**

*"Sometimes if you don't see yourself reflected or you don't see your culture reflected, it's not easy to feel you're part of the city." **Annette Milligan - Te Ramaroa***

*"With Te Ramaroa, we can have installations which are made by people of different ages, made by people from different cultural backgrounds who can then see*

*themselves reflected and present and feel connected to the city.”* **Annette Milligan - Te Ramaroa**

*“It’s very well documented that the arts and culture festivals specifically can really shift a sense of identity within a place.”* **Lydia Zanetti - Nelson Arts Festival**

*“The opportunity that happened in Edinburgh post the war when they decided to do a festival where there’s now, I think 11 festivals that happen in one month that all have very different unique identities but can coexist at the same time and make like the most amazing arts marketplace whether it’s literature or visual arts or performing arts or TV”* **Lydia Zanetti - Nelson Arts Festival**

*“Here in Nelson, I think festivals have a role to upskill where possible, but also work more collaboratively with our crew, teams and artists to try and provide some sort of sustainable career path to keep people in the industry.”* **Sophie Kelly - ADAM Chamber Music Festival**

And, in response to this question from the audience:

“How does the lack of a small to medium-sized multi-purpose performing arts venue hurt us in terms of attracting national, local, international acts that we can get into. And is there any move to remedy that?”

*“I would say catastrophic. It’s a desperate lack of having a studio venue that we can use. In terms of the Fringe, we have to convert spaces. And even in financial terms, that’s a killer for us. And I think it’s also... Because we don’t have that sort of smaller space that people can experiment and do cheaply. If you’re having to take the Theatre Royal, that’s a huge financial investment.”* **Giles Burton - Nelson Fringe Festival**

## **WHAT IF WHAKATŪ NELSON HAD A TRULY COHESIVE AND THRIVING ARTS COMMUNITY – 28 NOV 12.30 PM**

**Panel discussion with**

**Lloyd Harwood, Arts Council Nelson Community Arts Manager**

**Janja Heathfield, Refinery ArtSpace Manager**

**Rohan O’Neill-Stevens, Nelson City Councillor and Deputy Mayor**

### **Where the Arts Strategy implementation is at now?**

#### **Summary**

Arts Council Nelson & Refinery ArtSpace presented on the history, objectives, services, facilities, events and future plans to build a thriving arts community in Nelson city. Key points cover Arts Council’s 54-year history, mission to promote arts, diverse services like exhibitions and funding schemes, a new Refinery Arts hub development, hosting over 30 events annually, and envisioning an arts precinct attracting 15,000 visitors. Ideas to overcome challenges include an arts development agency for coordination and funding support.

#### **Introducing Arts Council Nelson**

Arts Council is an incorporated society governed by a board aiming to encourage, promote and coordinate arts in Nelson since 1969. The current mission remains similar after 54 years.

#### **Arts Council’s Diverse Services**

Arts Council provides advisory services, lobbies for artists, administers local funding schemes, maintains event listings and opportunities online, and advocates through publications and

social media. A community arts manager, arts space manager and administrator staff the Arts Council.

### **Refinery ArtSpace Development and Events**

The Refinery ArtSpace opened in 2019 housing galleries, workshops and teams. It hosts over 30 exhibitions and events annually, supporting nearly 300 artists and bringing in 3,500 visitors.

### **Envisioning a Thriving Arts Community**

A thriving arts community where diverse groups have dedicated spaces to collaborate, residents engage through events, and infrastructure that attracts visitors and residents. Challenges like resources can be addressed through an arts development agency for coordination and funding.

### **Implementing the Arts and Creativity Strategy**

Deputy Mayor Rohan O'Neill-Stevens discussed the implementation of the 2022 Arts Strategy to revive Nelson's reputation as New Zealand's arts capital. Efforts include developing an arts hub and agency, public art requiring community input, and weaving arts through urban design.

## **THE ROLE OF CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN OUR CITY - 29 NOV 12.30 PM**

**Facilitated discussion by Anne Rush, Manager Make/Shift Spaces with**

**Julie Catchpole Director, The Suter Te Aratoi**

**James Donaldson Director, Nelson Centre of Musical Arts**

**Judene Edgar Chairperson, Theatre Royal**

### **Summary**

This panel discussion was among directors of three major Nelson arts institutions - the Suter Art Gallery, Nelson Centre for Musical Arts (NCMA), and Theatre Royal. Key topics included the long history and heritage of these institutions dating back 125+ years, their roles as landmarks and economic drivers for Nelson, challenges sustaining operations and funding deficits, and ideas like collaborative fundraising campaigns to increase community support and investment.

### **Introductions and Arts Institutions Histories**

Panellists Julie Catchpole (Director Suter Te Aratoi), James Donaldson (Nelson Centre of Musical Arts Director) and Judene Edgar (Theatre Royal Chair) introduced themselves and provided overviews tracing the long history of their institutions. The Suter opened in 1899, NCMA school in 1894, and Theatre Royal in 1878 as the oldest working theatre in Australasia.

### **Arts Destinations Punching Above Their Weight**

The speakers highlighted how their facilities serve as hubs bringing people and activity into Nelson, supporting economic impacts. With significant visitors and usage numbers, they view the institutions as arts destinations punching above their weight relative to Nelson's small size.

### **Sustainability and Funding Challenges**

While the institutions have rich legacies, the directors acknowledge struggling with sustainability and deficits without reliable funding sources. They aim to increase community support to preserve these valuable cultural assets, warning of past closures when investment declined.

### **Ideas for Collaborative Fundraising and Regional Vision**

Possibilities discussed included joint fundraising campaigns, a regional arts organisation for advocacy and coordination, requirements for public art in new developments, and cultivating

more arts investment from philanthropists or groups like Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce.

### **Actions**

1. Research establishing a regional arts organisation for advocacy, coordination, and fundraising.
2. Develop communications plan and campaign to increase community support and cultural investment.
3. Explore funding relationships with local businesses, Chamber of Commerce, and potential donors.

### **The Suter opened in 1899, Nelson Centre of Musical Arts in 1894, and Theatre Royal in 1878 as the oldest working theatre in Australasia.**

*"I opened a newsletter from the Wellington City Gallery, and it had their stats for their last financial year...they'd done 13 exhibitions. We had done 21 new exhibitions in that same year. They received 113,000 visitors. We received 141,000 visitors. We've got a way smaller population! 3,860 students came to them for learning experiences. We had 5,037 students come for learning sessions with a teacher that's working 3.5 days. That was pretty remarkable!" **Julie Catchpole***

*"When we build, change our paving, upgrade our street lighting, seating, make new bridges, make new civic public buildings that we incorporate art into the very fabric from the smallest, smallest details to special features." **Julie Catchpole***

*"Together with three community groups that call NCMA home, we now welcome well over 1,000 regular weekly users of the facility. Adding in public events, we will have welcomed 100,000 visitors to the facility over the past year." **James Donaldson***

### **NELSON PROVINCIAL MUSEUM - CARING FOR OUR TAONGA - OUR BUILDING PROGRAMME - 30 NOV 12.30 PM**

**Lucinda Blackley-Jimson, Nelson Provincial Museum Chief Executive and Board member of Museums Aotearoa**

**Belinda Wheatley, Project Manager**

### **Bringing the collection to Church Street, significantly increasing engagement and education opportunities, and construction back into the CBD**

#### **Summary**

Lucinda Blackley-Jimson, Chief Executive of Nelson Provincial Museum, and Belinda Wheatley, Project Manager, outlined plans and funding for a new archive, research and collections facility to properly store and preserve the museum's \$20 million heritage collection. Key details included the current inadequate storage conditions, risks like flooding and fire, architectural plans for a 3-story building on Church Street with customised climate control, exterior artwork telling stories of local iwi, ground floor public access, and a \$14.9 million budget with over \$6 million secured from local government and multi-year fundraising campaigns targeting central government, lottery grants, trusts, and private donors.

#### **Introductions and Value of Museum/Galleries**

The Nelson Provincial Museum's role is a cultural anchor for the region and includes exhibition programming, community events, and caretaking of a \$20 million heritage collection. National research highlights the economic, social, cultural and tourism value of museums/galleries.

#### **Nelson Provincial Museum Revitalisation Plans**



The future revitalisation plans for the museum include a new regional gallery, activated rooftop performance space, hands-on children's discovery centre, and improved facilities to preserve heritage collection.

### **Problems With Current Storage Facility**

The current collection storage facility is problematic, with inadequate ISO facilities including end of building life, flooding and leaks, inability to control temperature/humidity, seismic risk, and need to frequently move collection items hampering preservation and access.

### **Overview of New Archive, Research and Collections Facility**

A new three-story facility is proposed to be built on Church Street. A project team of architects and designers have been working on preliminary approvals, customised climate control storage for various mediums, public access spaces with input from iwi, exterior artwork by Robin Slow telling stories of local Māori, and adjoining museum site.

### **Funding Sources and Next Steps**

A funding of \$14.9 million budget including over \$6 million from local government and targets for central government, lottery, trusts, and community fundraising. Next steps are further fundraising, finalising detailed design, and starting construction in mid-2023 pending funding.

### **Actions**

1. Continuous fundraising campaign and public launch in early 2023 once other funding is secured.
2. Finalise detailed architectural design by April 2023.
3. Submit for building consent in April 2023 presuming funding in place.
4. Start construction in mid-2023 pending funding.

*"We're kaitiaki and caretakers of the regional heritage collection of Nelson and Tasman. And that's been valued recently by Dunbar Sloan for \$20 million..." **Lucinda Blackley-Jimson***

*"It's fabulous that we are going to have some construction happening in our central business district. It's a real visible sign of progress and investment in our city. We're replacing what is essentially vacant CBD space with a new facility." **Belinda Wheatley***

### **ĀWHIO - TURNING A VISION INTO REALITY- A TOI MĀORI CULTURAL CENTRE - 1 DEC 5 - 6 PM**

**Donna McLeod, Te Ātiawa Ngāti Rārua**

**Louisa Paul Ngāti Toa, Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Rangiwewehi**

### **Summary**

Louisa Paul and Donna McLeod introduced Āwhio, a proposed Māori arts and culture hub. Key details shared included the vision to provide spaces for Māori artists and cultural practitioners to create, exhibit and sell works while promoting Māori arts locally and nationally. The group has identified an ideal venue but needs to demonstrate sustainable funding of around \$150k per year to secure the lease. They have already raised half through pledges and are undertaking additional fundraising efforts.

Louisa Paul opened with a karakia welcoming attendees. Donna McLeod and Louisa then introduced themselves.

### **Āwhio Vision and Details**

They explained the vision for Āwhio to provide a centre supporting Māori artists and cultural

groups with spaces to create, collaborate, exhibit, and sell artworks and covered the proposed name, logo, values, opportunities, and programming possibilities.

### **Identified Venue and Funding Needs**

The group has identified an ideal vacant venue on the Maitai River, but they need to demonstrate sustainable funding to secure the lease. They have raised half the \$150k per year required through pledges and are undertaking additional fundraising.

### **Community Feedback and Support**

The audience emphasised the importance of the project and offered to assist with promotion, fundraising and securing community support. A lack of spaces for Māori artists and practitioners has been highlighted.

### **Actions**

1. Share presentation and pledge forms to help promote Āwhio fundraising efforts.
2. Explore Givealittle or other online fundraising campaigns to enable broader community financial support.
3. Schedule walkthroughs of potential venues for interested artists and cultural group representatives.
4. Constitute an Incorporated Society Āwhio Toi Māori Arts Centre

## **PUBLIC SPACES MAKE CITIES HUM: THE WELLINGTON EXPERIENCE AND WHY WE OWE IT TO OUR CHILDREN - 4 DEC 12.30 PM**

**Gisella Carr leads creative projects and companies, including currently the 2026 reopening of Wellington's beloved central library Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui.**

### **Summary**

Gisella Carr spoke about her experience of leading the redevelopment of Wellington's Central Library. She discussed global library trends focused on community spaces, the visioning process for 'Te Matapihi ki te Ao nui,' key design principles like inclusion and precinct thinking, and insights into the architectural plans.

Gisella Carr introduced her background of working in arts and culture in NZ, her past role as CEO of World of Wearable Arts here in Nelson, and her current leadership of Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui redevelopment.

### **Evolving Role of Libraries**

Libraries internationally are transforming into inclusive civic and cultural hubs centered on community knowledge sharing, often driving economic benefits. This requires rethinking collections, spaces, staffing, and programming with communities.

### **Wellington Central Library Vision**

The vision for Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui involved extensive consultation on aspirations, including valuing libraries, engaging indigenous communities, and supporting future generations with an inclusive, vibrant precinct.

### **Guiding Design Principles**

Innovative design principles were developed to evaluate decisions on visitor experience, accessibility, layout, partnerships, and more with a focus on bringing people in and through the spaces.

## **Architectural Plans and Changes**

Key architectural plans outlined include differentiated floors, visibility, integrating services, and how spaces engage the city. Construction challenges and changes from the original building design were also noted.

*“You're trying to unlock the information here for the public in the most innovative ways. You're trying to link them to what you find. So, in Wellington, we're doing a lot of thinking about the place we inhabit and how our collections speak to that place, how our collections speak to the flora, how they speak to the people that have inhabited those spaces.” **Gisella Carr***

*“Businesses, retail, hospitality, around Central Library - Wellington are waiting for us to open, because they know it will drive the traffic to their businesses.” **Gisella Carr***

*“It has to place community at its heart, we have to think about future generations. We get chances like this once every 30 or 40 years. When we take them, we have to be thinking about what that looks like for the next generation.” **Gisella Carr***

*I can't emphasise enough the importance of not being a closed building, but actually being a thoroughfare that you have people come in to see you and then you can drive them up through to the things you're offering.” **Gisella Carr***

## **NELSON CITY 3D CAPITAL OF AOTEAROA - 5 DECEMBER 12.30 PM**

**Simon Duffy - Manager of Uniquely Nelson**

**A vision of Putting the Experiential Back into the CBD**

### **Summary**

Simon Duffy from Uniquely Nelson, an organisation partially funded by the Nelson City Council to promote tourism and business activity in the Nelson central business district (CBD). Simon discussed an initiative proposed two years ago to make Nelson the "3D Capital of New Zealand" by installing 10 interactive 3D pavement artworks. The 3D images would be created by NMIT students and local artists and installed on pavements around the CBD to encourage tourism, social media shares, and foot traffic. After initial enthusiasm, concerns were raised about safety for vision-impaired residents, but alternative approaches used overseas could address this. Simon is now seeking a sponsor to provide the estimated \$45k-\$50k funding needed for an initial 10 artwork installations, with plans to extend the project across buildings in future years.

### **Introducing Uniquely Nelson and the Presenter**

Simon introduced himself as the manager of Uniquely Nelson, an organisation funded by Nelson City Council to promote tourism and business activity in the Nelson central business district (CBD). Uniquely Nelson focuses on marketing the city and building relationships between businesses, Council, and the community.

### **Overview of 3D Pavement Art Initiative**

This proposal was created two years ago, to install 10 interactive 3D artworks on CBD pavement, making Nelson the "3D Capital of New Zealand." The art would be created by NMIT students and local artists and would encourage social media shares and tourism.

### **Year 1 Concept and Examples**

The first year would focus on 3D images related to Nelson's culture on pavements at locations like upper Trafalgar Street.

### **Future Year Plans to Expand onto Buildings**

Future years could expand the 3D artwork onto building facades, inspired by examples from Europe. It was envisioned eventually using projections to make buildings seem to transform at night.

### **Key Partners and Initial Proposal**

Key potential partners include NMIT, Cutting Edge, local artists and businesses. Two years ago, a proposed idea went to Council including a budget to install 10 spots for around \$50k.

### **Concerns Raised About Safety**

After initial enthusiasm, the manager of an organisation for the vision-impaired raised concerns about tripping hazards followed by research solutions used overseas with colour codes to indicate safe zones.

### **Seeking Sponsorship to Proceed**

With Council unable to provide funding now, a sponsor is being sought to cover the \$45k-\$50k estimated cost of installing the first 10 artworks, with plans to extend the project further in future years.

### **Actions**

1. Get private funding for initial 10 3D pavement artworks
2. Install first 3D pavement artworks in Trafalgar Street area
3. Extend 3D artwork onto building facades in future years

## **WHAT IF NELSON HAD PLAYFUL HEART? - 6 DEC 12.30 PM**

**Lance Roozenburg, Landscape Architect, talks about how the integration of playful experiences within the heart of Whakatū can enliven our CBD, facilitate social inclusion, intergenerational participation, and cultural diversity.**

### **Summary**

Landscape architect Lance (Boffa Miskell) shared ideas for incorporating play spaces and playful experiences in Nelson's CBD to make it more vibrant and engaging. He discussed the current lack of spaces for children's play in Nelson's CBD based on a public life survey, the global decline in outdoor play, and the benefits of play across ages, and designed the talk around ideas for making Nelson's CBD more playful and inspiring creative thinking about playing in the urban environment.

Ideas for temporary movable and permanent play installations in the CBD focused on social, experiential, and educational play. Examples are given like chess tables, play sculptures, and integrating play into stormwater design. There was a discussion around issues like integrating play into private developments, using underutilised public spaces, and linking playgrounds into wider transport networks. The talk concluded by highlighting a small project retrofitting play into an existing site.

### **Lack of Play Spaces in Nelson CBD**

A 2019 public life survey found very low percentages of children playing in Nelson's CBD, especially in summer. There is a significant gap between play spaces in the CBD with the closest playground 1.6 km away.

### **Global Decline in Outdoor Play**

There is a concerning global trend of reduced outdoor play for children driven by busier family schedules and increased demands on parents' time. Nelson offers great outdoor recreation options but still faces some similar issues.

## Benefits of Play for All Ages

Play provides many developmental benefits for children while also helping elderly cognitive functions and alleviating dementia symptoms. It facilitates social bonds across generations and assists with emotional responses.

## Ideas for CBD Play Installations

Moveable temporary play installations that pop up across the CBD as well as more permanent play sculptures suited to closed off areas like Upper Trafalgar Street. Lighting installations can also facilitate adult play after dark.

## Types of Play Installations

Play installations can have social elements facilitating interactions, experiential elements that encourage movement and activity, and educational elements like integrating stormwater management or native plantings.

## Example Project - Greenmeadows Seat

A small playground project retrofitted play into an existing Greenmeadows site, adding a skating rail along a seat that created an engaging spot supporting interactions between skaters and other visitors.

## Actions

1. Liaise with developers on integrating play into architectural improvements, whether sensory or active experiential elements.
2. Work with councils on city development optics and existing maintenance contracts to include sensory play in planting renewals.
3. Maximise utilisation of open space like Upper Trafalgar Street for play installations.

*"Play in Australia: benefits the elderly. Interacting with kids, assists in alleviating some of the symptoms of dementia. It improves physical capability. It also gives children a response when they're interacting with the elderly, gives them patience, stories, new bonds and gives them that social interaction." **Lance Roozenburg***

*"Linking back to Margaret Mahy, lighting is critical. The ability for adults to play on elements after the kids have gone to bed does just keep people lingering longer. It keeps them in that environment longer. They work up a bit of a sweat and need another drink." **Lance Roozenburg***

## WHAT IF NELSON HAD OPPORTUNITIES FOR COHOUSING AND COMMUNITY FOCUSED HOUSING? - 6 DECEMBER 2023 5 - 6 PM

Architect William Samuels and cohousing developer Bronwen Newton will discuss the history, ideas and intent of cohousing and community focussed housing development

### Summary

This presentation and discussion focused on co-housing communities in New Zealand, analysing the current housing issues, benefits of co-housing models, and examples of projects in Wellington, Auckland, Dunedin, and Golden Bay. Key takeaways included clustering private homes around shared spaces for community, participatory design process, managing spaces through consensus decisions, and overcoming financing and policy barriers.

Bronwen introduced co-housing features - private homes clustered around shared amenities, gardens and spaces to foster community through participatory planning, consensus decision-

making and mutual support. She highlighted how it offers benefits like stronger communities, increased amenities, environmental sustainability, affordability, and housing diversity.

### **Problems with Current Housing Approaches**

New Zealand relies heavily on sprawling greenfield suburbs by private developers, lacking housing diversity and community spaces. This leads to issues like loss of farmland, transport emissions, unaffordability, and inadequate infrastructure investment.

### **Urban Habitat Collective Example in Wellington**

A 25-unit co-housing project by a group of families in Wellington failed due to cost blowouts from COVID-19 impacts on construction pricing. But strong community bonds developed through their participatory planning process.

### **Takoha Kaiapoi Co-Housing Example in Golden Bay**

This charitable community land trust project features 34 clustered homes with half the 14-hectare site reserved for food production and native forests. The first neighbourhood is completed, and they plan further expansion.

### **Discussion on Co-Housing Possibilities in Nelson**

The audience discussed opportunities and barriers for co-housing in Nelson, including needs for more urban green spaces, overcoming policy constraints, finding suitable sites, and developers embracing participatory models.

*Read more > Co-Housing for Life - Robin Allison, Mary Egan Publishing, 2020*

## **THE HAMPDEN STREET SCHOOL WHAKATŪ CITY PROJECT - 7 DEC 12.30 PM** **Don McLean (Principal) and students shared their recent experience of classes exploring the city**

### **Youth Hub Necessity**

- Local pre-teens from Hampden Street School expressed a need for more "tween spaces" in Nelson's central business district (CBD).
- They identify a lack of places for teenagers to gather and suggest a new youth hub, inspired by a previous arts and youth hub that existed on New St until 2014.

### **Current Hangout Spots**

- Pre-teens currently use Cathedral Steps, library, pop-up park, and shops as hangout places in the CBD.
- The idea of a safe and interactive venue for teenagers is well-received by the students.

### **Students' Agenda for City Improvement**

- Students share findings from lessons conducted in the empty Morrison Street Café building, exploring the city centre.
- Positive aspects of the CBD include unique shops, a popular Saturday market, and walkable distances.
- Suggestions for improvement include more parks, green spaces, native trees, and plants on buildings.
- Affordable shops, inner-city apartments in unoccupied spaces, and additional parking options are proposed.

### **Desired Changes**

- Students advocate for grass and a playground in Morrison St for family enjoyment.
- Recommendations include murals or colourful lights on buildings, an inclusive playground with disability equipment, and a city-themed around local Māori stories.

### **Urging Child-Centric Community Decisions**

- Hampden Street School principal emphasised the importance of involving children in community decisions.
- There are calls for a more representative decision-making group in Nelson.

### **School's Contribution to Community Revitalisation**

- The school has actively contributed to revitalising vacant spaces by displaying children's artwork in Morrison Square.
- The "Creatives in Schools" program, funded by the government, facilitates collaboration between teachers and artists to provide engaging learning experiences.

### **Actions**

1. Establish a youth hub in the CBD for teenagers to gather safely and interactively.
2. Enhance public spaces with more parks, greenery, and art to attract residents and visitors.
3. Consider affordable shops, inner-city apartments, and additional parking options for a more vibrant city centre.
4. Develop a themed playground with disability equipment, inspired by local Māori stories.
5. Emphasised the importance of including children in community decision-making processes.
6. Encouraged collaboration between schools and artists to revitalise vacant spaces.

### **VOICE OF THE PEOPLE - 8 DEC 12.30 PM**

**12-year-old Malachai Ayre has positive things to say about the *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* space and community led development.**

**Below are the ideas submitted by Malachai Ayre. Make/Shift Spaces was impressed with his vision for the future of Nelson and invited him to talk. He brought former Green Party Politician and city Councillor Mike Ward to have an intergenerational conversation.**

- put effort into making biking a safe option for school kids
- tried to make schools more progressive and ready to change
- had a better apprenticeship scheme where passionate Tamariki could get prepped for adulthood
- had a better way of accustoming kids to politics.
- had more advertised ways of engaging the community like this!
- had rates benefits for people who didn't take up more space than they needed
- had an easier way for those who have less to access commodities & council funded shelter
- had pods for the homeless to sleep in
- put more effort into making houses blend into its location
- had a council funded art scholarship making beautifying the Nelson a more viable option
- had more obvious ways of supporting green companies

### **Reimagining Nelson's CBD for Youth Engagement - Private Youth Presentations Richard Brudvik-Lindner and students from Nelson College - Various Dates**

Nelson College Year 10 students, equipped with insights from urban planners, developers,

engineers, and architects, offered revitalisation solutions for Nelson's city centre. Their efforts focused on injecting vibrancy and vitality into the perceived "boring" CBD, showcasing a commitment to research and critical thinking skills development.

These were presented to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, CE, councillors and senior NCC staff:

- **“Square One: Transforming Montgomery for Tomorrow”**
- **“Nelson Streets: From Corridors to Destinations”**
- **“Transforming Trafalgar: Linear Oasis”**

These were the presentations made at the What If Space to civic and business leaders, and members of the public:

- **“Making Nelson East, of Eden: A Destination to Enjoy”**
- **“More For Morrison: Creating A People Space”**
- **“Square One: Transforming Montgomery for Tomorrow” [presented both days]**
- **The Need for Free and Fun Activities**

Students expressed a desire for "free and fun" activities in the town.

Suggestions include a food court, night markets, and more public spaces to draw people in.

#### **Urban Infrastructure Improvements**

- Lime e-bikes and e-scooters, wider footpaths, and biking corridors are proposed to make the city more inviting.
- Emphasis on creating green environments around shops and cafes to encourage people to stay.

#### **Disaffection and Desire for Big City Living**

- Some students expressed doubt about central Nelson's appeal for those in their 20s.
- Teacher Richard Brudvik-Lindner noted a general disaffection with the CBD, highlighting the lack of intentionally created spaces for young people.

#### **Addressing Socialisation Needs**

- Lack of places for socialising in Nelson CBD is a significant concern for 15 and 16-year-olds.
- Suggestions include pop-up spaces for board games, basketball courts in unused alleyways, and transforming empty spaces into youth-friendly areas.

#### **Vibrant Crosswalks and Small Enhancements**

- Students propose colourful crosswalks, citing their positive impact on vibrancy and safety in a town they visited in North Carolina.
- Emphasis on small, easily implementable enhancements like painting footpaths and crossings.
- Students advocate for wider footpaths, even at the expense of reducing car parking spaces.

#### **Actions**

1. Introduce free and fun activities, such as a food court, night markets, and more public spaces.
2. Implement Lime e-bikes, e-scooters, wider footpaths, and biking corridors to enhance city appeal.
3. Create green environments around shops and cafes to improve the overall ambiance.
4. Explore the feasibility of pedestrianising areas like Trafalgar St, inspired by successful models.
5. Consider the establishment of multi-story car parks to maximise public spaces and minimise the need for on-street parking.



6. Address the lack of places for socialising by creating pop-up spaces and repurposing empty areas for youth-friendly activities.
7. Implement colourful crosswalks and other small enhancements to add vibrancy and safety to the CBD.
8. Collaborate with students to ensure their creative ideas are considered in the city's evolution.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF TERTIARY EDUCATION FOR THE ECONOMY - 11 DEC**

**12.30 PM**

**Olivia Hall, Executive Director, Region 3, at Te Pūkenga as well as Chair of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua and the National Iwi Chairs Mātauranga Iwi Leaders Group.**

### **Summary**

Olivia Hall, Executive Director of Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology, joined us to share how tertiary education in Nelson & Tasman region can meet social, cultural, economic and environmental needs. Key points covered included current tertiary education landscape and offerings, industries and GDP breakdown, environmental importance for local lifestyle, potential future state with more localised and flexible delivery, and seeking input on community needs. The discussion highlighted specialisation opportunities in areas like arts, partnerships with industries leveraging local creativity, and accommodation availability as a barrier for attracting students.

Olivia outlined the broad premise of her talk on how tertiary education can meet various societal needs beyond just economics.

### **Overview of Social, Cultural, Economic and Environmental Needs**

Tertiary qualifications contribute to social needs like human relationships and cultural needs around ethnic communities. The region's GDP breakdown and key industries that education helps supply, along with the critical role the environment plays in local lifestyles that programs can help sustain.

### **Current State of Tertiary Education**

Olivia summarised the number of offerings, degrees, learners and employment outcomes from Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology. She noted that there are other providers in the region like the University of Canterbury satellite campus. The intent is discussing how to expand access and better tailor delivery.

### **Future State and Community Input**

Recent tertiary reforms have shifted ideas for more localised and flexible qualifications to meet diverse needs without requiring learners to leave the region. Olivia is seeking input on specific community interests that institutes can be responsive towards.

### **Q&A and Additional Perspectives**

The presentation concluded with perspectives exchanged on striking a balance between specialised local delivery and accessing national-level resources, leveraging local creativity and industries in course design, and accommodation availability as a barrier for attracting students.

*“We have over 100 study options, ten bachelor’s degrees, nearly 7,000 learners, and 85% of our graduates are in employment. So, this is good stuff, but the discussion is around how we make things better.” **Olivia Hall***

**WHAT IF IWI TOLD THEIR STORIES? – 11 DEC 5 – 6 PM**  
**Hemi Sundgren, Te Pouwhakahaere, Ngati Tama,**  
**Donna McLeod, Ngati Rarua, Te Atiawa**

**Summary**

This discussion was about how to incorporate Māori stories into Nelson/Tasman's infrastructure and architecture. Key points included engaging Māori early in planning processes, ensuring cultural safety, articulating shared community values, and telling stories through built spaces. Decisions focused on developing collaborative hubs for Māori artists, a cultural centre at Paru Paru Road, and guidelines for appropriately representing Māori narratives. Action items involved setting up ongoing community dialogues on core values, researching appropriate ways to share different histories, and designing built spaces that reflect diverse local stories.

**Importance of Early and Ongoing Engagement with Māori**

There was an emphasis on engaging Māori right from the initial planning and design stages rather than bringing them in later just for blessings. This enables co-ownership and ensures cultural narratives are appropriately represented based on mana whenua guidance.

**Need for Cultural Safety and Appropriateness**

Caution was urged regarding which histories are ready to be publicly told versus allowing time for healing, along with avoiding tokenistic Māori symbols without meaning. Judgments on safety and readiness vary across groups and change over time.

**Articulating Nelson/Tasman's Core Community Values**

Dialogue was proposed with diverse local groups to articulate shared values related to sustainability, access, heritage preservation etc. as a foundation. Architectural and infrastructure decisions should then align with and reflect these core principles.

**Incorporating Diverse Narratives through Built Spaces**

There are opportunities to tell stories via architecture, public art and amenities based on early collaboration with Māori and other communities. Concepts included cultural trails, indigenous plants signifying lineages, and spaces enabling artistic creation.

**Action Items**

1. Set up an online think tank welcoming all perspectives to discuss community values and history.
2. Research appropriate ways to represent different historical narratives in public projects.
3. Design an arts/culture centre facility in Paru Paru Road area after engaging with local Māori.

*“What if we could tell our stories? I think we could tell our stories through architecture, our buildings, and public spaces. I think we've got a heck of a lot of opportunity to be able to do that through various manifestations, opportunities, and creation of the right spaces for our people to come together.” **Hemi Sundgren***

**IMPORTANCE OF ARTS & CULTURE TO CITIES & ECONOMIES - 12 DEC 12.30 PM**  
**Facilitated discussion between Ali Boswijk, CEO Nelson Tasman Chamber of**  
**Commerce, Richard Chadderton**

**Summary**

This discussion on reimagining and transforming Nelson city centre into a vibrant, sustainable community through urban intensification focused on increasing inner-city population density.

Key points raised include current lack of a genuine central community, learning from European cities, challenges around risk mitigation and responsibility, the need for respectful conversations between stakeholders, and taking an incremental 'street-by-street' approach.

Ali Boswijk (Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce) introduced guest speaker Richard Chadderton to discuss his ideas around rethinking Nelson city centre. Richard argued that Nelson currently lacks a genuine central community, with insufficient residents to create social connections and support businesses.

### **Envisioning an Intensified City Centre**

A suggested denser and more vibrant city centre modelled after European cities, with increased inner-city living spaces and population to create self-sustaining sub-communities. with an outlined conceptual plan to sustainably house around 10,000 residents.

### **Overcoming Risks and Resistance**

The discussion covered challenges around risk mitigation for property owners and businesses from intensification, the need for respectful engagement between stakeholders, and taking an incremental block-by-block approach to demonstrate benefits.

### **Reimagining Responsibilities and Culture**

Issues were raised regarding confusion over council versus resident responsibilities, fostering positive interactions, and shifting culture over time to support urban living spaces.

*“The third level of the security where we create a community of trust and communication and intimacy and love within that city centre, which is delivered through the arts, we can actually design and build over the next 50 to 100 years an intensified population of Nelson that is becoming self-sustaining economically and culturally.”* **Richard Chadderton**

### **UNPICKING MYTHICAL EUROPE - 12 DEC 5 - 6 PM**

**George Weeks, Urban Designer Kainga Ora, Auckland**

**How many New Zealanders have travelled to Europe, experienced the joys of liveable streets and thought “nah that couldn’t happen here, we’re different”. We are told that “Kiwis love their cars; public transport is in European DNA” and that transport preferences are somehow genetically determined. The reality is different; people are people. We shape our environment and then it shapes us.**

### **Summary**

This public talk by principal urban designer George Weeks on rethinking cities for people over cars, drawing on European examples. The main topics covered included myths about European cities, light rail success in France, bus rapid transit, impacts of space allocation on transport modes, Mini Holland scheme in London to deliver Dutch infrastructure and behaviours, mobility devices, and ways to break car dependency. This talk argued for more focus on pedestrians, cyclists and public transport over private vehicles to create more liveable and equitable cities.

Timo Neubauer welcomed speaker George Weeks who flew to Nelson from Auckland and outlined his background in urban design and planning. The talk covered practical examples debunking common myths to inform local decision making in Nelson, New Zealand.

### **European Cities and Transport Myths**

Emphasised diversity across European countries and cities, with New Zealand most similar demographically and economically to Scandinavia. with a debunking of myths that all

European cities are old, dense, anti-car and have innate cycling cultures, using examples of car usage, parking issues, and infrastructure projects.

### **Light Rail Success in France**

Light rail has boomed in France since the 1980s, enabled by dedicated rights of way, attractive vehicles, and street enhancements. Transit maps and features of light rail systems in Marseille, Bordeaux and Paris show strong ridership and urban revitalisation.

### **Other Rapid Transit Option**

Bus rapid transit systems in Bogota and Auckland moving large volumes of people on exclusive busways. Trams have been shown to enable greater pedestrianisation

### **Impacts of Transport Mode Space Allocation**

A key theme is the enormous difference in space efficiency between cars versus pedestrians, bicycles and public transport. Two photos illustrated the point, showing parking spaces needed for one car commute versus the people capacity of that road space for other modes.

### **London's Mini Holland Scheme**

The Mini Holland program aimed to create Dutch neighbourhoods in London by reallocating road space from cars to bicycles and pedestrians. Despite initial backlash, it delivered the intended behaviours with more walking, cycling and business activity on the transformed streets.

### **Potential for Wide Range of Mobility Devices**

The talk emphasised mobility devices beyond bikes enable wider access for population groups like the elderly. It showed Dutch mobility scooter users benefiting from cycling infrastructure, aligning with a view that good design should focus on people's freedom over vehicles.

### **Breaking Car Dependency Development Cycles**

It was argued that car-centric development patterns reinforce themselves by pushing more peripheral growth. By constraining sprawl and using policy levers to make urban intensification more feasible and profitable.

## **IMPORTANCE OF CREATIVITY TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC ACTIVITY - 13 DEC 12.30 PM**

**Jonny Hendriksen, CEO of Shuttlerock, is a seasoned entrepreneur, with more than 20 years of experience within the ever-changing digital marketing scene. He has had a pioneering impact within the Japanese market, where he founded and listed ValueClick Japan on the Tokyo Stock Exchange with a monthly reach of 40 million users a day. That pioneering spirit was still alive and well when Jonny founded Shuttlerock in 2011. His company's clients include well-known brands such as Jim Beam, Les Mills, Subway, Nestle, Cathay Pacific, Haagen Dazs and Gatorade.**

**Jonny is particularly interested in building internet technology that can assist companies and organisations to communicate their message to their customers which leads to increased revenues. Winner of the 2016 Facebook Innovation Spotlight Award, Jonny now lives in Tasman.**

### **Summary**

Johnny Hendrickson, CEO of Shuttlerock, spoke about our opportunity to make **Nelson, New Zealand the most entrepreneurial city in the country.** He discussed the importance of creativity, arts and embracing change in transforming storefronts and revitalising the CBD.

Key points included leveraging Nelson's lifestyle, talent and quietness for global innovation in his own company, the value of creativity from Richard Florida's 'Rise of the Creative Class', quick testing of ideas in 8-12 weeks, supporting arts to encourage imagination and community, showcasing local success stories, and shifting mindsets to enable entrepreneurial risk-taking.

Ali Boswijk (Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce) introduced Jonny Hendrickson, Shuttlerock, who highlighted that the company earns all revenue internationally. The company works globally in areas like AI and user-generated content for major brands.

### **Importance of Creativity and Arts**

Creativity and the arts are crucial for vibrant, entrepreneurial cities, as Richard Florida outlined the economic impact of the creative class in 'The rise of the creative class' - published by Basic Books 2002. Shuttlerock provides sponsorship to local arts initiatives.

### **Leveraging Lifestyle for Innovation**

Nelson's lifestyle, access to nature and quietness enables innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurial thinking. This environment empowers the team at Shuttlerock to outpace much larger tech competitors globally.

### **Encouraging Entrepreneurial Mindsets**

Entrepreneurial thinking and risk-taking in Nelson's youth and companies, should be encouraged by providing 'canvases' to quickly test ideas, taking pressure off failure, and showcasing local success stories.

### **Rethinking and Revitalising Storefronts**

It is predicted that much of Nelson's storefront retail will face challenges but there are opportunities to transform into more personalised, service-focused businesses embracing changes.

### **Actions**

1. Research evidence linking access to nature and creativity.
2. Develop 'canvases' for quickly testing urban innovation ideas with clear go/no-go decisions.
3. Highlight local entrepreneurial success stories through channels like seminars, media interviews and awards.
4. Survey ideas from Nelson youth and companies for revitalising storefronts and CBD.

*"My head of creative goes kite boarding at lunchtime. And he walks into the Abel Tasman track on the weekends and believe me when he hits the ground running on Monday morning he is fresh, he's crisp and ready to go. "* **Jonny Hendriksen**

*"One thing is we should really cherish and make sure that everyone who lives here and does things is they can be brave and be themselves, whether that's being an entrepreneur or an art environment and that sort of something which is, I think the future and I think art, encourages imagination, I think that's something which is really key."*  
**Jonny Hendriksen**

## **CHCHCHCH CHANGES - ARCHITECTURAL LEARNINGS FROM POSTGRADUATE TEACHING IN AFRICA, INDIA, AMERICA, AND AOTEAROA - 14 DEC 12.30 PM**

**Jeremy Smith is Design Director at Irving Smith Architects, a research-based design practice working in sensitive environments throughout Aotearoa New Zealand and abroad.**

**Key to his practice, teaching and research is understanding how buildings inhabit an environment that constantly undergoes change, be it in city or rural landscapes. And with their soft architecture comes the question; Is being finished, finished?**

### **Summary**

Architect Jeremy Smith spoke about strategies for adaptable architecture focused on smaller components to enable change, using examples like the Scion building made of renewable timber structured for disassembly. He argued carbon counting certificates have negligible impact compared to sustainable construction choices, and current standards aim too high instead of widespread small improvements. Action items include analysing carbon costs over full building lifecycles and across portfolios, designing in phases for later adaptation, and advocating code changes valuing iterative development.

Jeremy Smith is the design director at Irving Smith Architects. His firm has won awards for timber buildings allowing landscape participation.

### **Strategies for Smaller Building Components**

Dividing buildings into smaller replaceable moments enables change, compared to large chunks requiring landscape control. This patchwork approach works with natural shifts like forest growth rather than resisting external change.

### **Demonstrating Strategy in Scion Building**

This concept was demonstrated via the Scion building in Rotorua made of renewable plantation timber structured for disassembly. The dovetail joints and screw fuses allow seismic repairs and iteration. Its carbon impact equals just 35 minutes of New Zealand forestry regrowth.

### **Critiquing Current Carbon Accounting**

It was argued that carbon neutral certificates have negligible offset impact compared to architects choosing sustainable materials. Standards aim too high rather than widespread small improvements in carbon beta across buildings.

### **Teaching Adaptive Architecture**

A university coursework includes using city models to test student building designs over time against earthquakes, demolition, and other shifts. It developed carbon-aware architecture focused on later adaptation.

*"I always had a dream of Nelson becoming like a world-class beacon of fantastic timber construction." **Jeremy Smith***

## **WHAT IF NELSON BECAME A LEADER IN CLIMATE RESPONSIVE DESIGN? - 14 DEC 5 – 6 PM**

**Local built environment professionals Lindsay Wood & Jan Heijs speak about the climate crisis and ways that Nelson could respond. Topics include the impact of a changing climate on our city, learnings from New Orleans's response to climate change coastal resilience projects, sponge cities and how these might be applied to our local context.**

### **Summary**

This presentation discussed approaches for climate change resilience in urban design and infrastructure in Nelson, New Zealand. Lindsay Wood emphasised the urgency of climate threats, the need for transformative action, and imagining a sustainable future city. Jan Heiss

focused on issues with current stormwater infrastructure design and opportunities for a 'sponge city' approach integrating green infrastructure.

### **Framing the Climate Crisis**

Lindsay Wood set an urgent tone regarding escalating climate threats, arguing the public should be 'terrified' at projections. There was emphasis on the need to deeply understand the problem before developing solutions. Key issues are surpassing planetary boundaries, climate tipping points, energy constraints limiting societal functions, and current urban systems being extremely carbon intensive.

### **Getting Local - Nelson's Situation**

Nelson is vulnerable as a small remote community with climate exposure, limited transport links, heavy reliance on threatened industries like fishing and forestry, and risk of Alpine Fault earthquakes. Rapid emission reductions of over 8% a year are required to meet IPCC 1.5-degree pathways.

### **Imagining a Sustainable Nelson**

In imagining a future sustainable Nelson, it was suggested shifting thinking to focus on concepts like intergenerational wellbeing, social cohesion, stabilising climate, and global contribution. Key urban design elements include quality public and active transport, distributed amenities, green buildings, and urban intensification.

### **Problems with Current Stormwater Design**

Jan Heiss analysed issues with conventional stormwater infrastructure design, including building on floodplains, excessive hard surfaces, stream degradation from piping and channelisation, and barriers preventing drainage into vegetated areas.

### **Opportunities for a 'Sponge City' Approach**

A 'sponge city' approach was suggested, integrating green infrastructure elements like rain gardens, green roofs, and permeable paving to mitigate flooding, treat stormwater pollution and provide urban greening benefits. Design involvement, education and incentives can drive community acceptance and uptake.

*“Policy makers really resist the level of change needed, and one of the reasons is that they get filtered information that comes through, starts with science, it goes through editorial panels, it winds up going through secretaries and to the politicians.”*

**Lindsay Wood**

*“A big generous open space and green corridors, busy shops and amenities, shade, water and breezeways for coolness, the ability to live well without a car, the noise of people, not cars, frequent free public transport, and a Nelson-style of climate-friendly buildings.”*

**Lindsay Wood**

*“The urban heating is interesting, this is just a little picture I found, like on a sunny day the tarseal is about 44 degrees, the grass berm is 25 degrees and under the shrubs it's only 19 degrees, so we can see what causes it from an urban heating point of view.”*

**Jan Heijs**

## **WAKATŪ INCORPORATION: INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMMES OF WORK TE TAUHU INTERGENERATIONAL STRATEGY AND TŪPUNA AO ORA: CLIMATORIUM - 15 DEC 12.30 PM**

**Miriana Stephens – Ngāti Rārua, Ngai Te Rangi, Ngāti Ranginui was born and raised in Motueka and has four children. She is a trustee for Te Āwhina Marae, Te Rūnanga o**

**Ngāti Rārua and a director of Wakatū Incorporation. Miriana was the programme leader for the Te Taihu Intergenerational Strategy and leads the intergenerational projects for Wakatū focussing on international and local collaborations in climate, indigenous organisms, and traditional foods.**

## **Summary**

Miriana Stevens from Wakatū Incorporation shared the intergenerational projects in Nelson Tasman, centered around a regional strategy called 'Te Taihu Intergenerational Regional Strategy (TTI)'. Key details included: building over 20 new homes at Marae Motueka for local families, securing major funding from government and partners, convening workshops and community events engaging 30,000 people online, launching youth focused 'Climatorium' climate innovation hub, partnering with Denmark on climate solutions, mapping 2,800 native plant species with conservation value. Action items cover bringing more regional initiatives under the TTI banner, growing the Climatorium startup/education ecosystem, and leading New Zealand's transition to regenerative organic agriculture.

Miriana Stephens introduced herself, her Māori heritage, family business background and leadership roles. She discussed Wakatū Incorporation's vision to sustainably develop the region over a 500-year timeframe.

## **Intergenerational Regional Strategy**

The Te Taihu Intergenerational Regional Strategy (TTI) was initiated to create an intergenerational vision and address the challenges being faced by the region.

## **Priority Projects Under the TTI Strategy**

Priority TTI projects Wakatū Incorporation is delivering include housing development at Marae Motueka and a youth-focused climate innovation hub called the Climatorium to accelerate regional sustainability solutions.

## **Partnership with Denmark on the Climatorium**

An ongoing partnership with Denmark to share lessons from their Climatorium model, engage international climate experts, and pursue EU grant funding - with a goal of building a vibrant community of climate entrepreneurs.

## **Native Plants Mapping and Conservation**

A Wakatū Incorporation project has mapped 2,800 native plant species in the region, 45 with no formal names, which hold potential commercial and conservation value - integrating indigenous knowledge and practices.

## **Food and Agriculture Initiatives**

Wakatū Incorporation is working on initiatives to reconnect people to ancestral lands and traditional crops, drawing on models like seed banks from indigenous communities in Peru - to enhance food security and transition toward regenerative agriculture.

## **Actions**

1. Bring additional regional projects and partners under TTI strategy alignment.
2. Grow startup and education ecosystem through the Climatorium climate innovation hub.
3. Pilot regenerative organic transition programs on Wakatū Incorporation lands and across the region



## APPENDIX II

### WHAT IF WHAKATŪ NELSON...? 300 IDEAS POSTED BY CITIZENS

Residents of Whakatū Nelson were invited to post their positive ideas for the short-, medium- and longer-term future of the city centre. They could submit ideas via the website or in person by filling out a form and posting it in a box at the *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* space at 263 Hardy Street. These were then printed as a What if poster and collated on the walls of our *What if Whakatū Nelson...? Make/Shift Space* at 263 Hardy Street.

These are the almost 300 ideas that were submitted by a broad demographic of residents. We have sorted into themes and subheadings. Each positive idea submitted by the public is listed below.

#### MANA WHENUA

- our city told more stories from the voices of eight iwi of Te Taihū/ the top of the south?
- had a playground that reflected local pūrākau from our 8 main iwi?
- pakohe (argillite) was celebrated in our public spaces?
- had more marae & cultural centres for tatou?
- supported Maori arts by creating a space/centre for all ages?
- had taonga puoro soundscapes used throughout the city?
- we had a public garden celebrating New Zealand's native fauna and rongoā?
- created a walk to tell the story of the Tenths Trust and mark a selection of the sites in the CBD?

#### NELSON CITY COUNCIL

##### INVESTMENT

- council were to use long term bonds to underwrite development now, so that current residents would not be overtaxed to build them, and future residents could use them while helping to pay for them?
- encouraged city enhancing projects by offering reduced rates, or other financial inducements, to businesses, organisations, philanthropists etc interested in developing such projects?
- is not afraid to invest money now to make the city more attractive for the next generation?

##### TRANSPORT

- had a bus route that travelled the length of Bridge Street for visitors and locals and has a stop that includes the Courthouse, The Suter, The Queens Gardens, Green Gables Retirement Village and on to a circuit to Tāhunanui and back?
- had a bus route that circulated from the airport, along Tāhunanui, to the city, court, Suter, NMIT, Hospital and back with hop on hop off pass for visitors with storytelling or audio on your mobile phone?
- had public transport that runs more frequently, so we can get around without worrying about the buses being late?
- had a tram to connect Nelson, Stoke and Richmond – maybe along the railway reserve? With a branch to the airport and up to the marina?
- used its railway reserve for a light passenger railway?
- was connected with Murchison and Blenheim with a regular reasonably priced bus service?
- was even more bike friendly?
- had a cycleway running from Atawhai to Hira?
- restricted the cars to 30 kms/ph?
- had a cycleway in the city centre?

- had a park & ride to reduce city centre car parks?
- were brave enough to pedestrianise Trafalgar St?
- built a parking building to stop resistance to pedestrianizing the streets of Nelson?
- had a Mevo car share system at scale?
- prioritised people over cars, by making the inner city a car-free area?
- pedestrianised Trafalgar, Hardy, and Bridge Sts to create a vibrant people-centred centre like Christchurch has done?
- had a parking building instead of squares given over to parking? A building could be sky bridged to another building
- had a parking building instead of large squares devoted to parking and instead created essential civic infrastructure, green pocket parks and apartments for living?
- had the Founders Train come into town & back linking Founders to the CBD?
- stretched the market along Trafalgar Street to test activating it as pedestrian shared street?

## **POLICY**

- there were benefits for retaining and repurposing heritage buildings?
- there were incentives for developers to build attractive environmentally friendly buildings?
- incentivised three storey buildings in the city centre but controlled quality for anything higher?
- renovated as many heritage buildings as possible?
- put to use all of the vacant residential & commercial property?
- had owners on periphery of Nelson's CBD taking pride in the aesthetics of their buildings?
- we encouraged studio and low cost "conversion" style housing in empty offices and shops?
- rates for independent retailers were greatly reduced in the Nelson CBD to encourage & allow for a more unique, creative & interactive shopping experience?
- the size of Nelson's CBD was reduced with a ring road (Selwyn Pl; Rutherford St; Halifax St; Collingwood St) and rezoned the outer areas as residential only?
- car dealing and repair was defined as an industrial activity and so all this prime real estate would be available for people rather than cars?
- encouraged all the light industrial car yards moved out of the CBD?
- stopped all forestry within view of the CBD. How can we say Nelson is beautiful when our hills are on a rotation of decimation?
- replaced the rubbish bins in Nelson parks with solar powered compactors?
- council properly dredged the Maitai River to avoid another flood?
- invested some money and energy into Founders Park which by the way is a valuable NCC asset creatives welcome Arts Music Theatre Dance Films Workshops - Reduce admission fee with dogs welcome on a lead Pet friendly?
- council actually did amalgamate with Tasman District Council?
- just ignored imposed planning limits and let 'natural change'?
- had free parking ALL day?
- opened up the ISite ASAP?

## **LIBRARY / CIVIC CENTRE**

- realised that a multipurpose, mixed use library development would catalyse development of the CBD and be a way to strengthen the community's social fabric?
- library building was built incorporating rentable space for cafes boutique retail (a model for this exists in Palmerston North?)
- library was a multi-purpose space for people and interactions?
- library also contained the Council Chamber?
- built a new community hub that houses a library, meeting spaces, cafe, council offices?

- had a cultural precinct, new concert hall, library, art & artisans' quarter?
- had a library inside Montgomery or Buxton car parks, connecting to Trafalgar St? An enclave connecting to a pedestrian armature?
- library was built out of Nelson pine?
- had a library with a Genealogy & Whakapapa Centre built into it?
- the new Nelson library was more than a library...adding spaces that bring new people into the space...like a Fashion Design Studio & Sewing Workshop (shades of Project Runway)?
- built the civic house and library in a repurposed building at the NMIT, Cathedral end of town?
- enlivened the town with a library that incorporated creative uses such as a Pop-Up Poetry Slam/Comedy Club?
- had a new civic centre/library/ town square on either Buxton or Montgomery Square with adjoining alternative parking options delivered nearby?

### **CIVIC INVESTMENT**

- created a town square, to bring ethnic & other festivals into the heart of the city?
- had an intergenerational hub in the city – where older people could meet during the day, and teens could hang out at night?
- had an interactive science museum?
- NMIT/Te Pukenga was connected to the city via a cleverly designed link?
- Rutherford Park was turned into a sports hub for the whole community (a bit like Greenmeadows). Include an indoor hub - somewhere for young people to hang out?

### **PUBLIC SPACES**

- had a marina promenade for lunchtime walkers?
- had seating similar to Terrace in CHCH for people to enjoy lunch?
- had a parking building freeing Montgomery and Buxton Squares into beautiful public spaces?
- made the Civic House clock tower an iconic feature – with artwork, lighting, and greenery?
- had a basketball court, tennis court, squash pétanque for older people – hopscotch?
- more fairy lights were put around the city's trees in winter?
- had places for people to live in the centre of the city?
- made Bridge St one way with a wide boulevard down the sunny side?
- condensed car parks into buildings to free up land for housing and green space?
- had a walkway over the Haven?
- the Saturday Market took place on Trafalgar St?
- built a lot of affordable apartments above the council parking lots?
- turned the carparks into roller discos at night?

### **ADVOCACY**

- Nelson became a super city? As an immigrant I see Nelson as a supercity having an airport, port, tourism, and agriculture. Nelson should retain talented skilled immigrants through short-term, medium-term, and long-term job creation which will expand the city. Short-term projects and events create short-term jobs, but long-term entrepreneurial jobs in STEM Fields in affiliation with universities would create a great city in the future.
- persuaded central government to move some of its operations to Nelson, so that we had more high-income residents living and working here?
- had more diverse representation on its council?
- councillors were to be out and about in the local community for personal contact rather than designed and posed photo shoots?

### **ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE**

## **ARTS PRECINCT**

- had a dedicated artist's precinct?
- had a Crisps Lane / Selwyn Place / Rutherford / Mews Street Art Precinct?
- created artistic lighting in Crisps Lane & Rutherford Mews to make it safe at night?

## **WOW**

- there was a permanent home for a World of Wearable Art Museum in the city?
- bring back WOW Museum!
- reopened the arts section of the WOW museum?

## **PUBLIC ART**

- had awesome public art, that was a drawcard nationally and internationally?
- had some of the beautiful light exhibits from Te Ramaroa permanently installed?
- some of the Te Ramaroa artworks were purchased or loaned for year-round display?
- was beautified by permanent light installations?
- supported more large-scale public works of art and then turned that into a tourist attraction/artwalk?
- had different thinkers/artists/philosophers in residence each year –and they left artwork or poems behind to brighten the city?
- showcased contemporary sculpture (changing twice a year) on the plinth of the cathedral steps?
- encouraged to paint murals on the building walls like they did in CHCH after the earthquakes?
- had community graffiti boards that can be changed from time to time?
- had a legal graffiti wall in the CBD?
- had more art for people with visual disabilities?
- showed more of the many cultures and heritages who live here?
- had a council funded art scholarship making beautifying the Nelson a more viable option?
- the Nelson CBD reflected what is unique about our region - stories, heritage, art?
- we returned to being an arty, boutiquey, funky CBD like it used to be 20 years ago? My friends and I used to come to Nelson and would love the shopping, 'arty farty' in the town centre. It's not like that now. Lots of 'to lease' signs and not much uniqueness. Enticing smaller and unique
- businesses would rebuild Nelson's reputation again and bring people in again? Leave Richmond to the malls and high street names. Make Nelson about the arts, crafts, boutiques, quirks, 'fun little city' - aim for vibrancy similar to Nelson markets.
- had a night market with container shops as an outlet for artists & musicians?
- had a Sikh temple?
- marketed and positioned Nelson Whakatū as a Creative City with rich cultural experiences

## **GREENING OF WHAKATŪ NELSON**

- covered the city walls and rooftops with solar panels and plants?
- had green roofs throughout our city?
- turned all the tilt-slab concrete building sides into living green walls?
- had green walls on CBD buildings?
- green walled the council clock tower?
- the clock tower could tell the tide? What could our city look like with more clues/references to the tidal estuarine nature of the surrounding moana?
- had rain gardens all the way up into the hills, instead of only drainage?
- had rain gardens and treasured its water instead of just drainage?
- went back to identifying the original sponge zones?

- started canalising some of the reclaimed land using the fill to raise ground level?
- uncovered one stream in the city's fringe covered by a culvert?
- used drones or volunteers to plant thousands of mangroves in currently unused tidal flats to protect from coastal erosion and absorb carbon?
- made an urban wetland at Saltwater Creek near the Trafalgar Centre?
- had big trees shading the big carpark squares? Right now, they're bleak!
- had tree cover to provide shade and quiet for pedestrians and cyclists to enjoy Rocks Road, and all of the shopping areas that the hot sun and heavy traffic make so unpleasant?
- stopped pollarding the plane trees and grew them into a shady, peaceful canopy? Imagine Collingwood St being actually nice to walk and bike along.
- created enclaves of peaceful nature in its city centre so people want to live there?
- had community gardens all over the place, so anyone could join in?
- turned uninhabitable sections into community gardens all through the city?
- only grew kokihi (NZ native spinach) in the CBD?
- encouraged more native birds in the city parks with native trees and feeders?
- was known as NZ's Eco city?
- moved the proposed Climatorium into town?
- was NZ's first carbon zero town?
- became carbon better?
- made more of its botanical heritage?
- harnessed all its sunshine for energy?
- had more obvious ways of supporting green companies?
- had open-air cafes under the shade of Trafalgar St's plane trees? Instead of cars?
- had an ecovillage? A residential community of affordable homes built with natural materials and tiny homes, with food gardens and a food forest, with an alternative education centre, with appropriate technologies for water capture and store, micro-energy grid, solar water heaters, and biogas, with a makerspace and a commercial kitchen, with small offices for onsite business. There can be an urban ecovillage and a rural one. All the homes would be affordable.
- had more nature & more music, and supernatural designs?

## **URBAN DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT**

- had an annual summer pavilion, providing a hub for events, arts, and tourism?
- had a communal relaxation shelter from the sun, wind and rain?
- had wooden seats (not metal) and shade for people to sit on?
- had a permanently covered outdoor dance floor to share our love of dance!?
- had a dog park? There are so few places left with the Maitai off limits due to dangerous levels of cyanobacteria and the Glen, Grampians, Tāhunanui and Rough Island etc full of grass seeds that burrow through dogs' skin it's hard to find anywhere safe other than Mitre 10
- had a mobility scooter recharger hub with a cafe or coffee cart beside it open longer for social interaction?
- had more parks and courtyards around town to sit down and take a break, maybe to get a cup of coffee or tea? With our kids and dogs? After school?
- had pocket parks instead of ugly car yards?
- speakers corner for anyone to talk/share ideas in public space?
- got all the big polluting automobiles off our lovely streets (Bridge, Hardy and Trafalgar) and parked them in a multi-level carpark (maybe Whakatū Square behind Council Building) and left the town centre with more green spaces and outdoor furnishings where we all can meet and greet each other as a community? Maybe a trolley service for the elderly to get around?
- built on land we still have?
- What if Nelson had a Market Hall?

- What if Nelson had a Regional Investment Fund, where locals can invest into local and community projects?
- What if Nelson utilised a rates-based retail incentive scheme, with penalty rates for empty or underutilised retail spaces and rates cuts for buildings occupied by start-ups/small businesses/artists/community groups?
- What if Nelson had retail 'pods' such as those in Mapua, for use by start-up businesses, artists, and craftspeople?
- What if Nelson had a scheme to convert vacant upper floor CBD office spaces into low-cost residential units, similar to the Te Kāinga Ora's affordable rental program in Wellington?
- What if Nelson had an Urban Development Agency?
- put more effort into making houses blend into their location?
- found a new home for the tank farm?
- developers treasured our historic buildings for their point of difference and added value?
- did more with Kinzett Terrace?
- Albion Square was enlivened and interpreted and used recreationally?
- had a nightlife lane of bars, clubs, and food with fairy lights?
- took traffic out of Church Street and let East Street and Nicolas Cantina sprawl out?
- put bollards on Church Street between 5pm – till closing, so the cafes can sprawl onto the street?
- was renowned nationally for its boutique, unique, artisan shops, cafes and paved, pedestrian-friendly, inner-city streets, encouraging street musicians and buskers? We'd become a destination, like Christchurch's Riverside Market area. We'd need to provide parking outside the central pedestrian area and public transport, perhaps running the train between the central city and Founders Park? Central city rents will need to come down though to make this affordable for retailers.
- became the home of pine / wooden buildings?
- invested in some stunning buildings designed by world-class architects, to make the city more enjoyable for residents and to attract visitors? Murals painted on blank concrete walls just doesn't cut it. Think Bilbao.

## **WATER – ACCESS TO WATER, THE OCEAN AND RIVERS**

- created decks around the Crop & Food building that step down to the water for access for swimmers?
- turned the old warehouse by Styx into a cafe/bar allowing use of wharf to watch the waterfront activity?
- the electricity building on Wakefield Quay was transformed into a fabulous magnet for visitors and Nelsonians, to enjoy the beautiful harbour & mountain vistas?
- had a marina development with restaurants and bars?
- had a public pier off the old electricity building and the port paid for it?
- had saltwater pools off on Rocks Rd?
- put fountains and sculptures in Trafalgar Street like in Europe?
- had water activities at playgrounds - like water jets!
- had a splash pad?
- had access to the river for launching watercraft, yachts, paddleboards and boats?
- had better access to play in the river? Not just the Maitai, but also the stream that's been hidden under St Vincent and Vanguard Streets?
- had activities & restaurants along the Maitai?
- had places in the city where we could touch the Maitai River?
- built a weir to keep the Maitai River constantly full & generate electricity?
- had a pop-up sauna with views of the ocean or the river?
- had hot pools at Tāhunanui like Te Puna Taimoana in Brighton?
- had a surf wave pool to attract visitors and young people all year round?
- had a beachfront strip of cafes and bars actually close to the water?

- had a promenade full of shops, cafes and bars along the beach?
- had a water/aquatic centre?
- had an aquarium?
- the eel pond in the Queens Gardens was returned to being an eel pond and there was kaitiaki of the tuna?

## **SOCIAL COHESION**

- matched Nelson's philanthropists with causes/people/ideas they could support to make Whakatū Nelson great?
- connected the corporate world with the Not For Profit / NGO organizations so we can learn more, trust more & new progress can be made together?
- made it mandatory to think about future generations with every decision the city makes?
- had a functioning homeless shelter to help rough sleepers?
- had an easier way for those who have less to access commodities & council funded shelter?
- had pods for the homeless to sleep in?
- utilised all empty houses, shops and business premises?
- had rates benefits for people who didn't take up more space than they needed?
- homes were built for needs not greeds?
- had a hub where people could expand and exchange their knowledge and ideas?
- had an annual Thinker in Residence to continue the energy of this project?
- embraced open dialogue with people who have views different to their own instead of cancelling people they disagree with?
- had a shared vision that we ALL bought into and took responsibility (individually and collectively) of delivering. One that celebrated who we are, prepared us for the future and benefited everyone.
- tried to make schools more progressive and ready to change?
- had a better apprenticeship scheme where passionate Tamariki could get prepped for adulthood?
- made sure that every child was seen, valued and heard?
- had a Polytech focused on making the whole community thrive?
- had a better way of accustoming kids to politics?
- campaigned for a four-day working week in Nelson and celebrated the fact the town was shut on Monday?
- ran a Universal Basic Income study to see whether it could leverage all the underemployed skill and talent in the city?
- supported a knowledge & creative economy that thrived in the winter, complementing the fruit and tourism economies that thrive in the summer?
- had more advertised ways of engaging the community like this!?
- supported Richmond / Waimea and Richmond / Waimea supported Nelson?
- residents all smiled at one another?
  - a city of warmth and sunshine
  - a city of genuine hospitality and inclusivity
  - a city of peace and harmony
- residents helped their neighbours and did one good deed everyday?
- promoted random acts of kindness and rewarded good behaviour (choosing to cycle etc)?

## **EVENTS & IDENTITY**

- campaigned to make Te Taero a Kereopa/Te Tahuna a Tama-i-ea the Boulder Bank a UNESCO World Heritage site?
- had a heritage trail linking both Iwi and European locations? I visited Boston in the United States in 2015. The main reason to visit was to walk the Freedom Trail. It's an historical trail based around the American revolution <https://www.thefreedomtrail.org/> As

an example the oldest post box in New Zealand in use on its original site is in Hardy Street. Be great as a visitor to post a letter or postcard using the post box while one walks around other locations.

- had more storytelling brochure guides available (printed and online) to experience Whakatū i.e. bicultural history, heritage, retail, hospitality, public art, notable trees etc. And keep visitors and locals in town longer?
- the ISite was mobile? e.g. a caravan or similar branded. Then it could for example be relocated by a cruise ship or the airport or when we are expecting lots of people in town like kapa haka
- had a Taste of the region area for local businesses to promote their products/services/food etc, arts/sports/education/culture?
- opened 1903 Square to bands, buskers & live music?
- had a permanent Speigeltent built by Nelson Pine for events?
- held an annual Make a Wish Festival for everyone and we floated our wishes down the Maitai River?
- upgraded the cricket stadium at Saxton to bring more international cricket teams?
- had a wacky 'What's On in Nelson' weekly digital newsletter, website & social media?
- had 'colonnes Maurice' as in Paris for posters about What's On?
- had a fit-for-purpose events guide as well as a Nelson events marketing team?
- a calendar for all events in Nelson for businesses?
- had a hop on hop off bus for tourists with commentary?
- had a rooftop bar?
- had garden tours?
- had a regional soup?
- had a young adult ball?
- had a dedicated comedy club?
- held its very own version of a 'Glastonbury Festival'?
- had regular events?
- catered events for the young and stopped catering all events to the elderly?
- had family friendly events?
- campaigned to rename some of our streets and public places to reflect our cultural identities rather than our colonial past and British history that is not ours?

## **BUSINESS, HOSPITALITY & RETAIL**

- had a Nelson signature dish?
- identified and celebrated regional produce and cuisine on the city's menus.
- cafes & restaurants provide a conversation table for individuals?
- had good places to tether dogs when we went shopping?
- had a cafe open after 3pm?
- had a cat café?
- residents were able to find out which cafes and restaurants were open for breakfast, lunch or dinner on a Monday?
- celebrated local artisans from the wider area and encouraged shopkeepers to stock artisan products?
- had a significant area (or areas) of temporary tables and chairs in the centre of the Saturday market so people could enjoy sitting down to rest and eat while at the market? As a result, they would likely stay longer and spend more money in the CBD. (There are only very small amounts of seating currently) These could be stored in one of the vacant shops in Montgomery Square during the week.
- we had a wet weather option for the Saturday market, and a permanent small market retail space during the week?
- reinstated Friday night shopping and a market on Trafalgar Street?
- replaced its car yards and vape shops with something actually good and worth having?
- had more neighbourhood dairies that sell more vegetables?



- had businesses that can be online and in person. Hay on Wye in the UK is a town of 2nd hand book shops or a town of tools/tool parts for drills etc.  
<https://www.visitherefordshire.co.uk/see-do/city-towns/hay-wye>
- had free or cheap remote-worker business spaces available?
- we had free public yoga/Pilates/tai chi classes in our city parks or empty buildings in town?
- had a hi-de-hi style holiday park?
- Nelson had an Uber that worked?

### **CIVIC PRIDE CAMPAIGN / SPRING CLEAN OF THE CBD**

- had a campaign to spring clean the city in Spring and Autumn and we all got out there to help?
- NCC did a regular trolley patrol and abandoned trolleys became a thing of the past?
- cleaned up all garden plots outside every business, planted new plants and then cared for them?
- residents carried bags to pick up rubbish from the streets and footpaths?
- had outdoor spaces that could be adopted and maintained by volunteers?
- everyone in Whakatū Nelson picks up three pieces of rubbish everyday?
- had a team to clean graffiti off every day?
- NCC planted many more colourful flowers like Invercargill and Ashburton to beautify the place?
- community volunteer groups assisted with keeping city garden spaces tidy and cared for if NCC/Nelmac don't have the resources? (This could include our weedy unloved roundabouts that NZTA haven't maintained)

### **FAMILIES & YOUTH**

- brought back the youth hub?
- had a youth hangout area?
- had an awesome, large, Margaret Mahy - type playground in the city?
- had an outdoor games courtyard, like giant chess and hopscotch@
- had a water feature in the CBD for children?
- had a playground from Bridge Street to Hardy on Trafalgar - social and play spaces between the shops?
- had an indoor skate park?
- had a pocket park with a basketball hoop for teenagers to socialise?
- had cafés open after 3pm so that there'd be a reason not to go straight home after school?
- brought back the climbing wall?
- was more attractive to young people?
- put effort into making biking a safe option for school kids?
- had a four-storey building for youth age 12-24 years. One level has pool tables, another level has a youth social enterprise cafe/lounge/board games, another level is for gamers to connect face to face, online and gaming competitions and another level to be a youth health and wellbeing hub-free health care for young people age 12-24 years?
- had more options for young people to study in Nelson? NMIT has some courses, but not much of a thriving student culture. International students may be good to have financially, but mostly these students will not stay in Nelson once they finish their studies.
- Where do Nelson teenagers and young adults go if they want an evening out? Nelson needs venues to cater for concerts, small performances and a safe place for young people to just hang out.
- had a youth hub next to TimeZone - there is a shop to be leased which could house a 1950s diner?
- had seats with built in UE Boom speakers for teens to use at different spots in the city?
- moved the library to Trafalgar Street and left the riverside for the young?

- had a summer adventure park?
- sponsored fun activities for youth that don't cost much?

## **ALTERNATIVE IDEAS**

- had pyramids in the squares?
- built a kinetic sculpture park up the middle of Trafalgar St, all the way from Halifax to Hardy?
- had a waterslide from the top of the Cathedral steps down to Halifax Street?
- became a sister city with San Salvador and promoted Bitcoin tourism?
- reduced residential rates so that residents had disposable income to spend on local businesses?
- was the only place in NZ Aotearoa you could confirm your World ID/proof of personhood through an Orb?
- Nelson was New Zealand's first bitcoin town?
- had a Nelson passport where tourists visited sites & collected stamps?

## **APPENDIX III**

### **WHAT IF WHAKATŪ NELSON IDEAS**

#### **LONGER PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS**

##### **1 ALISTAIR MIDDLETON - BUILDER/DEVELOPER - HOMES CREATED LTD**

**Alistair Middleton dropped in to congratulate the Make/Shift Spaces team on setting up the space. This is a summary of the conversation between Alistair & Anne Rush.**

#### **Summary**

Alistair Middleton and Anne Rush discuss proposals for redeveloping the central city area. Key topics covered include incentivising property owners to redevelop buildings into apartments, providing centralised parking facilities, improving public transit and cycling infrastructure, generating council revenue from increased rates on new developments, and collaborating across stakeholders to align on a shared vision for the city's future.

#### **Chapters**

##### **Incentivising Central City Redevelopment**

Alistair suggested offering rates reductions, zero rating schemes, and other incentives to motivate property owners to redevelop old buildings into higher-density housing like apartments. This would provide cheaper housing than suburban sprawl, reduce infrastructure costs, and generate more rates revenue for the council in the longer term.

##### **Centralised Parking Facilities**

Alistair explored ideas around building a multi-story parking structure to consolidate parking and avoid requiring parking for each new central city apartment development. This would free up space for housing and encourage residents to walk around the area to support local businesses.

##### **Improving Public and Active Transit**

Alistair noted the area's improved bus system has provided new mobility options for youth and commuters. Further developing transit and cycling infrastructure is seen as necessary to serve diverse needs while limiting private car dependence.

##### **Generating Revenue for Council**

If redevelopment increased housing density, the council would collect higher total rates revenue per land area even with incentives, helping fund infrastructure and transit improvements. Alistair suggested the need for long-term thinking.

### **Collaboration and Planning Across Stakeholders**

Alistair suggested that architects, developers, business owners, council members, and community groups discuss collaborating to develop a shared vision for the central city's future direction aligned to housing, parking, amenities, rates structures, and transit.

#### **Actions**

1. Develop a financial model for zero rating and other incentives to motivate central city redevelopment.
  2. Research case studies on successful centralised parking facilities in similar sized cities.
  3. Draft plan for improving and integrating bus, cycling and micro-mobility transport options.
  4. Convene working group with council, developers, business owners and community groups to align on central city vision.
- 

## **2 CYCLING HUB IN NELSON CBD - DEREK SHAW**

### **Context**

- *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* community discussions to help revitalise the Nelson CBD
- Contributing to making a small, smart sustainable city
- Improving Nelson's cycling culture

### **Cycle Hub**

*Could include spaces for:*

- Information on the diversity of cycling opportunities in Nelson (and Tasman) e.g. Mountain biking tracks / parks, Great Taste Trail, shared pathways (e.g. Railway Reserve), Velodrome & learn to ride facility.
- Display: promotion and advertising spaces e.g. to showcase the diversity of bikes now available regular and coming events
- Gathering ideas on how to improve cycling in Nelson
- Provision of advice: e.g. types of bikes, maintenance & repair, how to reuse & recycle them
  - Workshop with tools and tuition
  - Learning and relearning how to ride
  - People gathering for cycling activities, discussions, talks, courses and meeting other cyclists
- Possible relocation of the bike hub at Saxton Field – where donated bikes are repurposed for a koha
- Organisation of special events e.g. cycle trade fairs, fun rides eg including vintage cycles, tandems, cargo bikes, recumbent, special decorated bikes etc
- For secure bike parking, including E-bikes
- Café (with cycling related themes & décor)
- Bike shops
- Cycling Museum (could be the first one in NZ) - with heritage and contemporary displays, interactive activities, celebration of local 'cycling legends', etc

Could be a staged development over time.

## Possible Next Steps

- Spread the suggestion in the community, including NCC, and test the level of interest.
  - Establish a steering group of interested people to advance ideas e.g. with a vision and strategy, preparation of a feasibility study, and secure community support including from cycling related organisations / businesses, potential funders and supporters, NCC
- 

## 3 JULIE CATCHPOLE

- Albion Square was enlivened and interpreted so used recreationally its buried and above ground heritage interpreted, links and paths made, seating and public sculpture, even perhaps coin or sponsored BBQs. The interpretation could be innovative, digital, talk people through layers of history
- had a new civic centre/library/ town square on either Buxton or Montgomery Square with adjoining alternative parking options delivered nearby
- our library building was built incorporating rentable space for cafes and boutique retail (a model for this exists in Palmerston North, designed by the late Ian Athfield). The leased premises are in keeping with the street character and varied appearance, with the library running across the level above with windows with great views
- had more storytelling brochure guides available online to experience Whakatū i.e. bicultural history, heritage, retail, hospitality, public art, notable trees etc. And keep visitors and locals in town longer
- the ISite was mobile, e.g. a caravan or similarly branded. Then it could for example be relocated by a cruise ship or the airport or when we are expecting lots of people in town like kapa haka or sports tournaments
- had a parking building instead of large squares devoted to parking and instead created essential civic infrastructure, green pocket parks and apartments for living. A building could be sky bridged to another building
- had a bus route that travelled the length of Bridge Street for visitors and locals and has stops that include the Courthouse, The Suter, The Queens Gardens, Green Gables Retirement Village and on to a circuit to Tāhunanui and back - Parking is a real problem for the Courthouse, and visiting the Suter in the daytime. There are a lot of retired folk who would like to use the bus at Green Gables
- had a bus route that circulated from the airport, along Tāhunanui, to the city, court, Suter, NMIT, Hospital and back. Tourists using our buses should be considered, but also the influx of Mondays of doctors, lawyers, etc who come into Nelson to work
- had a summer school, using NMIT, Suter and other facilities (using these facilities - even secondary schools that aren't in use in the summer but because Nelson is such a popular holiday destination in the summer - what could be better than coming here and doing a creative workshop or two? with accommodation at NMIT
- Our library was a multi-purpose space for people and interactions and so included a garden, mini enclosed green space, meeting spaces, cafe, a space that speaks of this place in its inspiring design, and incorporation of art, and design in the fabric of the building, its fittings and furnishings
- Our library also contained the Council Chamber. A library is like the litmus test of democracy since libraries are knowledge navigators. They link people to things they want to know. They are open to all. The council meeting room can be transparent democracy and also a multipurpose meeting space
- had awesome public art, that was a drawcard nationally and internationally
- The eel pond in the Queens Gardens was returned to being an eel pond and there was kaitiaki of the tuna. Plus, then also interpretation of the manu inhabitants of the gardens, so recognising the time before the current colonial history

#### 4 OTHER RELEVANT CONTRIBUTIONS

**Bridger Smith** donated a copper topped bollard for the duration of the talks: "I dropped off the copper topped Bullard, I originally made it for council a few years ago when talk of the pedestrian walkways was in the paper."

---

"Had a 4-storey building for youth aged 12-24 years. One level has pool tables, another level has a youth social enterprise cafe/lounge/board games, another level is for gamers to connect face to face, online and gaming competitions and another level to be a youth health and wellbeing hub-free health care for young people age 12-24 years."

**whanakeyouth.org.nz**

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"When I was a councillor in the 1990s council staff or contractors cleaned up the graffiti instantly. This kept the city clean, tidy and welcoming, removed gratification from the vandals and deterred others. Local paint firms assisted with materials and advice. It did not matter if the graffiti was on public or private property." **Hillary Mitchell**

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- "Had community initiatives like this open at times when the working population could get to them e.g. in the evening? 10-2pm on weekdays and a shorter time on Saturday doesn't make it easy for those in full-time employment to engage.
- Had more young-adult aimed events and spaces - like the art hub in the old chapel that had to close down. If we want young adults to stay here, there needs to be more options other than drinking/clubbing which is also average and creepy.
- E.g., a night market with container shops as an outlet for artists & musicians to set up without committing to pricey leases. Lounge-type spaces with board games & craft nights.
- Creative fashion-related events or poetry nights that don't cost 100s of dollars.
- Thrifted fashion shows.
- Use NMIT as a hub somehow? Food vendor markets, restaurants are expensive for us. Enable cafes and restaurants to stay open past 2pm.
- Young adult ball? Make the streets more lively!! Music in the park with local bands.
- Also bring back the old youth hub!! Support things like the art chapel, it was so good for us, but it wasn't sustainable.
- Community art projects. Chess tournament??? Winter is a terrible time in Nelson for young adults specifically.
- Better marketing of existing events, we don't know about anything until it's happened or is the next day. Instagram ads are most effective for young adults, as well as videos rather than writing".

## APPENDIX IV - BUILT ENVIRONMENT & URBAN WORKING GROUP REPORT

Nearly 300 ideas were submitted by the public to the *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* space, offering a diverse range of creative proposals to elevate and reimagine our city. Given the sheer volume and diversity of these ideas, a process of analysis was crucial to evaluate their feasibility, potential impact, and pathways to implementation. To undertake this a series of specialised working groups composed of experts in various fields was established to analyse the ideas within their respective domains.

### Purpose:

A working group comprising six built environment professionals was tasked with analysing the various urban and built environment ideas. The goal was to distill the numerous submissions into a few key, tangible ideas that are viable, impactful, and with a clear path to delivery. Additionally, the group considered which projects could ignite enthusiasm, generate momentum and potentially attract further investment in Nelson. Importantly, the working group wished to highlight ideas that could be driven primarily by the community or private entities, rather than solely relying on local government input.

### Working group members:

William Samuels - Architect

Brian Riley - Architect

Steph Phillips - Architect

Alan Gray - Landscape Architect

Luke Porter - Landscape Architect

Timo Neubauer - Urban Designer

### Assessment criteria:

- Cost, including potential funding sources
- Cost-effectiveness compared to impact
- Feasibility of undertaking a tactical or low-cost trial
- Identification of community champions to drive the idea
- Timeframe and potential for developing momentum
- "X-factor" - potential to generate excitement and become an iconic part of Nelson

### Outcomes:

The working group identified several primary ideas or idea clusters with a strong potential to benefit the community. The list is not exhaustive and there are many ideas submitted that haven't been included that are considered viable and worthy of further exploration.

The selected ideas represent a diverse range of sectors, including the arts, business, landscape, recreation and youth engagement. A commentary on the potential benefits to Nelson brought by some of these ideas has been provided by the working group, along with discussion on possible delivery pathways. This analysis is high level only and is intended to stimulate further discussion about how we can collectively work towards turning the ideas presented by our community into reality.

This analysis is in the very early stages and additional assessment is being undertaken on other ideas submitted to the *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* space.

## **NELSON MARKET HALL**

*“What if Whakatū Nelson...? had a Market Hall to sell food, produce and goods throughout the week?”*

### **Summary:**

A covered Market Hall in Nelson could showcase local producers, provide a space for direct sales, and serve as a hub for small businesses and artisans. It would offer a sheltered venue for shopping, dining, and gatherings, potentially revitalising the surrounding area. The primary industries, crafts and small businesses play a fundamental part of Nelson’s identity and we should have a space where we can celebrate this part of who we are while supporting local businesses and providing more diverse shopping choices for our residents.

### **Potential Impact:**

- Direct sales opportunities for small businesses and local producers
- Expansion of weekend markets into a regular feature
- Creation of an iconic retail hub in Nelson
- Potential for a lively streetscape around the hall
- Facility to host events such as food festivals, art markets or night markets

### **Stakeholders:**

- Nelson City Council
- Primary industry bodies
- Local producers, hospitality and retail businesses
- Other commercial interests

### **Delivery Pathway:**

A Market Hall could be created in Nelson’s CBD by repurposing vacant retail spaces or constructing a new facility. This could be done relatively cost-effectively while still achieving a visually striking and iconic structure. Similar projects worldwide have become focal points for communities, enhancing their identity. Design ideas could be gathered through an architectural competition to ensure a cost-effective yet impactful outcome, either through a single new building or through multiple small ‘pods’ clustered around a shared public space, similar to the Manifesto Market concept. The project could be implemented by a commercial entity or through a public-private partnership, potentially on council-owned land with a private operator.

### **Precedents:**

- Farmers Market in Xiafu Village, China
- Harbour Market in Vodice, Croatia
- Manifesto Market in Prague (multiple)

## **NELSON FISH MARKET & PORT ACTIVATION**

*“What if Whakatū Nelson...? celebrated its connection to the sea?”*

### **Summary:**

A new Fish Market by the port would be pivotal not only to showcase Nelson’s significant fishing industry, but also to serve as a (currently missing) connection of the city centre to the sea. The Fish Market would be a hub for seafood related hospitality, restaurants, wine bars and of course for fresh seafood producers of all scales, including enabling direct sales by local fishermen. In addition to serving as a destination in its own right, the Fish Market would become Nelson’s gateway to other activities along the waterfront: the Nelson Marina with its new public waterfront promenade as well as an improved Rocks Road with a wide footpath, activated with shops, restaurants and cafes. The project could become the catalyst for wider regeneration and activation along Haven Road and the marina. Nelson’s new found connection to the sea should be celebrated by a regional dish, akin to New Orleans gumbo or Hamburg’s ‘Fischbroetchen’; to advertise the culinary delights of our region’s fresh harvests nationwide.

### **Potential Impact:**

- Catalyst for regeneration by connecting Nelson’s city centre to the sea
- Supporting one of Nelson’s biggest industries
- Direct sales opportunities for small businesses and local fishermen
- Promoting local economy by linking Nelson’s hospitality with our seafood industry
- Elevating tourism and city marketing
- Facility to host events such as fish auctions, seafood festivals, etc.

### **Stakeholders:**

- Nelson’s fishing industry
- Local fishermen, hospitality, chefs, tourism and retail businesses
- Nelson City Council
- Nelson Regional Development Agency

### **Delivery Pathway:**

A Fish Market could be established on the vacant site between Haven Road and Wildman Ave, across the road from Auckland Point School, the Trafalgar Centre and the Maitai river bridge, or on Akersten Street at the head of the marina. The sites offer views to the marina, are already well connected to the city centre via the Maitai Walkway and would have great exposure and accessibility from State Highway 6. Depending on the site, the purpose-built new fishmarket building would be constructed on a vacant site or replacing lightweight commercial buildings. The project could be implemented by a commercial entity, a collective or through a public-private partnership.

### **Precedents:**

- Auckland Fish Market, New Zealand
- Fisherman’s Wharf San Francisco, USA
- Hamburger Fischmarkt, Germany
- Praça do Peixe de Aveiro, Portugal



## NELSON PUBLIC ARTS INITIATIVES

“*What if Whakatū Nelson...?* did more to celebrate and promote local artists in our public spaces?”

### Summary:

Art has always been a cornerstone of Nelson’s identity, yet there’s a prevailing sentiment that its prominence has waned in recent times. What if we reinvigorated our public spaces with artwork, making it the defining feature of our city? Various ideas were submitted to *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* on this theme, including:

- Establishing a program to elevate our city as the national capital of street art, akin to the laneways of Melbourne or the art scene of Berlin
- Creating an annual summer arts pavilion to act as a focal point for local arts, tourism, events, workshops, and information dissemination
- Investing in a Te Ramaroa legacy sculpture for year-round display
- Establishing a Māori Arts Centre

### Potential Impact:

- Redefining Nelson as New Zealand’s ‘Art Capital’
- Promoting and supporting local artists, both established and emerging
- Brightening and revitalising our city, fostering a vibrant cultural atmosphere
- Creating new tourism opportunities and enhancing our appeal to visitors

### Stakeholders:

- Local artists
- Art organisations such as Arts Council Nelson, Te Ramaroa, Make/Shift Spaces
- Local and national grant bodies and art funding agencies
- Commercial sponsors, art patrons, and philanthropists
- Nelson City Council
- Iwi

### Delivery Pathway:

Much of the strategic groundwork has been laid out in the He Tātai Whetū Whakatū Nelson Arts and Creativity Strategy (2022) and the ideas presented in the What If space can build upon this framework. A Development Agency for the Arts, as recommended in the Arts and Creative Strategy, could lead some of these initiatives in collaboration with local artists and community groups.

Some of the ideas presented are immediately actionable with the right resources and focus. For example, an annual or biannual summer arts pavilion could be funded through sponsorship, similar to the Brick Bay Folly in Auckland, with a major sponsor securing naming rights. Through an architectural design competition, akin to those for Brick Bay or the NGV Pavilion in Melbourne, the pavilion’s design could become an attraction itself while serving as a platform to showcase and support the local arts scene.

### Precedents:

- Brick Bay Folly, Auckland
- NGV Pavilion, Melbourne
- Street Art of Melbourne’s laneways

## **NELSON YOUTH HUB**

*“What if Whakatū Nelson...? had a Youth hub for our rangatahi to gather and connect?”*

### **Summary:**

A youth centre could be a lively hub for creative expression, socialising, and community connection in Nelson's city centre, targeting ages 12-20 and encouraging intergenerational skill sharing in arts, music, and entertainment. Community-driven but youth-led, it aims for a dynamic atmosphere akin to a startup. With input from various youth organisations, the hub could inject new vibrancy into Nelson's CBD, attracting a demographic currently underserved in the city. Potential ideas for inclusion within the youth hub:

- A relaxed setting with comfortable furniture, power outlets, and WiFi for hanging out
- Space for DJs, broadcasting, or creating Spotify playlists, with room for dancing
- Ample room for bands to practise and host informal performances
- Technological amenities like gaming setups and VR experiences
- Opportunities for creative expression like art walls, exhibitions, and workshops
- Low-tech entertainment options like pool, table tennis, cards, and board games
- Youth-operated coffee carts with the potential for a rent-a-cafe slot during peak times
- Facilities for audiovisual production, 3D printing, and game design workshops

### **Potential Impact:**

The hub could serve as a positive outlet for youthful energy, offering a free and safe space outside of school and home environments. It aims to tap into the knowledge and expertise of the wider community to provide opportunities for young people. By fostering creativity and improving well-being, it seeks to expand the talents and skills of Nelson's youth for social and creative futures. Further, by bringing a much-needed space for young people to Nelson's CBD it has the potential to enliven the surrounding area and bring a vibrant and creative energy to our city.

### **Stakeholders:**

- Young people and their families
- Youth community champions and volunteers
- Grant bodies and funding agencies, local sponsors and philanthropists
- Police, schools and vulnerable young people organisations
- Nelson City Council

### **Delivery Pathway:**

Establishing the hub could begin with setting up a community trust to secure funding and sponsorship, leveraging financial assistance and in-kind support from various organisations. It could start in a temporary space, like a vacant commercial building, to test the concept before finding a permanent home. Ideally located in the city centre, it should be adaptable, possibly expanding outdoors and intersecting with parks and other cultural centres. Freedom to incorporate edgy elements like street art and music would enhance its appeal.

### **Precedents:**

- Former Nelson Youth Hub on New Street
- Christchurch Youth Hub (under construction)
- Hobart Youth Arts & Recreation Centre

## **NELSON PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENTS**

*“What if Whakatū Nelson...? had Pocket Parks / Seating spaces for lunch / Green walls / Laneway development / ‘Playfulness’?”*

### **Summary:**

A diverse range of enhanced public realm spaces and landscape features to attract people of all ages, supporting increased activation in central Nelson. Many of these ideas can be achieved as a tactical trial to assess success as a potential capital improvement.

### **Potential Impact:**

- Additional amenity to attract people to spend time in Nelson’s city centre
- Extend the vitality of Nelson’s streets into the evening
- Enhance safe and legible connections in the city centre
- Provide attractive greening, lighting, and public art in the central city
- Facility to host or enhance events such as Te Ramaroa, Arts Festival, 4 Lanes, and potential night market

### **Stakeholders:**

- Nelson City Council (Transport)
- City Centre Developers and Property Owners
- Local hospitality and retail businesses
- Youth and families

### **Delivery Pathway:**

A range of attractive landscape spaces and features could be created in Nelson’s city centre by identifying locations suited for the implantation of pocket parks (small seating spaces with plantings and tables), small seating spaces to enjoy lunch, green walls, laneway enhancements, and integrating play features within the streetscapes. To trial the opportunities, these could be undertaken via a relatively cost-effectively tactical (temporary) approach while still achieving visually striking and iconic outcomes. Similar projects worldwide have become focal points for communities, enhancing their identity. Design ideas could be gathered through a series of design competitions to ensure a cost-effective yet impactful outcome. The project could be implemented by Council, NZ Transport, and/or developers utilising private property (similar to Kirby Lane).

### **Precedents:**

- Raskins Lane, Melbourne
- Anne St Laneway, Brisbane

## APPENDIX V

### ABOUT MAKE/SHIFT SPACES

Make/Shift Spaces is part of a global movement to re-use, reinvigorate and re-present unused spaces in our city's places. Set up in 2018 as a not-for-profit organisation, Make/Shift Spaces has worked with artists and community groups, matching them up with shop spaces and storefronts, exterior walls and even entire buildings, to tell stories about our community. Among its more than 35 projects to date, Make/Shift Spaces created ArtWalk with the Suter Art Gallery, a celebration of youth music with Smokefree Rockquest, storytelling installations with Nelson Provincial Museum.

### OUR MAKE/SHIFT SPACES TEAM

Anne Rush MNZM, General Manager  
Klaasz Breukel, *This Is Them* Brand Manager/Designer  
Lee Woodman, Technician  
Sarah Wilson, Communications/Media  
Tracy Allan, Executive Assistant  
Russell Menary, Technician  
Sally Kidson, Communications/Media

### MAKE/SHIFT SPACES COMMITTEE

Alison Margaret McAlpine QSO, Brian Riley, Stephen Broad-Paul, Jan Rees, Lucy Miller, Jessica Ammundsen & Stephanie Miller

### ALSO

William Samuels - Architect & NZIA Branch Chair  
Luke Porter - Senior Principal Landscape Architect, Boffa Miskell & NZILA, Branch Chair  
Vicki Smith, Rachel Dodd, Stephanie Phillips, Lyn Russell  
Nelson Fringe Festival & Arts Council Nelson

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* team video recorded and transcribed the majority of the talks. This report was compiled by Anne Rush, Tracy Allan, Sarah Wilson, with specific input from William Samuel and Ali Boswijk, and further input from some speakers.

In compiling this report, we have utilised the assistance of AI language model *ChatGPT* and transcription AI *Notta*. Quotes featured in this report are taken from these transcripts. While AI technology has been utilised to provide interpretations, it's important to note that these interpretations have not been cross-checked or verified with the original speakers. Therefore, discrepancies or inaccuracies may exist between the interpretations presented here and the actual statements made by the speakers. We have done our very best to interpret the thoughts and ideas presented in the *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* space and acknowledge there were many ideas which were unable to be presented during this project.

The *What if Whakatū Nelson...?* brand was designed by Klaasz Breukel.

The ideas were submitted by members of the public.

**A big thank you to: the property owners Fleur Stewart and Susan Johnston for their generosity in loaning their property to be utilised as a venue for *What if Whakatū Nelson...?***

**What if Whakatū-Nelson...**

“... campaigned for the Boulder Bank to become a UNESCO World Heritage site?”

Do you have any ideas for Whakatū-Nelson? Go to [whatifnelson.co.nz](http://whatifnelson.co.nz)

MAKE / SPLIT SPACES

**What if Whakatū-Nelson...**

“... had a public garden that celebrates our native fauna and rongoā?”

Do you have any ideas for Whakatū-Nelson? Go to [whatifnelson.co.nz](http://whatifnelson.co.nz)

MAKE / SPLIT SPACES



**What if Whakatū-Nelson...**

“... had different thinkers/artists/philosophers in residence each year?”

Do you have any ideas for Whakatū-Nelson? Go to [whatifnelson.co.nz](http://whatifnelson.co.nz)

MAKE / SPLIT SPACES

**What if Whakatū-Nelson...**

“... had a marina development with restaurants and bars?”

Do you have any ideas for Whakatū-Nelson? Go to [whatifnelson.co.nz](http://whatifnelson.co.nz)

MAKE / SPLIT SPACES

**What if Whakatū-Nelson...**

“... had a cafe that was open after 3pm?”

Do you have any ideas for Whakatū-Nelson? Go to [whatifnelson.co.nz](http://whatifnelson.co.nz)

MAKE / SPLIT SPACES

**What if Whakatū-Nelson...**

“... Uncover one stream in the city's fringe hidden in a culvert?”

Do you have any ideas for Whakatū-Nelson? Go to [whatifnelson.co.nz](http://whatifnelson.co.nz)

MAKE / SPLIT SPACES

**What if Whakatū-Nelson...**

“... created an urban wetland at Saltwater Creek near the Trafalgar Centre?”

Do you have any ideas for Whakatū-Nelson? Go to [whatifnelson.co.nz](http://whatifnelson.co.nz)

MAKE / SPLIT SPACES



**What if Whakatū-Nelson...**

“... had community volunteer groups to help keep city garden spaces tidy?”

Do you have any ideas for Whakatū-Nelson? Go to [whatifnelson.co.nz](http://whatifnelson.co.nz)

MAKE / SPLIT SPACES

**What if Whakatū-Nelson...**

“... had a team to clean graffiti off every day?”

Do you have any ideas for Whakatū-Nelson? Go to [whatifnelson.co.nz](http://whatifnelson.co.nz)

MAKE / SPLIT SPACES

**What if Whakatū-Nelson...**

“... had more neighbourhood dairys that sell more vegetables?”

Do you have any ideas for Whakatū-Nelson? Go to [whatifnelson.co.nz](http://whatifnelson.co.nz)

MAKE / SPLIT SPACES

**What if Whakatū-Nelson...**

“... reinstated Friday night shopping?”

Do you have any ideas for Whakatū-Nelson? Go to [whatifnelson.co.nz](http://whatifnelson.co.nz)

MAKE / SPLIT SPACES

