Networking for the Environment Conversation on Covid 13th July 2020

Speaker One - Gareth Birch-Emergency Management Advisor for Community Resilience, Canterbury CDEM Group.
Community, COVID and Civil Defence: The Importance of community networks before, during and after a disaster.Gareth will provide a brief overview of the CDEMCOVID response in Canterbury before reflecting on concepts of "community resilience", vulnerability and the vital role played by community networks.
Key concepts:
Community resilience
Vulnerability
Vital roles played by community networks

Speaker Two - Nicholas Head- CCC Ecologist
Ecological emergency isn't going away regardless of covid – addressing it is the obligation of Councils/DOC etc - that have been failing for a range of reasons. And also there is huge opportunity in the CHCH district that delivers multiple benefits –biodiversity carbon storage, amenity and green jobs too

Panel to discuss opportunities
Sophia White - discussing the opportunity for alternative economies
Chrissie Williams - Opportunities for the Red Zone transitional projects
Ali Bower - Environment Canterbury - Shift to more community focus in strategic plan that will open up more opportunities for a community voice.

Overarching themes that came out of this meeting

- There needs to be a shift away from pure GDP growth to include alternative economies and the environment as a priority
- Covid Lock down highlighted the inequities in our society even more
- We need to use our collective capacity to influence decision makers
- Workshop needs analysis to work towards a collective vision curated workshop

Covid Questions	
Challenges highlighted	- Current attitudes need addressing some funding initiatives unrealistic difficult to navigate - Limits to shovel ready projects - Reliance of internet demonstrated in inequities - how can we get more people connected but without sole reliance - How reliant we are on things (external Things) and what little diversity on what we rely on - A clear vision of what we are trying to achieve - Shifting people's attitudes from consumerism to sustainability - More laws to regulate businesses - Too Much noise cars boy racers sirens - We need to move away from GDP motivated economy - Knowing who to contact a hub or focal point place able to find information on who is doing what - Too many meetings

	● Lockdown demonstrated the importance of equity it was good for some not for others
opportunities	● Create work in biodiversity and Environmental space to meet post covid needs ● Older people nearing retirement and those that have lost jobs, young parents and others who cannot easily leave the region pulled into volunteer ● Free ongoing ecological expertise to ensure good outcomes ● Benefits of local (shopping, eating, living, socialising) ● More flexible work structures ● People became aware of their local environment cycling walking during lock down they probably had more interactions with locals ● There were lots of opportunities for citizen science eg ritual observations of environment ● Greater involvement with local projects ● Highlighted the importance of nice spaces to explore outside ● Communities have a real role to play in wellbeing how can we continue to foster this ● Regenerative farming connection between soil plants and animals, understanding biological systems to use to our advantage ● Interconnections ● Community collaborative education model ● Communicating the benefits of cycling with the growth of the networks get people to start small get the bus or cycle one day a week to begin with ● Reduce cars on the road it was nice during covid ● Storytelling to create value and as a form of education placemaking to create more connections, to support community groups and share stories of all groups and shared historical narrative respecting the journey ● recognise the collective effect of movements like springbok tours ● Collective influence of decision makers
Questions to ponder	● What was wrong with the BHU?

	- How do we normalise Environmental and Sustainable issues? - What are the optimal conditions for survival? - Where is the nitrogen phosphorus in the system that is available locally? - How do we recreate the time that we had in lock down? (people were more willing to talk and connect) - What time is it now? - What resources do people bring to the table?
What are the collective opportunities?	- Match Volunteer groups with experts (science networks) and funding - Decision making should be by people who understand the local context or at least be part of the process - Simplify channels to become involved
CEH Actions	- Get clear on what we are trying to achieve - know what we need to do - Commit to an alternative - Storytelling get the message out to as many people as possible Tv Radio - Go fund me campaign to get awareness for connectivity with your neighbourhood
HOW	
	- Restructure of govt funding model, instead of groups trying to fit projects to criteria give local ecological experts funding to develop best outcomes for biodiversity in their area from pipeline - seed - tree - Plastic free weeks - Promote Food Resilience - Bring back Di Lucus plant lists for public places - Educate people to understand ecological significance of their own property biodiversity - Support in school initiatives eg enviroschools ccc eos cc ed resources that start the groundswell of knowledge

Ideas to Follow up	- Need to be kept informed of science - CEH to coordinate advocacy and lobbying - Core Funding for biodiversity a set budget and realistic