



AFN Conference 2016

Tuakana Teina
Whaingaroa(Raglan), NZ

AUSTRALASIAN FACILITATOR'S NETWORK CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 2 2016, WHAINGAROA, RAGLAN

PRESS RELEASE

October 27 2016

Whaingaroa (Raglan) Hosts International Facilitation Conference

An international conference opens in Whaingaroa (Raglan) on November 30 2016 at Pohaikena Marae. The Australasian Facilitator's Network conference (AFN) will provide a learning, sharing and networking opportunity for those whose work involves facilitating meetings, groups and teams in businesses, communities, councils and government.

“As our world gets more and more complex, skills for facilitating effective group discussions and processes for collaboration and reaching consensus decisions are becoming more highly valued,” said Dr Helen Ritchie from the AFN 2016 Organising Committee. “This conference is a professional development opportunity in a field where such opportunities can be hard to come by.”

The conference includes field trips to see facilitation of change in action from groundbreaking community groups such as Whaingaroa Harbour Care, Kaiwhenua Organics and Xtreme Zero Waste. A range of interactive workshops and plenary sessions will be on offer, including facilitation of collaborative decision making; on-line facilitation and much more. Entertainment includes an evening with acclaimed master Taonga Pūoro (traditional Maori instruments composer and musician) Horomona Horo.

“The conference theme this year is *Tuakana Teina*. “This reflects the spirit of AFN which, in its 18th year of operation, provides opportunities for facilitators in Australia, NZ, and the Pacific to learn from each other,” said Michelle Rush, from the AFN 2016 Organising Committee. “*Tuakana Teina* is about those with more knowledge and experience mentoring and sharing with those just starting out. A special focus this year is on working across cultures.

“This follows on from previous AFN conferences in Alice Springs and Ballina to continue the theme of 'walking together' and encouraging Maori, and Indigenous Australian and Torres Strait Islanders, to attend this conference,” said Michelle Rush. “The ability to work effectively with people from diverse cultures and backgrounds, is becoming more and more important.”

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More information and the registration page for the conference is available at: <http://www.afnconference.org.au/>

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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for the AFN 2016 Organising Committee
<http://www.afnconference.org.au/>

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