



INNOVATIVE LEARNING TOOLKIT

PROJECT TITLE: Slow Flow, Green Bench

Tags; river, storytelling

Slowflow is a concept created by Green Bench in Whanganui, aiming to create a mixed media exhibition, web site and publication based on people's experiences as they travel down the Whanganui River and relate stories and perspectives as they go.

Slowflow invites artists, technologists and environmentalists on a 6 day journey down the Whanganui River by double hulled 22 person waka haurua (canoe) and bicycle, creating the setting for a flow of conversations - Te Ia Kōrero between different people and points of view.

Over the course of the six day journey local experts are invited to give short talks about the historical context of each site they pass.

Participants are asked to bring a project to make or experiment with on the trip. Whether it be a piece of technology, a piece of media, an art work, documentation of the trip, or some writing, the collective works will form the basis of an exhibition, a web site and a publication.

From the website: "Slowflow imagines living in a post carbon future where physical transport has slowed to human speed, energy use is constrained and renewable, production is collaborative and relocalised, and information communication is instantaneous, global and accessible. Taking a few days out from global hypermobility, slowflow models the contemporary ecotopian dream as a mobile temporary autonomous zone and paddles and cycles it through a landscape of narratives."

Slowflow is an excellent example of cross-boundary collaboration, with a diverse group of individuals brought together (in an unusual way) in a natural setting to learn and engage over issues of culture and environment.

See the [Green Bench](#) website for further information.