



INNOVATIVE LEARNING TOOLKIT

PROJECT TITLE: Travelling River

Tags; art, science, exhibition

Overview:

Travelling River was an art exhibition comprising a series of pictures and photographs designed to explore life and science inter-relations along the Motueka River catchment. The exhibition was the major outcome of the Mountains to Sea Arts–Science collaboration between Landcare Research scientists and local artists from Nelson.

The exhibition combined over 250 community photographs, stories and scientific images from the Motueka catchment. More than sixty people contributed images and stories about their lives and work along the river and Tasman Bay. The exhibition was organised around extracts from Motueka Song, by local poet Cliff Fell, Montana Book Award's poet in 2004. The exhibition was a "creative collision" between science, art and community aspirations for the Motueka catchment. The exhibition encouraged participation and debate among the community and more than 2500 visitors, building understanding of the science and encouraging people to think about how their environment has been modified by human and natural actions.

From the website: "The concept is to create an experience where the passage of the audience is directed by large curved freestanding screens, not permitting linear vision, leading the viewer on a slow and reflective journey. In keeping with its hydrological theme, our exploration weaves on curved corrugated screens from the ridgetops to the sea, from the micro to the macro, from the old days to the new... The aim is for these narratives to be visually and conceptually interwoven, exploring conversations and convergences. The catalogue layout continues to play with the concept of a chorus of overlapping narratives".

The first part of the project involved finding common ground between the artists and scientists involved. They then developed this common ground by talking to each other about the catchment, exploring the different ways of thinking about it and discussing what joint projects could be worked on to achieve the second goal. To do this they used a shared web-based workspace where all group members could drop in with their ideas and comments.

Ideas for PTS:

Consider organising a similar exhibition with stories and contributions from local residents and community groups as well as scientists and engineers on the state of the streams and catchments within the twin streams boundaries

This could also be used as way of documenting and celebrating all the work that has been, and the progress that has been made, through the community planting days and other activities



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An exhibition such as this could have multiple beneficial outcomes: greater collaboration and understanding between the different organisations and parties involved in PTS; increasing community engagement and participation through asking people to relate stories, provide pictures and contribute to the exhibition; raising community understanding and awareness of the issues by providing a stimulating and relevant local exhibition.

Contact and further information:

See [Landcare Research's](#) website