#CitSciNZ2018

ROUNDTABLE: GROWING CITIZEN SCIENCE STRATEGICALLY

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A vision for citizen science in the future

Take leadership

- Clear messages and support is provided by Central Government. The Royal Society of NZ and Statistics NZ may have a role here, along with Museums NZ and the Ministry for Primary Industries and the Prime Minister's Chief Scientist(!)
- Leadership is clear and effective. Each body designates one person with a citizen science portfolio to make coordination feasible e.g., there is a citizen science coordinator on local/regional councils
- Regional Councils are enablers - they know the local players, opportunities and agencies. Agencies are coordinated.
- Form a working group with a designated person from each organisation/body to make liaison more effective
- Partnerships at community/regional level include scientists and schools and community groups with clear pathways for students

Develop strategies

- Key strategies and policies are aligned (e.g., Environmental Education, Education, Curious Minds) with citizen science (and science)
- A unified strategy to enable more effective funding management and distribution
- Balance big picture/shared goals like Predator Free NZ and water quality, but allow community ownership of local initiatives that reflect regional needs/values
- A back-up host for cross-agency data management (including citizen science data?)

Enhance efficiency of science research and communication

Although the National Science Challenges have a small outreach component, fragmentation of the science research system makes it inefficient as a vehicle for citizen science. In addition, project sustainability is a huge challenge: maintaining momentum of initiatives beyond the initial phase (which may be funded)

- Communication is effective through all levels
- There is better integration of projects, tools and (community) groups. Expertise, tools and experts are used synergistically
- No one is reinventing wheels… including making use of tools/expertise from overseas

Incentivise science community involvement

There are many short-term projects - not the sustainable model needed by science community. There needs to be a new category of scientist for whom citizen science is part of the brief/job description e.g., SHMAK (the Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment Kit) project is not research and only justified for a one-off research project. Instead it has to be 'sneaked' into citizen science. Furthermore, there is respect and recognition for work done on the ground, and this is supported by scientists.

Notes revised by Monica Peters, people+science