

# coalition of **community**boards

## Sunshine Coast

### Notes made from Workshop - **Using Community Development methods to strengthen your Committee and your Group.**

29 July 2021 @ Palmwood Hall Supper room

The theory and practice of Community Development offers rich possibilities for people who meet together to organise and lead their community group. Working with a community group means your committee is most likely already practicing some principles and processes of community development. This workshop will explore, through practical examples with local groups, how to bring some of the benefits of community development to your community group. Community development method offers;

- Sustainability - increased member and volunteer involvement in your organisation to help spread the workload
- A stronger sense of ownership and inclusion for members
- A clearer sense of connection and communication for community members to engage with your group/committee.
- Enable a shift in your group that prioritises relationships and valuing to help drive the collective purpose.

Guest Speakers Max and Nita from Mapleton & District Community Association  
Participating organisations; Sunshine Coast Council CD team, Palmwoods Bowls Club, Sports and Recreation – North Coast, Maleny Neighbourhood Centre, Bahai Community Sunshine Coast, Sunshine Coast Council Grants team, Sundale, Montville Village Association, Mapleton Craft group, Blackall Range Lions, Krishnamurti Aust, Permaculture Noosa, Buderim War Memorial Community Association, Peregrin Beach Community House, Combined Coastal Car Club of Cooroy, Noosa Arts and Crafts and Buddies Refugee Group  
With Ian, Bea and Mark (SC CoCB)

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#### **Community Development Principles**

- Take the time
- Know 'your' Community
- Provide ways to participate
- Communicate with your community
- Link and collaborate with other groups
- Listen and hear the voices of people, and be open to hearing
- Value the voices of community
- Have shared responsibility and ownership
- Meet community where they are at
- Don't predetermine outcomes
- Respect the process

**Respectful Relationships platform all these principles**

Seek resources and expertise when needed (you don't need to know everything)

Application of community development principles as outlined in Community Planning story of the Mapleton & District Community Association

<b>Principle</b>	<b>Mapleton &amp; District Community Association application examples</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Takes time</li> </ul>	5 months for the community planning process, didn't rush the process to shortcut it. This helped maximise participation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know 'your' Community</li> </ul>	The whole of the Mapleton community was the cohort that the planning process sought to engage with. This was clearly defined at the beginning of the process.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide ways to participate</li> </ul>	Started with small conversations, then planning workshop, then larger community workshop and then supporting groups and the plan. Community members could participate at multiple points.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate with your community</li> </ul>	Two-way communication occurred through initial small conversations, then a workshop, then a public workshop. Through this process a newsletter and online presence let people know what was happening and how to get involved.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link and collaborate with other groups</li> </ul>	Linked with other local groups, used existing relationships that members already had as well as build new relationships with other groups that benefitted all parties and helped with the overall planning process.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen and hear the voices of people, and be open to hearing</li> </ul>	Multiple opportunities provided through conversations, community workshop and organisational discussions for participation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Value the voices of community</li> </ul>	All contributions were sought and then themed and prioritised based on a voting process that the community was also involved in.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have shared responsibility and ownership</li> </ul>	Multiple facilitators involved in the process, (they did some training together to help develop a shared understanding and process).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet community where they are at</li> </ul>	Participation opportunities occurred locally across different "platforms" (face to face, meetings, newsletters etc) at different times with plenty of time in between for considerations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't predetermine outcomes</li> </ul>	The community voting process enabled new outcomes to emerge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respect the process</li> </ul>	MADCA took their time to work through the whole community planning process, they were methodical because they wanted to preserve the trust that the process was building with their members.

Questions for small groups to consider and work through around their own actions

Q- How would your group use these principles for its own actions, governance or planning process?

Q – What are the indicators that these principles are embedded in the actions of your committee?