

# “Outside the box but kinda in the box”: Evaluating an Indigenous innovation project.



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Gill Potaka-Osborne, Lynley Cvitanovic, Maaki Tuatini & Roberta Williams

# Te Puawai o te Ahi Kaa: a health innovations project



Kaimahi & Evaluator:  
Bertz, Gill, Maaki



Matua Te Mana



Project Managers:  
Nancy, Josephine

## Objectives

“we wanted to know what's killing our people and how we can prevent that” (KI01)

- ▶ Located on the marae it aims to strengthen the health and well being of the whānau of Raetihi Pah - those who maintain the ahi kaa.
- ▶ Project activities include:
  - ▶ Health Needs Assessment (completed)
  - ▶ Building on whānau and external connections (ongoing)
  - ▶ Developing and implementing action plans (ongoing)
  - ▶ Capability building (ongoing)

Ahi Kaa describes the home people - the ones that live on their whenua/land, that keep the home fires burning, that keep their place - particularly the marae - alive

[www.terarawa.iwi.nz](http://www.terarawa.iwi.nz)

# Whakauae Research: The Evaluators

- ▶ **Tribally/Iwi owned** health research centre, based in Whanganui
- ▶ **Organisation Aim:** to grow Māori health research and evaluation capacity
- ▶ **Ministry of Health (MoH)** funded project and evaluation

## Whakauae Research Services



Dr Heather Gifford, Lynley Cvitanovic, Stacey Ranginui, Ngareta Patea, Sonja Loveridge, Rachel Brown, Gill Potaka-Osborne, Mel Potaka-Osborne, Dr Amohia Boulton.

# Building Evaluation Capacity



Australasian Evaluation Society (AES) Conference Support Grant recipients,  
Melbourne 2015



# Evaluation Approach

- ▶ Transformative Participatory Evaluation (TPE)
- ▶ Kaupapa Māori methods
- ▶ Process and Outcomes focus

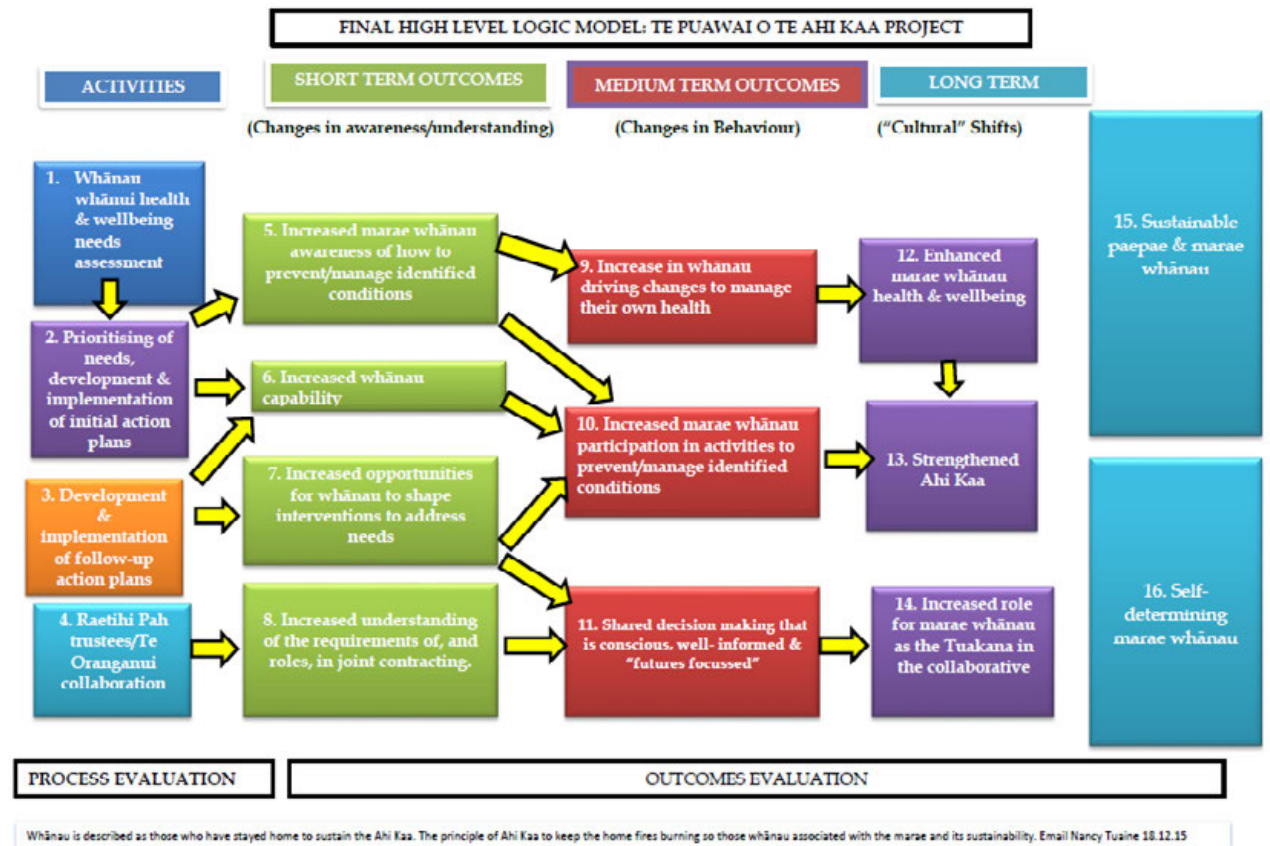


Kaumatua Olympics



# Project Logic Model

- ▶ Developed collaboratively
- ▶ Road map for stakeholders
- ▶ Framework for the evaluation



# Overarching Evaluation Questions



- ▶ What were the benefits for whānau of participating in the health needs assessment process?
- ▶ How effective have project activities been in supporting whānau to better understand their health and wellbeing?
- ▶ How effective have project activities been in supporting whānau to prevent and / or manage health related issues?
- ▶ To what extent has collaboration contributed to building the capacity of Raetihi Pah to function independently as a contracting entity.



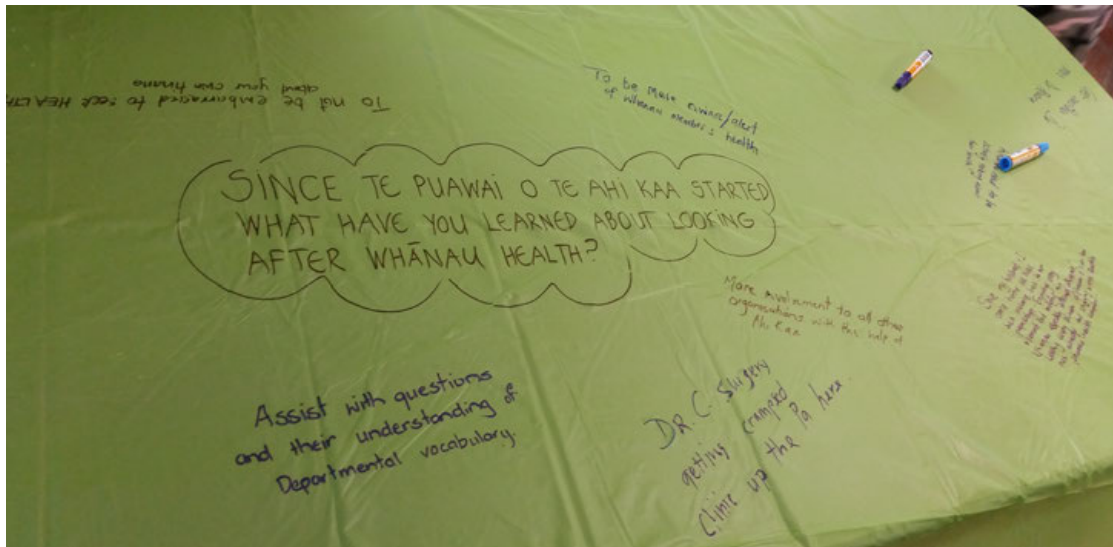
# Evaluation data: collecting Māori voices

- ▶ Tribal meeting place/marae whānau
- ▶ Project workers/kaimahi
- ▶ The Project Advisory Group
- ▶ Local health & social services providers



# Methods: collecting the voices of whānau

- ▶ Mahi rangahau (survey)
- ▶ Mahi mātakitaki (observation)
- ▶ Mahi a tepu (muralling)



# Methods: collecting the voices of kaimahi

- ▶ Kōrero whakaahua (photo narratives)
  - ▶ Variation of narrative inquiry
  - ▶ Collecting kaimahi voices
  - ▶ Lived experience and context

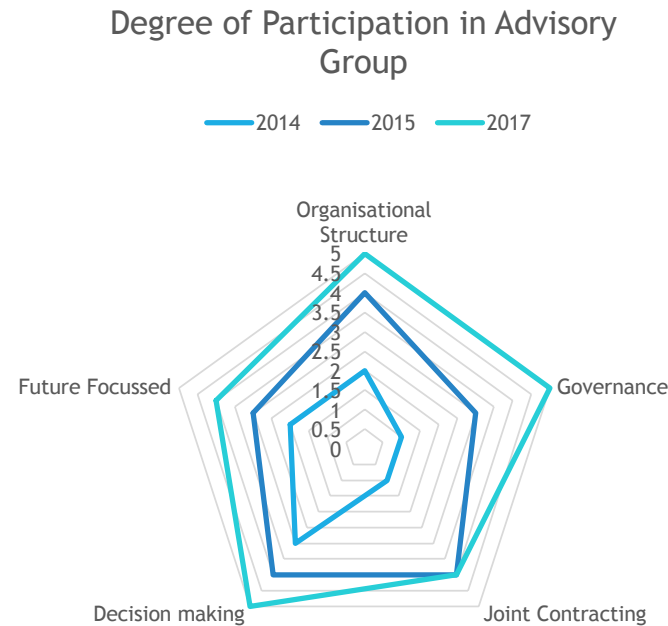


Raetihi Primary School

# Methods: collecting the voices of community and iwi leaders

## Mahere a tīnana(Participation Rating Graph)

- ▶ Building evaluation capability
- ▶ Ratings collected & collated beginning, middle and end of project
- ▶ Visual representation of Advisory Group outcomes



Neuwelt, P. (2007). *Community Participation Toolkit: a resource for primary health organisations*. Aotearoa New Zealand: Steele Roberts.

Rifkin, S., Muller, F., & Bichmann, W. (1988). Primary Healthcare: on measuring participation. *Soc.Sci.Med*, 26(9), 931-940.



# Results

## “cup of tea” words



The majority of whānau believe that Te Puawai o te Ahi Kaa is giving their whānau the chance to have a say about what they can do to better look after their own health

*Being able to have a voice is very much the kaupapa of Te Puawai*



Nearly all of those surveyed felt a part of the Te Puawai o te Ahi Kaa Project and believed it gave them a say in how to look after their health better

*Te Puawai o te Ahi Kaa had definitely showed us & encourages us to better improve our health as a whānau*



# What is working well?

- ▶ Whanaungatanga and manaakitanga
- ▶ Communication: social media and texting,
- ▶ Evaluation capacity building



# Challenges

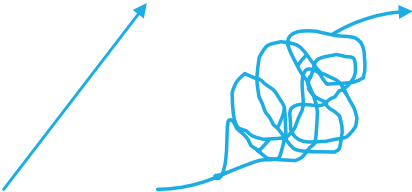


2015 Floods



Raetihi

Expectations Reality



## Reflections to date:

- ▶ Indigenous led external evaluation, carried out alongside indigenous projects, can help to develop provider evaluation skills and support project implementation.
- ▶ Collaborative and participatory ways of working build evaluation capacity, encourage critical thinking and decision-making.
- ▶ Indigenous communities can be empowered to do their own evaluations and develop methodologies that satisfy indigenous traditions



# Acknowledgements

