Networking for the environment
in greater Christchurch N4E Hui 8- Information and Technology on 21 June 2019 at Environment Canterbury 200 Tuam Street, Waimakariri Room

We had a great session with approx. 16 representatives from community organisations. These notes summarize the feedback and discussion that took place and not the information presented. For a copy of the presentation by Henrietta Hall of Infoxchange go to the ECan website's Community Organisation Support page and click on the Networking for the Environment tile https://ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/support/

IT Challenges and needs Identified:

1. Building a new website that is low maintenance:
    a. Consultant charges lots of money to make changes and is slow
    b. Locked content manager and can't make changes
2. So many ways to communicate- Is there way to do it once, more efficiently
    a. Less time getting message out
    b. Communicating with people on smart phones
    c. Facebook- how often and when
    d. People are overstimulated and too much info/overload i.e. mail chimp, newsletters
    e. Social media options and which is best approach for replicating across platforms- how to measure engagement (likes, views, emails)
    f. How to cater to all age groups
3. Efficiently share and store information
    a. Data management systems-what you want vs. what you need.
    b. Document share- varying levels of skill. i.e. excel to word
    c. Security/storage/access
4. How to make short videos/interactive clips for online viewing
5. Video conferencing- meetings without carbon
6. How to get free stuff i.e. TechSoup for registered charities
7. Getting funding- info to support funding application
    a. Collecting the information that you'll need in 5 years

Workshop session questions posed to the group:

- What Opportunities/challenges do you want to focus on, and
- What help/support would you need to make the change/improvement to your existing practices?

Workshop feedback on the top skill building initiatives needed:

- Building a Communication Plan for now and the next few years
- Building an IT Plan for essential systems now and the next few years
- Building and managing online communication:
    o Webpage- Wants vs. needs
    o Social media- How to stay relevant
    o Video- How to create them

We will take the information provided and develop a series of workshops/trainings to be offered throughout the coming year. The actual notes from the tables are shown in Attachment 1.

Hot tips from the day:

1. Community Organisation Support webpage at ECan website- a one-stop shop for information on how to work with the regional council.
2. TechSoup for free software for community organisations www.techsoup.net.nz
3. IT support through webinars- online tutorials
4. RawShorts for online video making and tutorials

Attachment 1. Notes from workshop session:
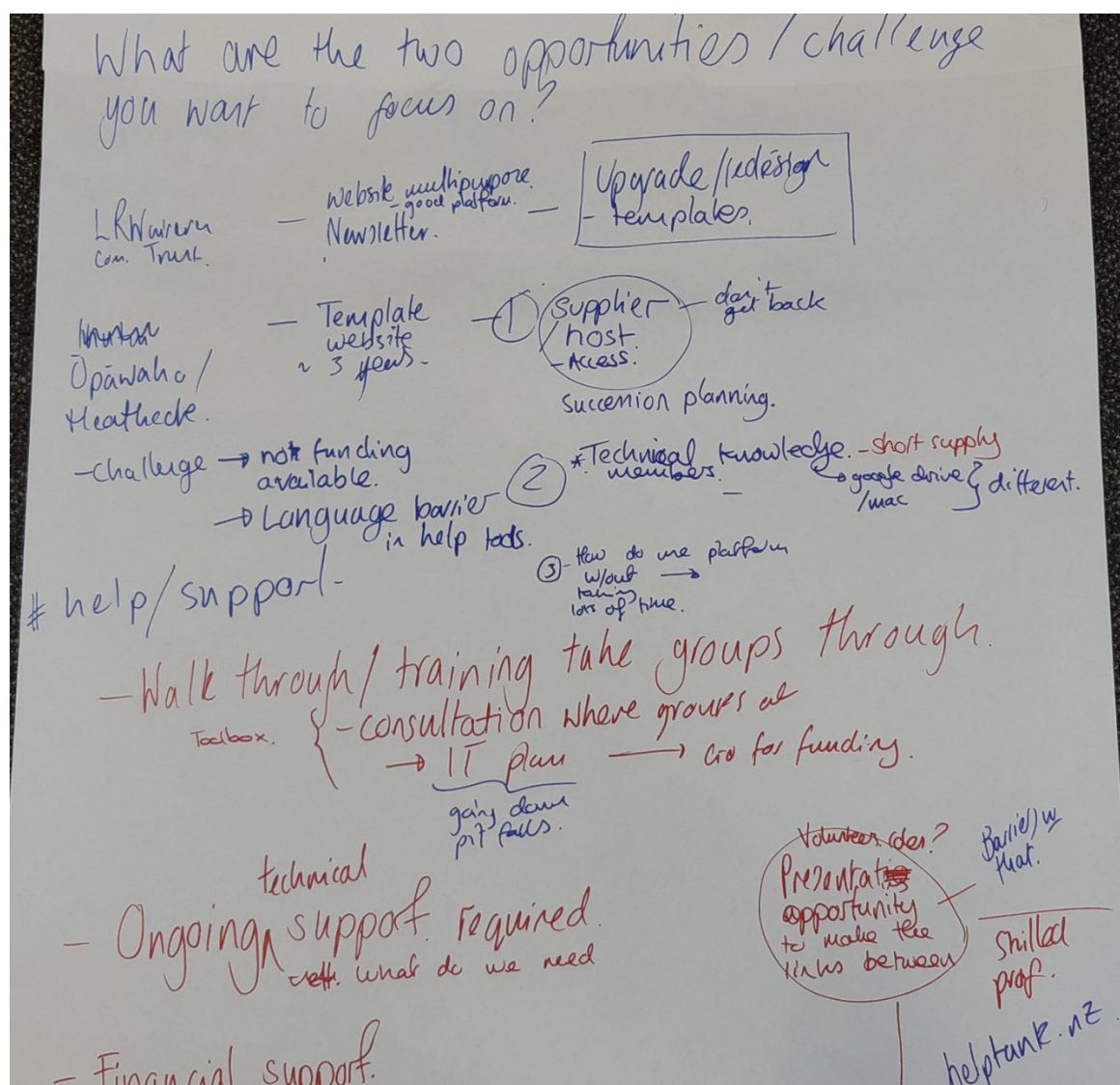
Attachment 1. Notes from workshop session continued: