



The Civics and Media Project

Welcome to
Workshop 2

Dr Gavin Ellis, University of Auckland

Civics and Media Project: The Partners



Workshop Two's purpose

Answer the question: What will a well-informed, civically engaged New Zealand look like in 2030?

Purpose

- Understand the present but do not dwell on it
- Project thinking into the future
- Provide workshop 3 with three vision statements in each area:
 - Civics (the rights and duties of citizenship)
 - Media (information and discourse as well as a check on power)
 - Education (the formal and informal pursuit of knowledge)
- Be pragmatic: the task of Workshop 3 is to determine how best to reach the goals you set.

The Knight Commission on the Information Needs of Communities in a Democracy

The Knight Commission in 2009 was given a deceptively simple charge:

1. Articulate the information needs of a community in a democracy,
2. Describe the state of things in the United States, and
3. Propose public policy directions that would help lead us from where we are today to where we ought to be.

Informing Communities

A community is a healthy democratic community when:

- People have convenient access to both civic and life-enhancing information, without regard to income or social status.
- Journalism is abundant in many forms and accessible through many convenient platforms.
- Government is open and transparent.
- People have affordable high-speed Internet service wherever and whenever they want and need it.
- Digital and media literacy are widely taught in schools, public libraries and other community centres.
- Technological and civic expertise is shared across the generations.
- Local media—including print, broadcast, and online media—reflect the issues, events, experiences and ideas of the entire community.
- People have a deep understanding of the role of free speech and free press rights in maintaining a democratic community.
- Citizens are active in acquiring and sharing knowledge both within and across social networks.
- People can assess and track changes in the information health of their communities.

The Knight Commission conclusions

- **Maximize the availability of relevant and credible *information* to all citizens and their communities;**
- **Strengthen the *capacity* of individuals to engage with information**
- **Promote individual *engagement* with information and the public life of the community.**
- **Proposed 15 strategies to achieve these objectives.**

Back to the Future

THE CONVERSATION

Academic rigour, journalistic flair

- By the year 2045, the word “computer” will be a relic of the past, because computers as we know them will be built so seamlessly into every facet of our lives that we won’t even notice them anymore. – Michael Cowling, CQ University
- Our world in 2045 will be fully connected: constantly and autonomously keeping us in sync with the people in our lives, the places where we live and work, and the things we control. –Thas Nirmalathas, University of Melbourne
- Maybe we will see a return to evolutionary rather than revolutionary change and the technologies we have now will still be around – much faster, more sophisticated and ubiquitous of course, but still recognisable.
– Philip Branch, Swinburne University of Technology.

*It is hard to make predictions,
especially about the future.*



From today's workshop

We seek:

- Three civic visions
- The media visions
- Three education visions