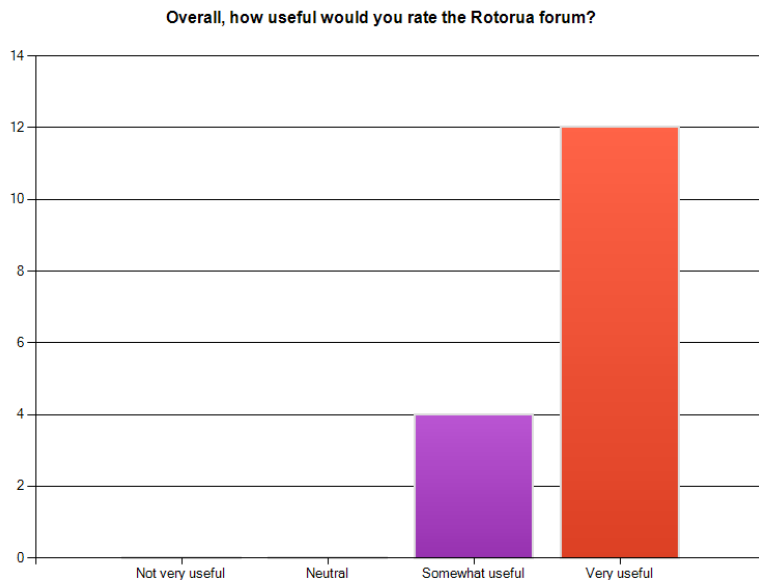


# Rotorua Regional Funders Forum Feedback Summary

The Rotorua Forum, held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009, was hosted by the Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust. Twenty-nine people attended the forum and feedback was received from 16 (55.2%). The comments below are a summary of those received.

## 1. Usefulness of the Rotorua Forum



## 2. What was most useful for you about the Rotorua forum?

This is a summary of responses received.

- Good mix of ideas and the ability to mix and meet with others in the sector. Jenny's presentation and facilitation was great
- Networking and identifying the extent of funding organisations in the area
- It caused me to think about collaboration and communication again. It was also good to be put in a position where you had to talk to other funders about their challenges in the current climate.
- Sharing of ideas. Finding out how other groups make the money go further.
- Global views, research and sharing views on working together
- Sort of revalidating what we do - and why - to some extent
- Learning about other grantmakers practices and priorities
- Background on giving in NZ.
- Always the chance to network and learn what other funders are up to - especially currently when there are more challenges to be faced than usual. The "speed dating" was a great idea to get participants mingled.

### **3. What was least useful about the Rotorua forum?**

This is a summary of responses received.

- Not enough time.
- The presentation by OVCS on 'generosity'. It was interesting and very well presented, but a bit peripheral to the forum theme and could have been presented as a fact sheet. Would have preferred a case study presentation as happened with the other forums.
- Speed dating. It was fun but not enough time to get into it.
- Was initially put off by school-room approach. Don't particularly like the speed-dating thing, although have to accept it had some value.
- Everything was of interest.
- Some participants spoke at length and others not at all
- All was useful.

### **4. How could we improve any future events in your region? What topics and formats would be of most interest/use to you?**

This is a summary of responses received.

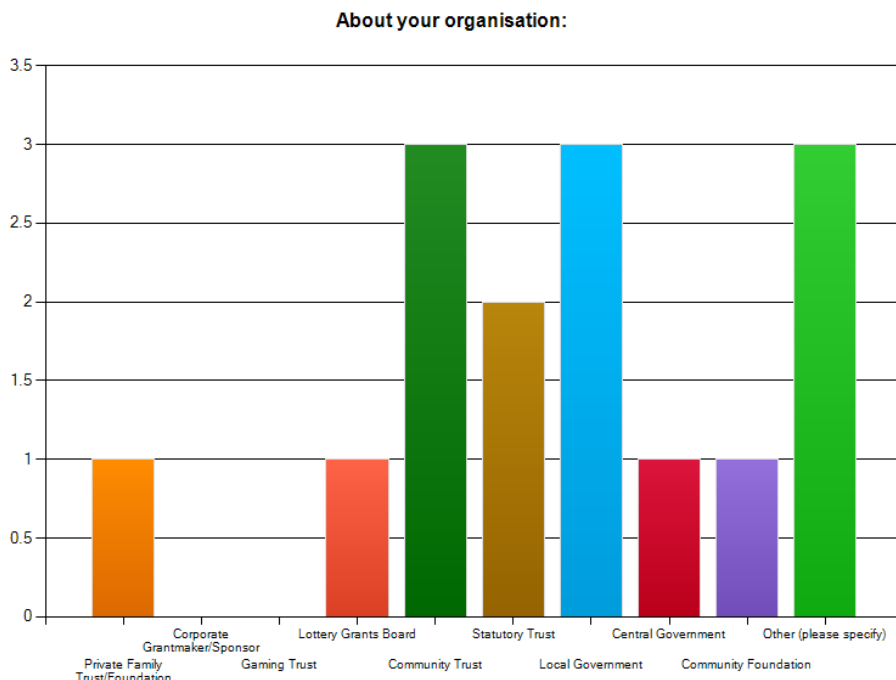
- Nil. They seem to be working fine and are well received.
- Maybe a representative of one of the groups present gives a 10 minute (maximum) of their funding focus/target groups. It is difficult being a first time attendee, knowing who does what
- Perhaps allow the forum to last a little longer than 3 hours
- Ask people to bring along any resources, info etc they would like to share/make available for others.
- Keep up the networking. Topics: more on collaboration (putting it into practice, resourcing it, getting real results over and above acting alone). More on the role of funders as leaders and innovators in their communities.
- Some real community collaborative projects and how difficulties had been overcome
- The sharing between people is always good, so more time for that would be valuable.
- Fundraising in general. Perhaps we could find out more about what each individual actually does in the course of their duties, ie processes, etc.
- Local case studies; examples of good accountability by grant recipients; information on moves in funding priorities.
- I liked the short, sharp to the point - the mixing and getting involved with others was great
- Develop the local relationship with Government funders
- Basically need to keep on trucking! Seriously, new trends are always of interest e.g. having James' hard data was very useful.

### **5. Did you take-away the gem of an idea from the forum which you want to follow up on? If so, please explain briefly and if you have thought it through, outline your next steps in developing this idea.**

1. No just a general group of ideas some of which support my current thinking
2. (Nothing new) - the need for funders to work together more
3. Only that we need to consider other ways of reaching the people in the community who we are not always reaching but who need our help.
4. Encourage collaboration. Similar groups to try and work together. Share admin costs

5. Shifting our Trust from passive grant-making to proactive community projects. We talk about it a lot, but haven't focused on how we would do it. My next step is to write a paper for trustees based on ideas from the Forum and using examples I picked up, to get a tangible discussion going.
6. Was glad to be able to be reassured that our trust is reasonably up to date with current thinking and actions which we will hopefully continue to develop.
7. Getting more info at the start of the grantmaking process, so that it is easier to evaluate the outcomes against that.
8. Not really. Nothing new. Maybe some new slants on old ideas but nothing radical.
9. How can we remove some of the grantmaking roadblocks for applicants yet maintain accountability. Design a simple on-line survey. List a number of possible options to get participants thought processes going and ask them to suggest at least two new ideas.
10. Ideas for fundraising. I will be sharing these ideas with clients, community groups and service organisations.
11. Better communication with other local funders. Informing them where we have awarded funding, and asking if they're involved in similar projects
12. As a grant recipient, keep in touch with funders. Even if they do not ask for information, remember that they are people, too, and like to hear about success stories.
13. Yes - Kerri's fence at the top of the cliff - get the people to help themselves more
14. What shared opportunities to fund community services are there?
15. Yes, need to re-examine priorities of fund-distributing committees now more than ever. This may be the time to stop funding organisations to maintain the status quo, it's sink or swim time. It's more important than ever that funds available are used to maximum effectiveness.

## 6. Types of Organisations Present



## 7. Roles in Organisation

