

30th May 2011

Local OpenGov Innovation Summit held in Nowra

The inaugural Local OpenGov Innovation Summit was held at the Nowra School of Arts on the 18th of May, with about fifty interested citizens taking part.

Shoalhaven City Mayor, Cllr Paul Green welcomed the participants to the summit that provided a framework for productive conversations between the community and Local Government.

This was one of a series of summits held globally to share and explore the concepts of transparency, participation and collaboration in government and communities.

Speakers' presentations can be seen at the 'wiki' site, accessible from Council's website main page.

The potential of new technologies for communication and sharing information was a key theme, but participants were also keen to ensure that these approaches don't lead to the loss of important opportunities for people to join with others face to face and work together on issues and aspirations.

Cllr Green said "It was great to hear from speakers Jan Shalhoub and Graeme Gibson who shared their experiences on open government and collaboration as leaders in the Shoalhaven Community Consultative Bodies network."

An 'un-conference' session allowed participants to respond to both the new and old ideas they had seen, and to each other's perspectives on the opportunities for active citizens to contribute to their communities.

For further information you can contact media office on (02) 4429 3595, or visit Council's internet site at www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au.