

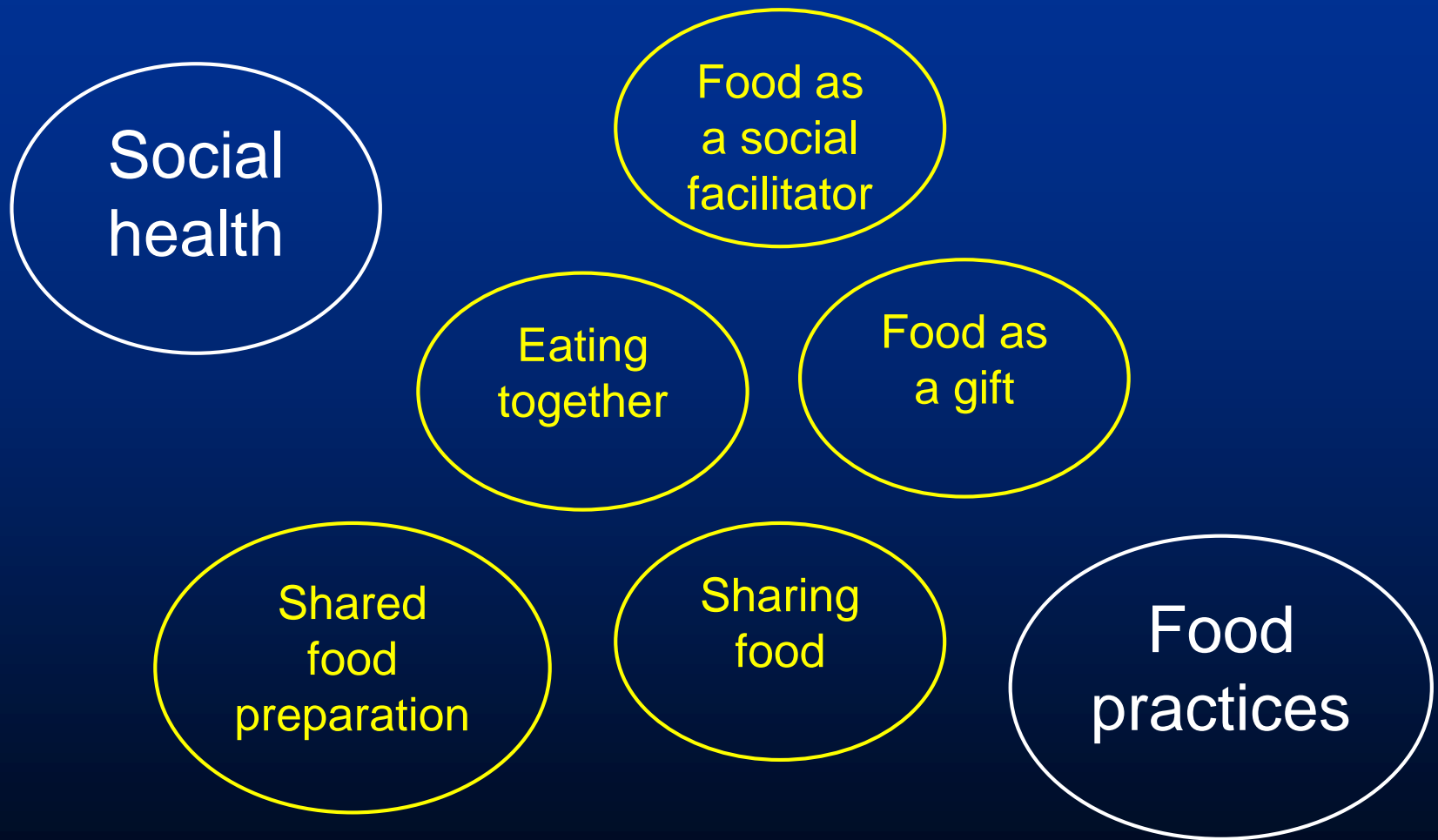


Massey University

Promoting the “social” through food practices

Shared lunches and school connectedness

Eva Neely
Lecturer
School of Public Health

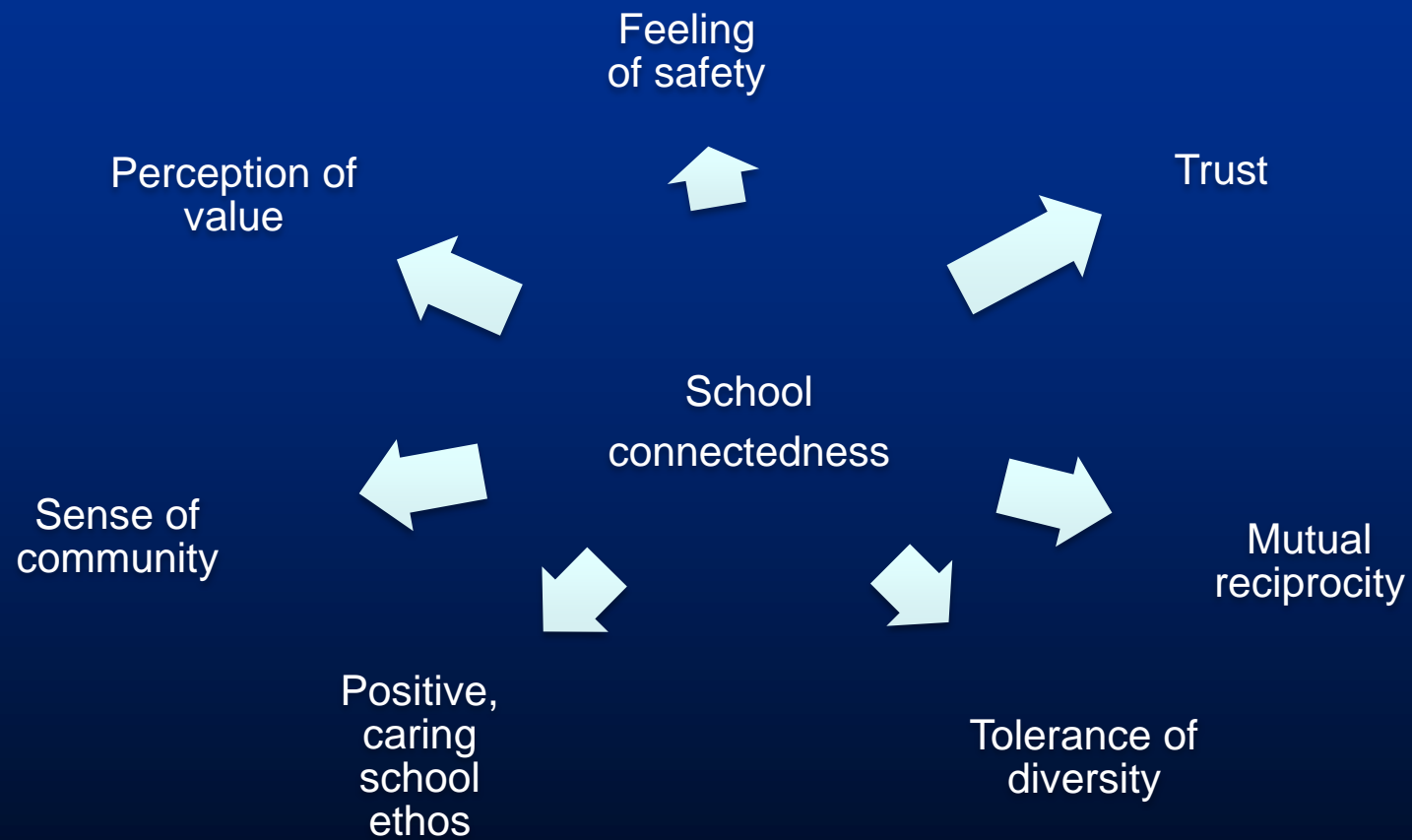


Food
practices



School
connectedness





Shared
lunches



Showing common humanity

“It’s [food] something that everyone relates to, it’s something that everyone needs, it’s something that puts us all on equal footing, you know, we all have to have it, we don’t have it, we die, you know, um, and it’s something that a lot of the time as a teacher you’re always trying to connect or engage, you know different kids in your class when you’ve got them from you know right across the globe and different ages etc., this is a way that does connect everyone.” (T16)



Creating an informal environment

“I find that there is a difference like I find that being, well for me anyway, when it comes to having just a class discussion, it’s more, mmm I don’t know how to put it, um, more kind of self-conscious about asking questions and stuff like that, but I find when you’re eating like people are mostly concentrating on the food, so it’s easier for me to like reveal my opinion, like I mean I’m quite an opinionated person but I mean, I find, I’ll do my opinion in class but I find it easier to do when people aren’t concentrating on me.” (S04)



Food encourages sharing

“People bring like something real nice, and it’s like “oh my gosh, who brought that” and you’re like “I did” and you’re “oh cool”, you don’t know them really, but, um it’s normally like that is the case and it’s like you talk to them a bit, “oh where did you get it from”, it’s just like you answer questions about it and that’s how you can sort of start off talking to someone you haven’t really, so it’s good social aspect as well. (S02)”



Inclusive participation

“I would have had a much easier time in class, you know the whole year, but that’s ok cause I still enjoyed it but now it just feels like you’re, uhh, something about being involved you feel encouraged to be involved more, cause you know what you say and your output it’s like your friends are receiving that and I don’t know, there’s something about, you feel more confident about being engaged in class.” (S03)



Sacrificing time and effort

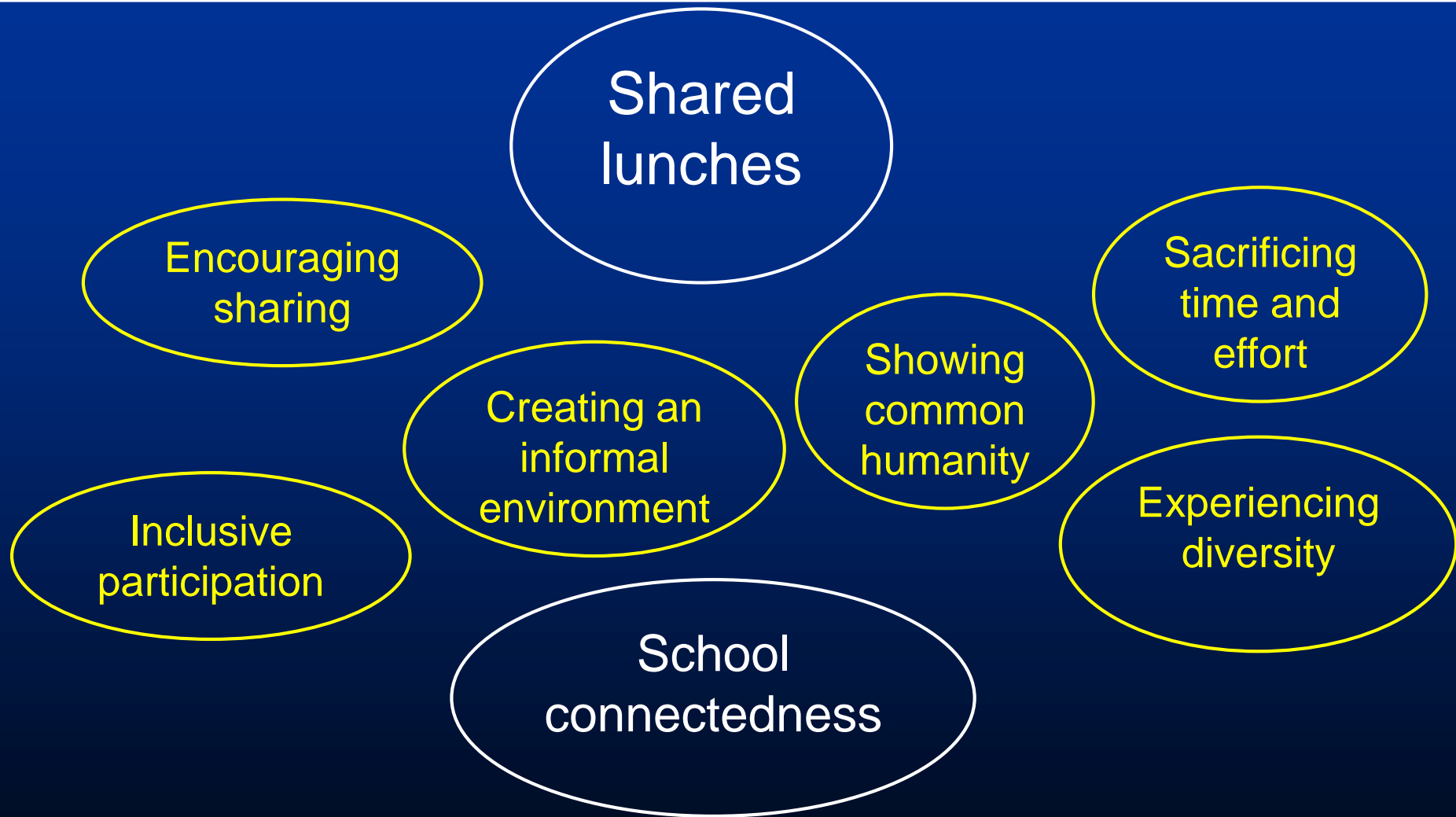
“I’ve got a girl, Lisa, who is very quiet, and she brought something that she’d made, and, doesn’t speak often to other people in the class, but she brings this thing along and everyone was like “oh wow, you gotta try that, that’s amazing” and then they were all like, “oh Lisa did you make this?” And then they’ve got people talking to her that she doesn’t normally talk with, and then she’ll share the recipe and then they’ll talk about what it reminds them of and then you know, it’s good to see that interaction happening, um, cause you don’t get that, even if we did a quiz in class.” (T02)



Experiencing diversity

“Food adds um, is another dimension to any activity, it’s, because you’re sharing food it’s um, it gives a deeper, it’s a deeper level or I guess a deeper understanding of relationships cause of what you share and that’s often from our cultural background as well, where we come from, how we relate, we had just had three students looking at different cultural influences for their home economics project, and um, one of them was from the Cook Islands, and she was talking about Cook Island meals and how you know the Sunday have a big meal and they still do it, talking about food is eaten with fingers, would you do that somewhere else, you know those sort of things, like if you’re eating with your fingers it breaks down a lot of barriers, yeah a lot of things that may stop people connecting with one another.” (T13)





Workshop worksheet



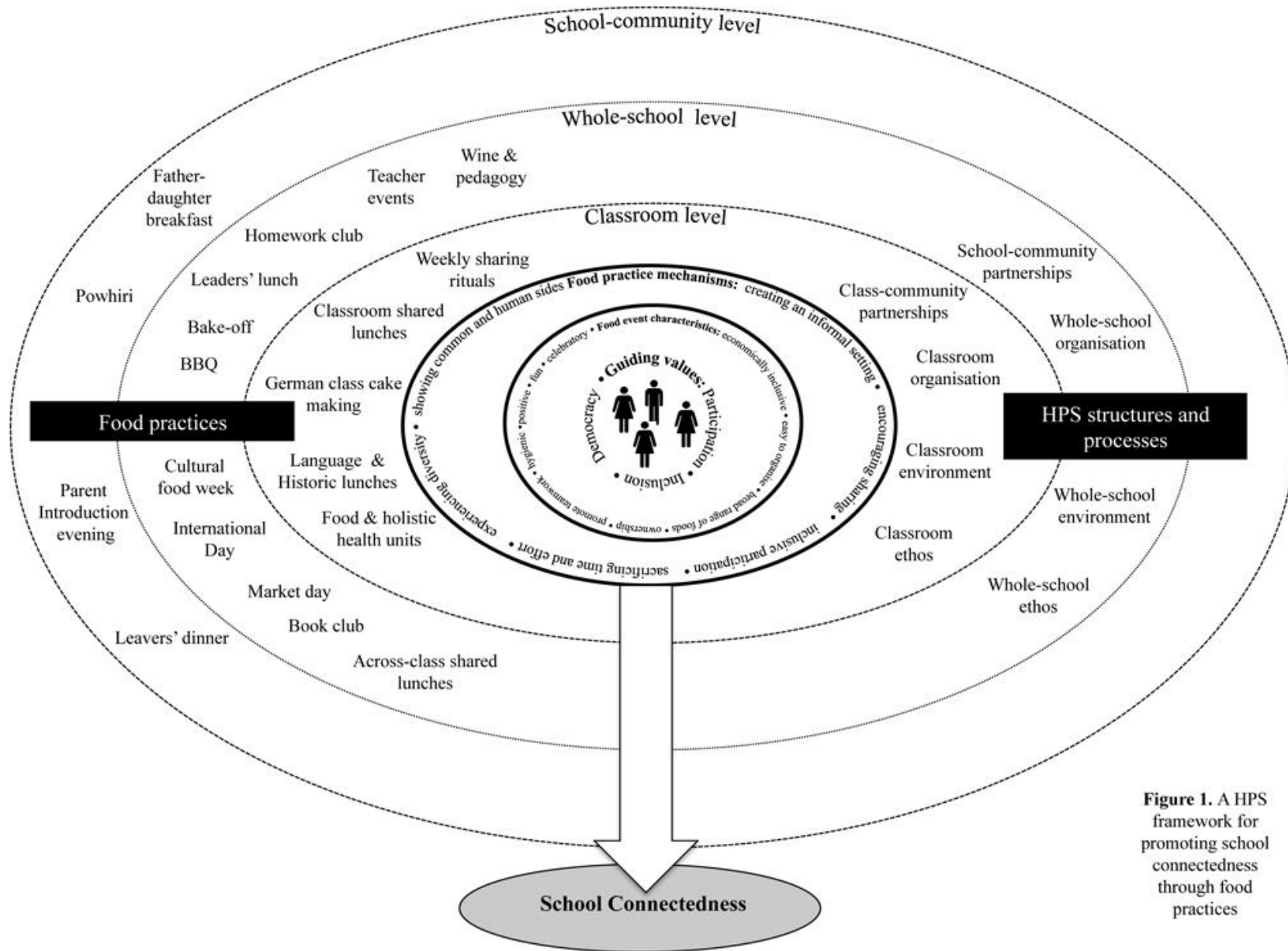


Figure 1. A HPS framework for promoting school connectedness through food practices



The End – Questions?



Contact: e.m.neely@massey.ac.nz



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