



COMMUNITY
WAIKATO

"Supporting strong communities"
Hei tautoko kia tuu pakari ai ngaa haapori

Five Waikato community organisations to compete to win \$10,000 in a local 'Dragon's Den.'

Immediate Release

13 July 2015

Community Waikato is organising a conference called Rising to the Challenge, Hikitia ki te Wero. This conference is specifically for the Waikato community sector to provide two days where participants will be inspired, engaged, learn, and make connections. The conference will include workshops, learning marketplaces, and keynote speakers including Tony Christiansen, Dale Williams, Nigel Latta, Dame Tariana Turia, and Te Radar.

The Dragons Den will be a special part of the conference. Five finalist organisations have been chosen to present their community projects to a panel of dragons (i.e. funders) and come away with a grant to help fund their project. The organisation judged the most promising and best presented project will be awarded up to \$10,000 for the project from a total prize pool of \$15,000. All finalists will receive a prize.

The five finalist organisations are:

- Age Concern, **Hamilton**: Age Concern would like to extend their services to older people into the South Waikato. They propose to investigate what's there, what's needed and what's missing.
- Breakthrough Community Trust, **Taumarunui**: Their project will provide a forum for whaanau in their hapori (community) to address and prevent bullying, depression and suicide through the expression of waiata (song), haka (dance), sport, parent/children activities, the arts and testimonies.
- Colville Social Services Collective Trust, **Colville**: CSSC wish to purchase a caravan to be used as an office/meeting space and during the summer break allocate it to one of the upper Coromandel beaches for staff and volunteers from other not-for profit organisations to holiday at a ready-made camp set up.
- Taupiri Youth Group, **Taupiri**: Reconstructing the Taupiri Mountain Heritage Bush Track to the summit.
- YWCA & Shama, **Hamilton**: The combined SHAMA and YWCA young women's leadership programme aims to support young women, from all ethnicities and backgrounds, to become the next Aotearoa-New Zealand leaders and achievers.

Community Waikato CE, Andrea Goble, says that the Dragons Den provides a great opportunity for organisations to highlight their work and will be entertainment with a serious purpose— a different way to allocate grants to deserving organisations.

"While we are looking forward to the entertaining aspect of the Dragon's Den presentations, ultimately we are very proud to be able to present a significant prize that will fund a regional



**COMMUNITY
WAIKATO**

"Supporting strong communities"
Hei tautoko kia tuu pakari ai ngaa haapori

community project, and a number of smaller prizes that will contribute toward a number of other projects."

Community Waikato contributes toward building a strong community sector in the Waikato by supporting and informing community organisations. It's a regional organisation that provides a one-to-one advisory service, mentoring, information, facilitation, training, scholarships, connections, advocacy and Tindall Foundation funding.

'Rising to the Challenge' will be held on 29th and 30th July 2015 at the Kingsgate Hotel conference centre.

Ends

For more information: Contact: Kim Cable, Marketing and Communications Manager, Community Waikato, kim@communitywaikato.org.nz, 021314575

Interview opportunities: media have the opportunity to interview Andrea Goble, CE, Community Waikato, andrea@communitywaikato.org.nz