

Waikato Community Conference welcomes fantastic line up of key note speakers

Immediate Release

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Dame Tariana Turia, Nigel Latta, Te Radar, Tony Christiansen, and Dale Williams are just some of the people who will be speaking at the Community Waikato Conference, Rising to the Challenge. This fantastic line up of keynote speakers will be accompanied by a number of local speakers addressing local ideas and local issues.

Rising to the Challenge - Hikitia ki te Wero, is the inaugural Waikato sector regional conference. Anyone with an interest is welcome to attend, but the conference is especially for tangata whenua and community social service, health, disability, education, environment, culture & heritage and community development organisations.

This conference is a first of its type for the region. Andrea Goble, CE of Community Waikato says this conference will offer the sector the opportunity to network, and discuss new ideas.

“Rising to the Challenge is important for the sector to attend. Community Waikato is organising the conference to provide two days where participants can reflect, learn and connect.”

“Our community sector here in the Waikato is really diverse, resilient, stretched, challenged and full of passionate, committed, talented and able people. We want to offer something to our sector that gives people a buzz, is more accessible and less costly than most – a Waikato community conference!”

The Dragons Den will be a special part of the conference. Five organisations will have the chance to present 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 total prize pool of \$15,000.

Community based social services are in great demand and Waikato social service organisations are struggling to meet the demand. They offer vital services but suffer from major under-resourcing. They rely on contracts with government, philanthropic funding, donations, bequests and fundraising. Some have small enterprises to help meet their budget to run the services. Like any business they need to break-even or preferably show a surplus, provide excellent and vital services to a growing number of clients, maintain and develop their infrastructure and develop their staff capability and capacity.

Community Waikato was set up to support and inform these organisations. Community Waikato is a regional organisation that provides a one-to-one advisory service, mentoring, information, training, facilitation, 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.

Early Bird Registration closes 14 May, so hurry to take advantage of the discounted rate.
www.communitywaikato.org.nz

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Interview opportunity: media have the opportunity to interview Andrea Goble, CE, or Anne Douglas, Operations Manager, Community Waikato.

For more information:

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