



**COMMUNITY
WAIKATO**

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

Taupiri Youth Group wins top prize of \$10,000 in the Dragon's Den at the Rising to the Challenge Conference

Immediate Release

3 August 2015

Taupiri Youth Group has won top prize of \$10,000 at the Community Waikato conference, Rising to the Challenge, Hikitia ki te Wero.

The Dragons (judges made up of local funders), found the judging difficult as the quality of the five finalist organisations was so high. As a result, the total prize pool was increased to \$28,000 overall.

- Taupiri Youth Group, won \$10,000 for their project - Reconstructing the Taupiri Mountain Heritage Bush Track to the summit.
- Colville Social Services Trust, won \$8000 for their project - purchasing 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 community organisations to holiday at a ready-made camp set up.
- Breakthrough Community Trust, Taumarunui, won \$5000 for their project – an event to raise awareness around preventing bullying, depression and suicide for youth.
- YWCA & Shama, won \$3000. 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.
- Age Concern, Hamilton won \$2000 - Age Concern would like to extend their services to older people into the Ruapehu district. They propose to investigate what's there, what's needed and what's missing.

The conference was a huge success and attracted around 200 people over two days on 29 and 30 July, at the Kingsgate in Hamilton. This conference was specifically for the Waikato community sector and provided two days where participants were inspired, engaged, gained new ideas and made connections. Keynote speakers included Tony Christiansen, Dale Williams, Nigel Latta, Dame Tariana Turia, and Te Radar.

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, connections, facilitation, training, scholarships, advocacy and Tindall Foundation funding.

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