



**COMMUNITY
WAIKATO**

"Thriving Communities"
Hapori Mauriora

Six Waikato community organisations to compete to win share of \$20,000 in a local 'Dragon's Den.'

Immediate Release

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Community Waikato are excited to be offering the chance for six Waikato community organisations to compete to win a share of \$20,000 donated by the Len Reynolds Trust.

This prize is being offered in a Dragon's Den competition at the Community Waikato conference 'Thriving in the 21st Century.' This conference is for the social service organisations within the Waikato region, and those who are involved with the sector.

The Waikato region rarely has sector specific conferences and following the very positive feedback from the sector about the previous conference 'Rising to the Challenge' held in 2015, Holly Snape, CE of Community Waikato says that the team at Community Waikato are excited to bring you this second sector conference, 'Thriving in the 21st Century'.

"We look forward to building on the momentum from the first conference, and providing inspiration, information, connections and resources that will benefit those that work within the social services sector" says Holly.

The Dragons Den will be a special part of the conference. Six finalist organisations have been chosen from twenty-two applications to present their community projects to a panel of dragons (i.e. funders) and come away with a prize to help fund their project. The projects will be judged based on the most promising and best presented. There will be a total prize pool of \$20000, and all finalists will receive a prize.

The six finalist organisations are:

- **Link House Agency**, Hamilton; project aims to develop improved consensual relationships for people parenting alone
- **Morrinsville Community House**, Morrinsville and Te Aroha; project aims to provide women from low income houses with reusable menstrual products
- **Otorohanga Support House**, Otorohanga; local community information day to make connections with services and break down barriers
- **Seagull Centre**, Thames; research, develop and initiate marketing the Seagull Centre business model to other communities around the country as a franchise
- **Tokoroa Community Garden Trust**, Tokoroa; Community Garden project - Garden produce for Foodbank and Kapa Kai
- **Young Workers Resource Centre**, Hamilton; Develop new workshops facilitated by people who have employed youth around effective job search techniques and hiring process



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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 and advocacy. Community Waikato are also Fund Managers for the Tindall Foundation and the Len Reynolds Trust.

Key note speakers confirmed for this year's conference include: Graeme Dingle, Erinna Lane, Dr Hirini Kaa, and Lindsay Cumberpatch. The Dragon's Den and Learning Marketplace remain highlights of the conference. New to the programme this year is a 'back benches' session where Wallace Chapman will interview members of NZ political parties.

'Thriving in the 21st Century' will be held on 2-3 August at the Distinction Hotel, 100 Garnet Ave, Te Rapa. For more information visit www.communitywaikato.org.nz

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 Holly Snape, CE, Community Waikato, holly@communitywaikato.org.nz