

A new resource to improve the health and safety of our people



Community Waikato and Altus NZ Ltd have partnered to produce a Health and Safety Toolbox for community organisations and marae. This resource is designed to guide the thinking of small to medium sized groups addressing a broad range of health and safety circumstances.

This toolbox was launched recently on 22 Feb at The Verandah Cafe and Function Centre.

CE of Community Waikato, Holly Snape says that the Community Waikato approach to

health and safety is not just about compliance.

“Our approach to health and safety is driven by ensuring the safety of our people. We want everyone to get home safely each day” says Holly.

Altus NZ Ltd Managing Director, Ron Holden, spoke honestly at the launch about the serious incident that occurred during night shift at their Hamilton factory, which led to this Health and Safety resource being produced. Under the Health and Safety Act 2015, Altus NZ Ltd were one of the first businesses to choose an ‘enforceable undertaking.’ An enforceable undertaking is an agreement entered into with Worksafe, following the serious incident. This agreement details actions that Altus NZ Ltd needed to undertake in order to support progressively higher standards of work health and safety, and to remedy the harm caused. This was the background behind Altus NZ Ltd approaching Community Waikato to develop a health and safety resource specifically for the Waikato community sector.

“We saw the new health and safety resource as an opportunity to make something good out of a really bad situation” says Holden.

The special guest speaker at this event was Lieutenant Commander Tuijo Thompson from the Royal New Zealand Navy who spoke about how cultural change is needed for a successful health and safety environment. He outlined the 4 pillars of culture and change: Understanding why (everyone understanding the part they play); Having a learning culture (educating people, and seeing genuine mistakes as an opportunity to learn – then people become confident enough to ask questions); Empowerment (people becoming agile and empowered to get the job done); and the Relentless pursuit of excellence. Lieutenant Commander Tuijo Thompson was a joint winner of the RNZN Safety Award 2017, in recognition of superior efforts in promoting and pursuing safety excellence.

Community Waikato is hosting a brand new series of free Health and Safety workshops throughout the Waikato region. At these workshops, attendees will receive a copy of the new booklet, ‘Health and Safety Toolbox for Community Organisations and Marae’. See www.communitywaikato.org.nz/training for more details.