

From the CE's desk

Tena koutou katoa, greetings to our Waikato communities and beyond as Spring brings new warmth and new life.

Kaumatua for Community Waikato

Nau mai, haere mai ki a koe Pita Te Ngaru. Pita has agreed to take the Kaumatua role for our Community Waikato whanau. Pita has been described as "an old head on young shoulders" and brings among other things his knowledge of Tainuitanga taught him by his elders, links to Kawhia, various Marae and Kingitanga and his experience as Kaumatua to Youth Horizons and the Te Hurihanga pilot programme which closed at the end of June.



Pita has already started to work with us on our pronunciation of te reo and plans to get us to sing! Strengthening our knowledge and practices of tikanga will, I suspect, be like any

learning worth doing – exciting, challenging and hard work. Staff and trustees will benefit.

On his first work meeting with us Pita brought with him a wonderful cloak – a kaakahu which he is wearing in the photo. He talked about and showed us examples of different styles of cloak including the korowai and the pureke - the Maori raincoat made with hollow swamp reeds and harakeke. He has offered us the opportunity to weave a cloak for our organisation and we are looking forward to getting started on that project. It follows the Mahi Raranga analogy we used on our strategic planning day in which the trustees were the whenu or warp and the staff were the aro or the weft. The warp and the weft together represent the organisation's strengths and support services. Pita is another strength and support for our organisation.

We look forward to working with Pita and finding opportunities to introduce him to you.



Ki tai

**Ko Karioi te maunga
Ko Aotea te moana
Ko Ngaati Patu Poo te hapuu**

Ki uta

**Ko Taupiri te maunga
Ko Waikato te awa
Ko Turangawaewae te Marae**



Our thoughts are with Sandy and her whanau during her recovery.

Thank you from all of us here at Community Waikato for the messages of love and support

**Community Waikato AGM
15 September 2010
4.30 pm @ Puke Rangiora
33 Victoria Street, Hamilton**

All Welcome

Please RSVP for catering

Be aware and vote!

See page 3 for more information...

We extend a warm welcome to George Barrett, our new part time Advisor contractor. George has a background in Maaori community development, within Waikato Maniapoto region, and experience with hapu environmental projects, Maaori land administration, projects coordinator for Maaori and Pacific community groups in Hamilton and greater Waikato region.



*Tainui te waka
Waikato Maniapoto ngaa iwi
Ko Pongawhakatihi te maunga
Ko Ohautira te awa
Ko Tamainupo te hapu
Ko Waingarua te marae
Tainui Awhiro Ngurunguru
Te po, ngunguro te ao.
Ko George Barrett ahau*

Attention

Our mailing address has changed
from PO Box 391 to
Po Box 1367, Hamilton 3240

The mailing address for Reliance
is PO Box 178, Hamilton 3240

A New Zealand first: A transport coordinator for Coromandel Hauraki

In July 2008 a discussion at the Agewise meeting in Thames identified that lack of transport was a problem in this rural region. A group of interested people formed the Hauraki Transport Steering group. The group comprised people from Grey Power, Thames Community Care, Hauraki Health and Disability Trust, the District Health Board and Community Waikato. This group canvassed transport operators in the region and identified the fact that while there were many services operating in the region there was a real need for co-ordination of those services.

Initially a strategy was developed to seek solutions to this issue, to take to the decision makers in our communities. In addition

submissions were made to the Thames Coromandel District Council, Hauraki District Council and Environment Waikato long term planning about the need for regular, reliable, affordable community transport.

Following this genesis, regular group planning meetings have culminated in the agreement for, and development of, the 12 month joint Coromandel Hauraki pilot transport coordinator position project.

Involved in this process were Jacquie Mitchell Manager of Thames Hospital, Mayor John Tregidga Hauraki District Council, two representatives from Hauraki District Council and the Thames Coromandel District Council,

Sheryll FitzPatrick from Community Waikato and Bevan Dale of Environment Waikato. From its 2008 Agewise genesis this project has been set up to be successful. Individuals and representatives from a range of groups, organisations, Councils and government agencies have worked together confidently and on equal terms to reach agreement on key issues. It has been a collaborative process involving the tangata whenua, community and voluntary sector, local, regional, government and health sector, providing a great example of the power we all have to make positive change if we harness our respective resources and work together to make a difference in our communities.



**The 2010 Tindall funding
round opens October 4 2010
and closes November 15 2010.**

Eligibility details

Are you a charitable organisation working with young children and families, youth development, Maori and ethnic groups, adult literacy, budgeting or community services and development? You may be eligible to apply to The Tindall Fund for Waikato region. Phone 07 8381583 or email Sally sally@communitywaikato.org.nz if you would like more information. If you would like to automatically receive an application pack when the round opens email Sally with your name and address details.

Reminder to those who received funding last year, your accountabilities need to be in to Community Waikato before your next application. Please put time now into preparing a brief story about the difference their funding made in your organisation and to the services you provide to your community. These stories will be used in our report to The Tindall Foundation.

Congratulations to the Hamilton Christian Night Shelter Trust, winners of the 2010 Community Media Grant.

“The Community Media grant is an initiative of Community Radio Hamilton, Bettle Advertising and Hamilton City Council’s City News magazine. For three years the grant has been helping the helpers and bridging the marketing and promotional funds gap in the community sector by providing \$15,000 worth of campaign planning, graphic design, advertising and editorial to one deserving community organisation in Hamilton each year”.

State of the sector results

Thank you everyone who participated in Community Waikato's 'State of the Sector' survey last month.

Recently Community Waikato made contact with a range of community organisations asking how they felt the Waikato community sector was going, and how their own organisations were managing in the wake of the recession and change of Government. Here is a brief précis of the results. To read the whole article please go to www.communitywaikato.org.nz

Results overall showed a strong commitment to the sector and the communities we serve regardless of the resourcing issues many of us are facing. This is seen as both a strength, 'It's the reason we exist', and a weakness "Funders, especially government expect us to cope on very little, and when we do they reduce it further".

The community sector is resilient. There is an increasing commitment to collaboration and continuing to explore the sharing of services and workspaces. Organisations generally are 'getting on with business as usual'. That is not to say there is not a lot of hardship and difficulty being experienced, rather people working within the sector are

taking it in their stride and continuing to 'get by'. 'Getting by' as in managing to deliver services on very little was a community organisational strength noted by a number of the participants. It is "something we always do" "things are hard, but then they always have been".

A number of organisations expressed concern around reduced funding opportunities noting they were now reaching the point of having used up existing resources and having 'made do' as much as they can. A few said they faced grave concerns around being able to continue operating at current levels, or even having to close down if funding did not improve significantly and soon.

Most felt that the heaviest impact of the recession has been on staff. Impacts include organisations being unable to provide salary or cost of living increases, cutting down on staff training and professional development and cutting external supervision. Many have not replaced staff members who have left with the subsequent burden of extra work falling on remaining staff. Or they have taken on more staff to cope with additional community demands resulting from the recession, again creating extra work for staff. While staff are committed overall to their

organisations and communities many report high levels of stress, tiredness and burn-out.

Many organisations noted that the impact of the recession is being felt more now, when we are supposedly climbing out of it, than it was when we were said to be in the middle of it.

The impact of the recession on volunteers has been heavy. Organisations have noted that many of their volunteers have regretfully stopped offering their services because of financial reasons. It is generally expected that the effects of the Emissions Trading Scheme and GST increase will cause more volunteers to resign from their roles. For organisations that rely on their volunteers for things such as meal delivery and providing support and transport to community members this is of serious concern.

While respondents were very clear about the difficulties they have been facing and continue to face, the resiliency of the sector, its willingness to adapt and their absolute commitment to the people they serve within their communities came through clearly.

Sally Ridley

Be aware and vote!

We talk about the community and voluntary sector being the glue that holds our society together. A measure of that strength is the connection to and participation in the local community and the local government.

The Councillors on the 10 local authorities and one regional authority are there because of your vote (or your lack of voting!). They play a major part in how your community works and with local government elections coming up in October – we urge you to exercise your democratic right to have a say in how your community operates by voting or by standing as a candidate in the election.

Local government provides facilities and services that benefit their community. They are there to ensure services are provided to the community in the best way possible. This may mean providing services themselves, joining forces with neighbouring councils, contracting out particular services or privatising the service.

They are about working with communities to identify common, or public, goods and creating a sense of local identity and place. They are supposed to take a collective approach to community needs, seeing and creating the best future for each community. This may mean encouraging new industries to the area, establishing high environmental standards, making social equity a community priority, building drains, developing parks or creating local museums.

Does your voice get heard? Does your Council represent the whole community? Are you standing for election or encouraging someone to stand?

When government cuts community education funding or local government cuts public library funding they are taking away the opportunities for people to exercise their democratic rights because for democracy to work you need to be informed, have access to learning and information and be connected to your community.

Another form of disconnection and

disempowerment is when the provision of services is taken out of the hands of a local community and given as a contract to one large metropolitan based organisation. As you know, government at all levels has huge influence on our lives – make the most of your opportunity to elect Councillors to your local authority who will work for the best interests of your community.

Some questions for the candidates for your Council might include:

Do you know which organisations provide social services in this community?

Do you know what they do and who uses them?

Do you know how they are funded?

What **ideas** do you have for improving social wellbeing in this community?

If elected, what **will you do** to support the social services in this community?

Te Whangai Trust

Just one seed, one action and the world can change not overnight we admit, but within our community we are changing- changing lives and changing the environmental landscape. and it starts with a simple step- planting a seed.

MISSION STATEMENT

To create a sustainable, ecological, social and educational enterprise that supports and trains disadvantaged people who find it challenging to enter the labour market by empowering people to break habits, changing the intergenerational cycle and thus creating a better life for themselves and future generations.



Gary and Adrienne Dalton

Te Whangai is a community driven charitable trust focusing on hand up not hand out philosophy for those disadvantaged in our community. Te Whangai utilises the skills of those currently unemployed, assisting them with life and work skills in a nurturing, self help work place while they in turn nurture the environment. Together they have created a native plant nursery with 250,000 native plants for sale. The Trust offers multi agency advocacy and assists with vocational employment opportunities utilising a Kaupapa Maori approach to build mana.

We practice the philosophy of hand up not hand out. We work with each person on life and personal skills, job training and education.

We currently have eight at risk youth, a probationary prisoner on home detention, six older unemployed victims of the recession who act as youth mentors, two supervisors, and an environmental advisor. Up to 80% of Te Whangai Trust participants are Maori. The majority of participants are considered statistically to be among the least employable people in New Zealand.

Community volunteers offer their professional expertise and work within the group. Trust trainees revel in the quality of the trees they grow, and the challenge of creating a resource to contribute to NZs natural heritage, and a legacy for their children who join them at work in school holidays or if ill.

An overview

64 people into work to date.

12 currently undertaking NZQA courses

12 youth back into community education

300 participants undertaking community service

Families advocated for on a multi-agency basis.

Currently trialling a joint pilot project with WINZ and Corrections for six at risk youth as a option to prison with an additional six mainstream unemployed youth as peer mentors.

Creating change

Te Whangai is working closely with youngster who spent 10 months in prison and is still awaiting a defended hearing. He is currently on home detention in his grandparents' custody. His dealings with the prison system have been horrific, with the effects of this experience potentially lifelong. Our role has been and is to advocate for him, empower him, and educate him with love and compassion. We enable him to contribute in our community as a worthwhile citizen accepting the consequences of his actions and learning from them, rather than becoming hardened and embittered by the system and abuse suffered while awaiting trial.



Te Whangai focuses on employment in home towns with involvement of whanau, parents, educators and advocates. Our retirees are utilised as an amazing skill resource and as mentors creating a whanau atmosphere and rekindling social and community skills. Welfare should be an investment in people utilising their existing skills and developing new ones. Work is amazing therapy and addresses the issue of idle hands that feature in Court statistics so prominently.



We believe Te Whangai is one of the solutions to the welfare issues. Our way of working addresses the problems, not the symptoms. Work and self esteem reduce stress and violence, build relationships helping to create life and work skills. Education in a nurturing workplace empowers the participants, giving them and their families hope for the future. Go to www.tewhangai.com for a closer look at what Gary and Adrienne Dalton and the team are accomplishing.



Raglan Community House



Like Community Centres everywhere, Raglan Community House is a busy place. We operate a Budget Service, a Counselling Service and a Drop In Lounge. On the staff there is a Coordinator, a part time Assistant Coordinator, an Administrator, two part time Budget Advisors, two contracted Counsellors, and a part time cleaner.

A large Bargain Basement operates downstairs and is staffed solely by a dedicated group of volunteers under the guidance of its Manager, Iris Porter. The Bargain Basement provides essential

untargeted funding in support of our operations. We take bookings for the Community Van which transports members of our community needing to get to medical appointments in Hamilton, have strong links with the Hamilton Community Law and an Optometrist (Paterson Burn) who provides us with vouchers towards the cost of examination or lenses. We sell Frozen Meals, hire out rooms and have wheelchairs and a mobility scooter for hire. We are delighted to announce that Work and Income are shortly to return to the Community House and will run their weekly clinics here at the House every Tuesday. Also starting up again is Narcotics Anonymous on a Monday evening and Alcoholics Anonymous on a Thursday evening. Driver Licensing is also about to start up again and this will be run by the Raglan Police.

We are pulling together a programme of workshops to be run over the coming

months and these include Budget Workshops (Money Management Basics and Managing Your Budget) with one of our advisors, Tony Agar; Self Esteem and Communication workshops and we are looking towards various parenting and youth workshops that may be of interest to our community.

We are also in the middle to a Community Survey with postal, counter and face to face surveys being conducted. It will be great to have feedback from our community on the services we provide and what they would like to see in the future.

Contact us on 07 825 8142 or email r_ch@xtra.co.nz and check out our web pages at www.rch.org.nz

Volunteering Waikato's Volunteer Excellence Awards 2010



Our Bargain Basement Manager—Iris Porter—was awarded Volunteer of the Year in Volunteering Waikato's 2010 Volunteer Excellence Awards. **Iris Porter** and fellow volunteer **Barbara Rothwell** were both nominated and Iris was a very deserving winner of the award from a field of 23 nominations, from throughout the Waikato, in the individual category.

Her commitment to the Community House and, indeed, the whole community, is awesome in the truest sense of the word. The Awards ceremony was a great evening and it was quite humbling to see the huge contribution that volunteers make to all our communities.

Congratulations again Iris!

Raglan's Mid Winter Swim

A small, but intrepid, team from Raglan Community House entered the Mid Winter Swim this year....and won prize for "Best Dressed Team".

It was freezing cold but great fun and next year we hope to field a larger team—and we'll be issuing a challenge to other groups in the community to join us!



ADRI ISBISTER CE LIFE Unlimited



Adri Isbister

After 14 years with LIFE Unlimited and having the "privilege of influencing and implementing the organisations strategic direction" Adri Isbister is moving on to Hawkes Bay to take on new challenges in a new organisation.

During her time at Life Unlimited, Adri's business acumen and the professionalism of LIFE Unlimited as a health and disability provider were reflected in the Westpac Waikato Business Excellence Awards with the organisation winning few of the top accolades. The organisation was named Waikato Business of the Year and Adri took home Chief Executive Officer of the Year. LIFE Unlimited also won the Not for Profit sector and Innovation awards.

Adri is also President of NZ Needs Assessment Service Coordination Association (NASCA), a member of the Waikato DHB Health Waikato Advisory committee, Trustee and sponsor of Hamilton Hydrotherapy Trust, Director of Netball Waikato and a Director of Netball Magic Franchise.

We all wish Adri well with her move and look forward to watching the development of Radius Medical Solutions with her at the helm.

Change stories

Change stories are a necessary part of recording what we are doing and telling what difference our work is making in the communities we work with. Over the past few months Community Waikato has been developing a simple approach to gathering and recording change stories in order to better establish the difference our organisation is making for the community we work in. Recently we shared this tool with a group of organisations who have found it to be very effective.

Change stories capture difference made. They allow us to record events, services offered, interventions made and support given in a way that clearly and simply establishes both what difference we made to our community, along with providing a tool that allows us to understand our own role in that change.

We all need to know what difference we are making; funders now want to know so much more than simple outcomes, they want to know what difference their money is making. We need to assess our own performance, evaluate our effectiveness as organisations by establishing what works well and what works less well, what we are doing well as individuals and what we could do better, to continue to define and develop our services and processes, to identify new trends and unexpected outcomes and overall to ensure we are making the wisest use of our resources. And we want to know that community wellbeing is growing as a result of our work.

This can be overwhelming, especially when we are trying to complete an end of year accountability or annual report and are desperately trying to demonstrate just what we were doing all year. So we are trying to make it easier.

The template we have developed is designed to build up a portfolio of stories and photos of our work. It is easy to use, and can be altered to suit specific organisations and the work they do.

If you are interested in finding out more about this tool please contact Community Waikato, 07 838 1583, sally@communitywaikato.org.nz


TE AWAMUTU
Community Health Transport Trust

All the hard work done by the Te Awamutu Community Health Transport Project team since the initial July 2009 community meeting has resulted in the establishment of the Te Awamutu Community Health Transport Trust. The establishment of the trust is the first step in providing a community health transport service for the residents of Te Awamutu and surrounding area.

The project team consists of representatives from a range of organisations within the community including Rotary, Lions, Zipper Club, Citizens Advice Bureau, Waipa District Council, Te Awamutu Community Board, Community Waikato, Kainga Aroha, Te Awamutu Home Support Services and Te Awamutu RSA.

In the near future a van will be purchased, drivers and attendants recruited and this fabulous community initiated service will ensure people within the community are able to get to and from medical-related appointments in Hamilton in, a caring and supportive manner.

For more information please contact Katherine O'Regan, 07 871 8308



A panel of designated stakeholders discuss "significant change" stories emanating from the field and define what the "most significant change" is. (©Rick Davis and Jess Dart)



Kurt started with Reliance in May of this year. He is a Hamiltonian through and through and has worked in the IT industry in the Waikato for many years.



Kurt is relishing the experiences that working in the community sector is providing. He is looking to help your organisation make the best use of existing technology and to help you move forward with improved solutions and practices that are now available.

In his spare time he enjoys his family life with two young sons (2 under 2, fun times!) If Kurt's not at home or with family you'll most likely find him on a golf course or squash

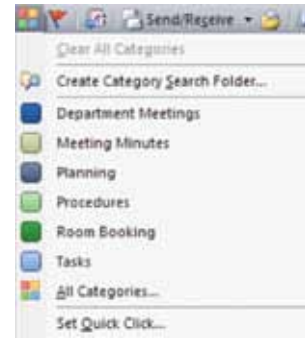
Reliance Kumara Vine Tip

Keeping Organised with Outlook

Outlook 2007 allows you to stay organised by using colour categories to group emails. Just click the 'Categorise' button on the standard toolbar and choose a colour and name to classify your emails.



You are also able to change the category name and colour by clicking 'All Categories' off the menu. The 'Colour Categories' dialog box will then appear, and you will be able to edit existing or create new classifications.



Poverty Project update *"Will we create a possibility for change? I believe so".*

Researchers for Poverty Action Waikato Rose Black and Anna Cox have spent the last couple of months exploring how poverty is talked and written about both in Aotearoa and internationally as part of the first phase of scoping and learning about poverty in the Waikato region.

The following excerpts have been taken from a paper they presented to the NZPS (New Zealand Psychological Society) Annual 2010 conference in July. Their presentation, Exploring discourses of poverty, can be accessed from Community Waikato's website - www.communitywaikato.org.nz.

Poverty in the developed world is understood in relative rather than absolute terms. Through the media we are inundated with images and information about poverty, starvation and squalor in 3rd world countries. It is hard for many of us to comprehend that anyone living in New Zealand can possibly be living in poverty. Rose and Anna are gaining an understanding of how poverty and inequality are constructed and how they impact on everybody in New Zealand. This is the first stage of our agenda to work with people in the communities of the Waikato to change aspects of poverty and inequality.

The quality of social relationships in a society is built on its material foundations. The scale of income differences has a powerful effect on how we relate to each other. Inequality is associated with less good outcomes of many kinds because it leads to deterioration in the quality of relationships at many levels in a society. Indicators of inequality are evident from the social problems that are more common in the more unequal societies. Aotearoa is high on the list of unequal societies. Inequality is the gap between the rich and the poor in a society.

The impacts of inequality experienced in many societies were listed by Wilkinson & Pickett (2009) in their book "The Spirit Level", as:

- the level of trust in communities;
- mental illness (including drug and alcohol addiction);
- life expectancy and infant mortality;
- obesity;
- children's education performance;
- teenage births;
- homicides;
- imprisonment rates;
- social mobility.

This list is an extension of many of the ill health and violence problems we experience in Aotearoa.

Generally poverty is measured by levels of income people or households receive. However, understanding the impacts of poverty is more complex than measures of income. NZ Council of Christian Social Services has a list which highlights the complexity of poverty.

- 1) There is poverty in the midst of prosperity in Aotearoa New Zealand
- 2) There is not enough help available when you really need it
- 3) With the best budgeting skills there still isn't enough to pay the bills
- 4) Living on a benefit is not a good lifestyle
- 5) Getting a job doesn't solve the poverty trap
- 6) Making life hell on a benefit does not reduce poverty
- 7) Economic growth alone does not solve poverty
(www.justiceandcompassion.org.nz)



Tom Scott cartoon from Waikato Times
Weekend 10 April 2010 <http://fairfaxmedia.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/services> accessed 11.4.2010

Upcoming Community Waikato Training

9 and 10 September 2010: Advocacy Training with Ruth Gerzon

23 September 2010: Career information training with Career Services

9 November 2010: Governance Workshop with Aly McNicoll

There are two more Unitec Diploma papers on offer this year in Hamilton



Leading Change: October 27-29 & Nov 17-19 in Hamilton @ Community Waikato

Leading and Facilitating Teams: Sept 15-17 & Oct 18-20 in Hamilton @ Community Waikato

Population Health does a great deal of research around community needs and trends. In particular they complete extensive literature reviews involving both national and international data. It's a great place to start when you are looking for information to back up your own research or projects. These research reports, along with position statements on current issues are available from the Waikato DHB website. *Go to www.waikatodhb.govt.nz click into 'About us' then click into public health advice.*

Community Waikato has a training room available for hire to the community

- The room sits 20 people comfortably at tables.
- Video conferencing equipment, a Projector and a OHP are available for hire

The rates for hire are:

Projector: \$5 per hour
OHP: \$5 per hour
Video Conferencing: \$25 for ½ day or \$50 for full day (community rate)
 \$50 for ½ day or \$100 for full day (corporate rate)

Community hire rate:

½ day (4 hrs) \$40
 1 day (8 hrs) \$80

Corporate hire rate:

½ day (4 hrs) \$80
 1 day (8 hrs) \$160

Terms and conditions apply

To make a booking please contact Cheryl on 838-1583 or email cheryl@communitywaikato.org.nz

Do you attend or host a community network meeting in your area? We'd love to know about it. Community Waikato is developing a database of community networks to appear on our website. Please contact Cheryl Moorehead at cheryl@communitywaikato.org.nz with the details of your network, or for any further information.

The Social Service Waikato Trust trading as Community Waikato invites you to the Annual General Meeting on 15 September 2010 at 4.30pm at 33 Victoria Street, Hamilton.

Please RSVP by 10 September 2010
cheryl@communitywaikato.org.nz

Trustee Vacancy

Community Waikato is a capacity strengthening organisation working with social service, iwi, hapu, community based health and education, environmental and community development organisations.

We are seeking a highly motivated person committed to the support of social service organisations throughout the Waikato region to join our Trust. Trust meetings which are held bi monthly at Community Waikato.

Our voluntary Trustees represent a broad range of interests and the skills required to build capacity within the sector.

If you are interested in working with our organisation which is committed to Treaty based practice and community development please send an expression of interest and copy of a brief curriculum vitae by Friday 10th September to: Trustee Vacancy, Community Waikato, P O Box 1367, Hamilton.

Networks

Please contact Jenny at

jenny@communitywaikato.org.nz for information about

- Child Health and Disability Forum
- Coordinators and Fieldworkers Network
- Waikato Region Community Houses Network

Please contact Sheryll at

sheryll@communitywaikato.org.nz for information about

- Transport steering group
- Hauraki, Matamata and Piako Managers Forum

Please contact Andrea at

andrea@communitywaikato.org.nz for information about

- Managers Forum



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Kumara Vine

This newsletter is produced by Community Waikato and distributed to community-based social service organisations in the greater Waikato. We welcome suggestions and contributions.

Electronic copies can be downloaded from our website www.communitywaikato.org.nz

Community Waikato is a tangata whenua, community and voluntary social service sector trust that works to support, strengthen and advocate for community-based social service organisations in the greater Waikato. Our community advisors work alongside organisations assisting with governance, planning, management, coordination of services, employment, and other issues faced by the community sector. Community Waikato also facilitates a variety of networks, provides workshops and training, act as Tindall Fund Managers and have an annual scholarship available to support people from community organisations undertaking relevant studies.

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