



A Sense Of Connection

The new Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, the Hon. Luamanuvao Winnie Laban, is someone who understands and values her own place in her community.

“I grew up as part of the classic immigrants’ story – my parents came to New Zealand from Samoa in the 50s and started organising the Pacific community. It was good learning to grow up in a community that was very close-knit.

“I think more and more people are yearning for that sense of connection that you get from being part of a community of people. Community and voluntary organisations are helping people make those connections.

“Social capital is the glue that holds our communities together. Strong, sustainable communities are an important building block for achieving positive social, economic and cultural outcomes for all New Zealanders.”

The Minister sees a need for the sector to continue to build its own sense of identity and to work in a more unified way.

“The community and voluntary sector is very diverse



The Hon. Luamanuvao Winnie Laban pictured launching *Keeping it Legal*.

and it is a sector that has passion and huge commitment. But it also has its challenges.

“I want to see all parts of the voluntary and community sector working together.

“I am firmly of the belief that Government, business and community need to work respectfully together in order to have a strong and vibrant society,” she says.

Charities Commission Prepares To Open Register

The Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector has received many queries about the implications of the Charities Act 2005. Below is an update from the Charities Commission.

The Charities Commission will begin receiving applications for registration under the new Charities Act in late July 2006. The official opening date of the Charities Register will be widely advertised throughout community networks and on the Commission’s website.

While registration is voluntary, existing charitable organisations

will have until 1 October 2007 to register before their tax exemption is affected. The Commission will still accept applications for registration after this date, but the organisation concerned may be required to pay tax for the extent of the non-registration period.

The forms required for registration will be posted in their final format on the Charities Commission website in May. Hard copies will also be widely available once the Charities Register is open.

Currently draft forms, which

reflect feedback from the sector, are on the website.

Registration is free to charitable organisations however, there will be an annual return filing fee for organisations with an annual income of \$10,000 or more.

To stay informed, subscribe to the Commission’s monthly newsletter by emailing your name, organisation and contact details to info@charities.govt.nz

For more information visit www.charities.govt.nz or freephone 0508 242 748.

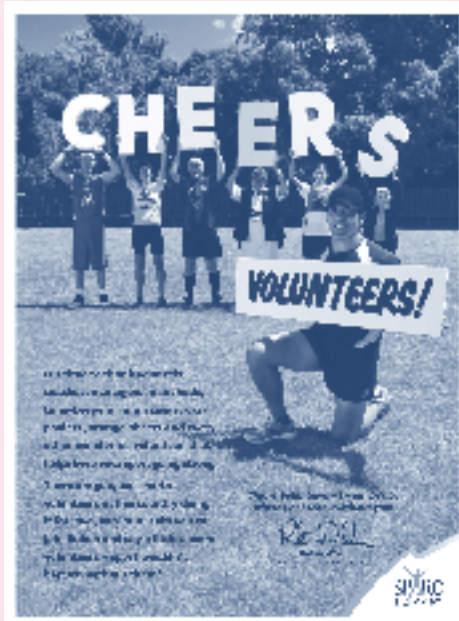
Key Events Raise Volunteering Profile

The profile of volunteering has received a welcome boost with two recent dedicated events and the launch of a national campaign.

The aim is to recognise the huge contribution of volunteers and to promote volunteering as a desirable activity.

Raising the profile was assisted through the collaborative efforts of the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector (OCVS), Volunteering New Zealand and the Local Government and Community branch of the Department of Internal Affairs.

The agencies worked together to develop promotional themes and



resources to support International Volunteer Day (in December) and Volunteer Awareness Week (in March). The resources were then made freely available on CD Rom and via the web.

Recent promotional activity has been complemented by SPARC's (Sport and Recreation NZ) 'Cheers Volunteers' campaign fronted by Kiwi League captain Ruben Wiki. SPARC's nationwide campaign and research into motivations and barriers is aimed at addressing a shortage of volunteers in sport and recreation.

To provide feedback or ideas on promoting volunteering email ocvs@msd.govt.nz or phone Grant Aldridge 04 978 4185.

Keeping It Legal On The Road

A resource designed to help voluntary and non-profit organisations understand their legal rights and responsibilities is being taken around the country in a series of community presentations.

A schedule of over 30 presentations on Keeping it Legal E Ai Ki Te Ture, hosted by a range of community organisations from Northland to Invercargill, is almost complete.

Feedback from the audiences will help inform ongoing changes

to the resource, which will be updated online.

The resource was created in response to requests from community organisations, trusts and societies who wanted a simple, accurate, centralised source of information about the laws that may affect them, and what they need to do to meet their legal obligations.

Keeping it Legal E Ai Ki Te Ture is online at www.nzfwo.org.nz/keepingitlegal/

Tina Reid from the NZ Federation of Voluntary Welfare Organisations talks to community groups about Keeping it Legal E Ai Ki Te Ture.



Hard copies can be ordered by emailing ocvs@msd.govt.nz or writing to OCVS, PO Box 1556, Wellington.

Non-Profit Sector Study

Community sector meetings in Christchurch, Wellington, Auckland and Hamilton and submissions on the Statistics New Zealand working paper 'Identifying Non-Profit Institutions in New Zealand', are helping map the size and nature of the non-profit sector.

This work is part of the Study of the New Zealand Non-Profit Sector – a joint community sector-government initiative.

The study will reach a key milestone in July 2006 with the release of a definitions working paper. Published by Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, the paper will use information from Massey University's work on defining the community and voluntary sector. Massey University has been contracted by the Office for Community and Voluntary Sector (OCVS), in partnership with the

committee managing the study.

The study is funded by community trusts, the Government and the Tindall Foundation and is co-ordinated by OCVS and the committee. A report on project findings is expected in 2008. It will also contain international comparisons with more than 40 countries thanks to an agreement with researchers at Johns Hopkins University.

For more information contact:
Diana Suggate 04 916 3849,
Diana.Suggate001@msd.govt.nz