

### **Charities Register officially open**

The Honourable Dr Michael Cullen officially declared the Charities Register open during a colourful launch at Parliament Buildings on Thursday 1 February. This event marked the start of the registration of charitable organisations under the Charities Act 2005.

[Read Dr Cullen's launch speech on Scoop](#)

### **Message from the Minister**

The following extract is from the launch speech of the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, the Honourable Luamanuvao Winnie Laban:

"I welcome this new era in which the charitable sector can earn even more trust, confidence and acknowledgement from the public.

The customary Samoan greeting of "Talofa lava" is particularly appropriate today. The word "Talofa" derives from the word "alofa" which has different forms in many Polynesian languages. In New Zealand Māori it is "aroha". In the Cook Islands "aro'a", and in Hawaii - "aloha", and in Tongan, "ofa".

This word was used by those who translated the Bible into different Polynesian languages as the word for "charity", and "love".

Not all concepts travel well across cultures. Yet here is evidence that the concept of "charity" – "a loving gift" - is understood and valued by people from very diverse backgrounds.

The charitable sector in New Zealand is also very diverse. We have over 23,000 incorporated societies, 10,000 charitable trusts and thousands more unregistered organisations. The registration of charities and the Commission's monitoring of charities will increase the accountability and the transparency of their charitable activities. It will also strengthen the public's trust in the charitable sector as a whole."



From left: Sid Ashton, Minister Laban and Dr Cullen cut the cake to formalise the opening of the Charities Register.

### **Message from the Chair**

Chair of the Charities Commission Board, Sid Ashton, spoke of the Commission's commitment to working with the charitable sector:

"The Charities Commission Board has a vision: one of a strong charitable sector for New Zealand, which enjoys a high level of public trust and confidence. I am pleased to say that over the past 20 months we have established a solid foundation for making this vision a reality.

It has been a key focus for both the Board and staff to meet and work with the charitable sector. The Commission is committed to further developing these relationships. We will continue to communicate with charitable organisations to

raise awareness of the Charities Act, provide guidance on registration and seek feedback on key policies concerning the Charities Register. Ultimately, we will offer education and support on good governance and management.

We are excited about the challenges ahead, while being aware of the degree of change involved for the charitable sector. The Charities Register has relevance for every socially responsible New Zealander. Looking at the high degree of commitment, capability and professionalism of the Commission and its staff, I am confident of our ability to make a significant contribution to the sound future of the charitable sector.”

### **Apply online or by post**

Now that the Charities Register is open, your charitable organisation can apply to the Charities Commission for registration. Within the first two weeks of registration, the Commission has received over 100 applications and 11 charities have already been registered.

If you choose to apply to register an individual organisation **online**, simply visit our website [www.charities.govt.nz](http://www.charities.govt.nz), go to the Charities Register page and follow the step-by-step instructions. Online help notes will assist you, and you can log on and off if you want to complete your application in stages before sending it to us. You can upload electronic versions of supporting documents, such as your rules, as part of the online registration process, or post them to us at the address provided.

If you wish to register an individual organisation and prefer to apply by **post**, you will need a copy of *Form 1: Application by entity for registration as a charitable entity* and *Form 2: Officer Certification Form* (one copy for each of your officers). Either print the forms from our website [www.charities.govt.nz](http://www.charities.govt.nz) or call our free information line **0508 242 748** to request copies by post. Photocopies are acceptable.

Applications for **group registration** must be sent to the Commission by post.

Regardless of which option you choose, we suggest you first read the material in one of our registration information packs – details below.

### **Registration information pack**

If you are considering an application to register an individual organisation with us, these packs help to explain:

- the purpose and benefits of registration
- when to register
- other important information to help you with your application.

Registration information packs also contain the relevant registration forms, should you choose to apply by post.

Download your registration information pack at [www.charities.govt.nz](http://www.charities.govt.nz) (follow the link from our homepage) or call our free information line **0508 242 748** to request a copy by post.

### **Group registration information pack**

The information in this pack will help you decide whether group registration is the right option for your organisation. It also contains the forms you will need to prepare a submission (the first step in the group registration process) and certify your officers.

Download your group registration information pack at [www.charities.govt.nz](http://www.charities.govt.nz) (follow the link from our homepage) or call our free information line **0508 242 748** to request a copy by post.

### **Registration forms online**

If a registration information pack isn't your cup of tea, you can access the key registration forms on our website [www.charities.govt.nz](http://www.charities.govt.nz) (follow the quicklink from our homepage). Or simply call our free information line **0508 242 748** with your postal address and we'll send them out to you.

### **First charity registered**

On 9 February 2007, we registered the first charity under the new Charities Act - Te Aute Koiri Foundation Incorporated.

The Hastings-based charity supports the special character of Te Aute College in Hawkes Bay, where, among other Māori leaders, Sir Apirana Ngata studied on his way to become the first Māori to graduate with a University degree.

Te Awamutu Safer Community Charitable Trust was second off the blocks, registered on the same day.

Congratulations to both organisations for contributing to a small, but significant slice of New Zealand history.

### **Searching the Charities Register**

It is not yet possible to conduct searches on registered charities at [www.charities.govt.nz](http://www.charities.govt.nz).

This functionality will be available later this year, once there are a good number of charities registered.

In the meantime, we have provided a list of charities registered under the Charities Act on [www.charities.govt.nz/search\\_register.htm](http://www.charities.govt.nz/search_register.htm). This list will be updated weekly until we have reached a critical mass and the search function becomes available.

### **Consultation on international charities**

We are seeking your views on our proposed approach to the registration of overseas charities and New Zealand charities carrying out activities overseas.

The consultation paper is on our website at [www.charities.govt.nz/news/special-reports.htm](http://www.charities.govt.nz/news/special-reports.htm). Comments are welcome by 16 March 2007.

### **Inland Revenue / Charities Commission MoU**

On 16 January, Chief Executive of the Charities Commission Trevor Garrett and the Commissioner of Inland Revenue David Butler signed two Memoranda of Understanding. These documents set out:

- how the Charities Commission will manage the exchange of information with Inland Revenue and vice versa;
- the consistency of treatment for tax purposes of charities registered with the Commission when changes to the tax laws take effect on 1 July 2008;
- in general, how the two agencies will work together.



**Chief Executive of the Charities Commission Trevor Garrett and the Commissioner of Inland Revenue David Butler sign the Memorandum of Understanding.**

## Charities Commission registration workshops

Our free registration workshop programme is now underway. Several workshops have already taken place, with good turnouts in Auckland, Whangarei and Russell – we hope those of you who came along found them informative and helpful. Below are the details for those workshops taking place later this month and in March. Due to the high level of interest, you will need to register your details with the workshop hosts to reserve your place.

Region	Host	Venue	Date	Time(s)	How to register
Alexandra	Central Otago District Council	Alexandra Community Centre, Skird St, Alexandra	28 February	1-3pm	Contact Shirley Howden on 03 440 0624 or <a href="mailto:shirley.howden@codc.govt.nz">shirley.howden@codc.govt.nz</a>
Ashburton	Ashburton Resource Centre	Ashburton Resource Centre, 72 Cambridge Street, Ashburton	16 March	10am-12pm	Contact Margaret Duffield on 03 308 1237 or <a href="mailto:ashburtonrc@xtra.co.nz">ashburtonrc@xtra.co.nz</a>
Auckland, Papatoetoe	Manukau City Council	Papatoetoe Chambers, 35 St George Street, Papatoetoe	23 February	10.30-12.30pm	Contact Bernadette Pereira on 09 278 9025 or email <a href="mailto:bpereira@manukau.govt.nz">bpereira@manukau.govt.nz</a>
Blenheim	Marlborough Community Law Centre	Marlborough Community Law Centre, Level 3, Market Street North, Blenheim	26 March (2 sessions)	10am-12pm 1.30-3.30pm	Contact Martin Elliott on 03 577 9919 or email <a href="mailto:stephanie.mclc@xtra.co.nz">stephanie.mclc@xtra.co.nz</a> by 20 March 2007
Christchurch	Canterbury Community Law Centre	Canterbury Community Law Centre, 281 Madras Street, Christchurch	19 March	12.30-3pm	Contact Jeannie Pera on 371 3815 (Wed & Thur) or email <a href="mailto:pacific@canlaw.org.nz">pacific@canlaw.org.nz</a> by 14 March 2007
Christchurch	Volunteering Canterbury	Christchurch Community House, 141 Hereford Street, Christchurch	20 March (2 sessions)	9.30-11.30am 1-3pm	Contact Catherine Harris on 03 366 2442 or email <a href="mailto:vc@volcan.org.nz">vc@volcan.org.nz</a> by 12 March 2007
Coromandel	Coromandel Independent Living Trust	<b>Venue details to follow.</b>	8 March	10:30am – 12:30pm	Contact Mike Noonan on 07 8668358 or email <a href="mailto:cilt@cilt.org.nz">cilt@cilt.org.nz</a>
Dunedin	Dunedin Council of Social Services	Dunedin Community House, 301 Moray Place (cnr Great King St), Dunedin	12 March	10am-12pm	Contact Sue Russell on 03 471 6150 or email <a href="mailto:sue.dcross@paradise.net.nz">sue.dcross@paradise.net.nz</a> by 5 March 2007.
Gisborne	Gisborne Volunteer Centre	Red Cross Rooms, 336 Palmerston Road, Gisborne	13 March (2 sessions)	10am – 12pm 5:30 -7:30pm	Contact Jenny on 06 8684522 or email <a href="mailto:gisvolunteercentre@xtra.co.nz">gisvolunteercentre@xtra.co.nz</a>
Gore	Heartlands Services	Community Connections Centre, 28 Mersey Street, Gore	27 February	10am-12pm	Contact Robyn Morris on 03 208 9633 or email <a href="mailto:ccc.gore@actrix.co.nz">ccc.gore@actrix.co.nz</a> by 23 February 2007
Hamilton	Frankton & Dinsdale Rauawaawa Trust	Te Puna O Te Ora, 50 Colombo Street Frankton, Hamilton	19 March (2 sessions)	10am-12pm 1-3pm	Contact Yvonne Wilson or Donna Smith on 07 8476980 ext 209 or email <a href="mailto:rauawaawatrust@xtra.co.nz">rauawaawatrust@xtra.co.nz</a> by 14 March 2007
Hastings	Hawkes Bay Community Law Centre	Hawke's Bay Community Law Centre, 204 Karamu Road North, Hastings	1 March	10.30am-12.30pm	Contact Megan Paish on 06 878 4868 or email <a href="mailto:hblaw@xtra.co.nz">hblaw@xtra.co.nz</a> by 19 February 2007
Hawera	Taranaki CL Trust	Hawera Community Centre Theatre Lounge, Albion Street	23 March	1:15 - 3:30pm	Contact Margaret Hands or Marie Phillips on 0800 529 878 or email <a href="mailto:margaret.tcls@xtra.co.nz">margaret.tcls@xtra.co.nz</a> by 16 March 2007

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Hokitika	<b>Details to come</b>		30 March	<b>TBC</b>	<b>Details to come</b>
Invercargill	Invercargill City Council	Invercargill Working Men's Club, 154 Esk St, Invercargill	26 February (2 sessions)	2-4pm 7-9pm	Contact Mary Napper on 03 211 1669 or email <a href="mailto:mary.napper@icc.govt.nz">mary.napper@icc.govt.nz</a> by 19 February 2007
Kawerau	Kawerau Heartland Services	Kawerau Heartland Services Centre, 60 Onslow Street, Kawerau	6 March	2-4pm	Contact Ru Heather on 07 323 8608 or email <a href="mailto:heartland.kawerau@eastbayreap.org.nz">heartland.kawerau@eastbayreap.org.nz</a>
Lower Hutt	Hutt Valley Community Law Centre	St David's Hall, 2 Britannia Street, Petone	22 February	5.30-7.30pm	Contact Momoi on 04 568 8964 or email <a href="mailto:momoi@huttlaw.org.nz">momoi@huttlaw.org.nz</a> by 16 February 2007
Masterton	Wairarapa Community Law Centre	Frank Cody Lounge, Town Hall, Masterton	27 February (2 sessions)	10am-12pm 1.30-3.30pm	Contact Katrina Galbraith on 06 377 4134 or email <a href="mailto:wclc@wise.net.nz">wclc@wise.net.nz</a> by 23 February 2007
Motueka	Tasman Fundraising and Development	Moutere Hills Community Centre, Moutere Highway, Upper Moutere	28 March	10am-12pm	Contact Judene Edgar on 03 544 1927 or email <a href="mailto:judene.edgar@clear.net.nz">judene.edgar@clear.net.nz</a> by 21 March 2007
Napier	Hawkes Bay Community Law Centre	Napier Citizens Advice Bureau, Community Rooms, Memorial Square, Napier	2 March	10am-12pm	Contact Megan Paish on 06 878 4868 or email <a href="mailto:hblaw@xtra.co.nz">hblaw@xtra.co.nz</a> by 19 February 2007
Nelson	Volunteer Nelson	Hearing Association Rooms, 354 Trafalgar Square, Nelson	27 March	10am-12pm	Contact Jan Glover on 03 546 7681 or email <a href="mailto:nvc@ts.co.nz">nvc@ts.co.nz</a> by 21 March 2007
New Plymouth	Taranaki CLTrust	Autolodge Motor Inn, 393 Devon Street East, New Plymouth	22 March	1:15-3:30pm	Margaret Hands or Marie Phillips on 06 759 1492 or email <a href="mailto:margaret.tcls@xtra.co.nz">margaret.tcls@xtra.co.nz</a> by 16 March 2007
Oamaru	Heartlands Oamaru	Brydone, Moeraki Room, 115 Thames Street, Oamaru	13 March	1.30-3.30pm	Contact Glenis McPherson on 904 2988 or email <a href="mailto:glenis.mcpherson003@msd.govt.nz">glenis.mcpherson003@msd.govt.nz</a>
Oamaru	Heartlands Oamaru	Brydone, Moeraki Room, 115 Thames Street, Oamaru	14 March	10am-12noon	Contact Glenis McPherson on 904 2988 or email <a href="mailto:glenis.mcpherson003@msd.govt.nz">glenis.mcpherson003@msd.govt.nz</a>
Paeroa	Social Services Waikato	<b>Details to come</b>	9 March	2-4pm	Contact Sheryll Fitzpatrick on 021 222 0192 or email <a href="mailto:sheryll@com-trust.org.nz">sheryll@com-trust.org.nz</a>
Pahiatua	Heartlands Services	Heartlands Services, 102 Main Street, Pahiatua	28 February	10.30am-12.30pm	Contact Stephen Paewai on 06 374 6860 or email <a href="mailto:heartland.tararua@xtra.co.nz">heartland.tararua@xtra.co.nz</a>
Palmerston North	PNCSC	Level 2 Westside Chambers, 181 The Square, Palmerston North	8 March (2 sessions)	9.45am -12pm 1:30 - 3:45	Contact Geraldine Holmes on 06 354 3809 or email <a href="mailto:pncsc@inspire.net.nz">pncsc@inspire.net.nz</a>
Paraparaumu	Kapiti COSS	Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina St, Paraparaumu	21 March	1pm – 3pm	Contact Pat on 04 9023240 by 7 March 2007
Porirua	Whitireia CLC	3rd Floor Pember House, 16 Hagley Street, Porirua	21 February	5pm	Contact Bill Bevan on 04 2376811 or email <a href="mailto:commlaw@wnc.quik.co.nz">commlaw@wnc.quik.co.nz</a>
Queenstown	Queenstown Lakes District Council	Queenstown Events Centre, Frankton State Highway 6	1 March	10am-12pm	Contact Jan Maxwell on 03 442 7333 or email <a href="mailto:janm@glcd.govt.nz">janm@glcd.govt.nz</a> by 26 February 2007
Rotorua	Rotorua District Council	Committee Room, Civic Admin Building, Rotorua District Council, 1061 Haupapa St, Rotorua	6 March	10am-12pm	Contact Maria Mills on 07 350 0209, ext 8101 or email <a href="mailto:maria.mills@rdc.govt.nz">maria.mills@rdc.govt.nz</a> by 20 February 2007

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Ruatoria	Gisborne Volunteer Centre	Ruatoria RSA Club, 6 Tuparoa St, Ruatoria	14 March	11am–1pm	Contact Jenny on 068694522 or email <a href="mailto:gisvolunteercentre@xtra.co.nz">gisvolunteercentre@xtra.co.nz</a> by 7 March 2007
Taupo	Heartlands Taupo	Heartland Services, 77 Heu Heu Street, Taupo	20 March (2 sessions)	10am-12pm 1.30-3.30pm	Contact Annette Skeen on 07 906 6024 or email <a href="mailto:annette.skeen001@msd.govt.nz">annette.skeen001@msd.govt.nz</a> by 16 March 2007
Tauranga	Western Bay of Plenty Volunteer Centre	Tuscany @ The Historic Village, 17th Avenue West, Tauranga	7 March (2 sessions)	10am-12pm 1.30-3.30pm	Contact Beverley Rudd on 07 571 3714 or email <a href="mailto:bev@compass.comtrust.co.nz">bev@compass.comtrust.co.nz</a> by mid-February 2007
Te Kuiti	Te Kuiti Community House	Te Kuiti St John Hall	21 March	10am-12pm	Contact Kim on 07 878 5272 by 15 March 2007
Thames	Social Services Waikato	Apostolic Centre, Thames	9 March	10am-12pm	Contact Sheryll Fitzpatrick on 021 222 0192 or <a href="mailto:sheryll@com-trust.org.nz">sheryll@com-trust.org.nz</a>
Timaru	Volunteering Canterbury	Community House, 29 Strathallan Street, Timaru	15 March	10am-12pm	Contact Ruth Gardner on 03 366 2442 or email <a href="mailto:mgr@volcan.org.nz">mgr@volcan.org.nz</a> by 9 March 2007
Turangi	<b>Details to come</b>		5 March	<b>TBC</b>	<b>Details to come</b>
Upper Hutt	Hutt Valley Community Law Centre	Hapai Club Hall, 879-881 Ferguson Drive, Upper Hutt	22 February	10am-12pm	Contact Momoi on 04 568 8964 or email <a href="mailto:momoi@huttlaw.org.nz">momoi@huttlaw.org.nz</a> by 16 February 2007
Wanganui	Volunteer Centre	Community House, 53a Ridgway Street, Wanganui	7 March (2 sessions)	1–3pm 5.30–7:30pm	Contact Daveena Neilson on 06 347 9430 or email <a href="mailto:whanganuivolunteercentre@xtra.co.nz">whanganuivolunteercentre@xtra.co.nz</a> by 5 March 2007
Wellington	Wellington Community Law Centre	Wellington Community Law Centre, Level 2, 84 Willis St Wellington	16 March (2 sessions)	10:30am – 12:30pm 2pm – 4pm	Contact Delwyn on 04 4992928 by Wednesday 14 March 2007
Westport	<b>Details to come</b>		29 March	<b>TBC</b>	<b>Details to come</b>

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