

Update

INTERNAL AFFAIRS



Te Tari Taiwhenua

Charities Services
Ngā Ratonga Kaupapa Atawhai

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Charity Law in New Zealand launched



Hello everyone

This month the Hon Minister Jo Goodhew, Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, launched the Department's Charities Services new online book *Charity Law in New Zealand*.

Written by one of our staff Dr Donald Poirier I am sure this book with its up-to-date analysis of charity law will make a valuable contribution to this specialist area of law in New Zealand.

Donald joined our staff in November 2007 as a senior registration analyst. He came here after an impressive 30 year career at the University of Moncton, in New Brunswick, Canada. Besides teaching he published a number of books mainly in French.

Charity Law in New Zealand is his 20th book and his first major publication in this country. We are fortunate Donald chose to retire to New Zealand. Then drawing on his legal background when he began his second career with us he saw the need for this publication.

The book is a milestone for Donald and others here at Charities Services and the previous Charities Commission who have been involved in its publication.

We know case law is what informs charity law in New Zealand and it can at times be complex, but it's always interesting. And recognising that charity law is dynamic, the book is published online so it can be readily updated.

I trust this book will be a useful tool providing sound advice to those of you working in the charitable sector and also for the legal profession and students wanting to practice in this area of law.

This month also heralded National Volunteer Week which gives me the opportunity to say a great big thank you to all the volunteers in the charity and not-for-profit sector. People across New Zealand who make a significant contribution to their community through their talent and hard work.

An estimated third of New Zealanders volunteer, according to Statistics New Zealand General Social Survey 2008. *He Tangata! He Tangata! He Tangata! - it is people, it is people, it is people*, was the theme for the week. The phrase comes from the Māori proverb that asks what the most important thing in the world is.

Nationwide the tremendous work of volunteers was acknowledged at all levels – volunteers undoubtedly keep the charity and not-for-profit sector going with some 448,000 volunteers and 180,000 full time workers involved.

Volunteers do really make our communities tick.

With more than 26000 registered charities nationwide the charitable sector is a growing part of New Zealand society and economy. This includes an asset base of \$40 billion, a gross income of \$14.7 billion and total expenditure of \$13.6 billion.

At Charities Services part of our role is to help volunteers by providing educational resources and support so you can do your job more effectively. Considering the breadth and depth of work this involves, to achieve this it is very humbling.

All the best



Brendon Ward
General Manager, Charities Services

Minister launches online book



Above: Dr Donald Poirier
and Minister Jo Goodhew

The new online publication *Charity Law in New Zealand* one of the most comprehensive books of its kind to be published in this country is now available on the Charities Services [website](#).

Speaking at the launch Hon Jo Goodhew, Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, said the publication is an important one for the charitable and not-for-profit sector, which is a growing section of the New Zealand economy.

“The book will be used to guide practitioners working with people who are setting up charities, as well as the legal and accounting professions wanting to delve into case law.

“There is no doubt in my mind that *Charity Law in New Zealand* will make a positive contribution to this interesting and worthwhile area of law in New Zealand. It will also continue to raise awareness of the important role of Charities Services and its work.

“The publication of this book will help build a greater level of knowledge and understanding in New Zealand of charity law, its complexities and its applica-

tion.“

With more than 26,000 registered charities, the charitable sector is a growing part of New Zealand society and our economy. However, charity law has been evolving since its early origins in 1601 with the Statute of Elizabeth I and New Zealand charity case law draws from legal decisions from many countries.

In its 400 pages book the covers the concept of charity, the legal definition of charitable purpose and public benefit, the definition of entities that may have a charitable purpose, political purposes and advocacy as well as delving into case law.

Author Dr Donald Poirier provides us with an up-to-date analysis of court decisions and decisions by the Charities Registration Board and its predecessor the Charities Commission.

Those bodies have assessed more than 30,000 rules, trust deeds and wills; testing them against court decisions; and in some cases having decisions further tested in New Zealand courts.

Charity Law in New Zealand is timely and relevant. In acknowledgement of the dynamic state of charity law in New Zealand, the book is presented in an online format that can be readily updated.

At the launch thank yous were also extended to Charities Services and the former Charities Commission staff involved in the books publication. The book was peer reviewed by Juliet Chevalier-Watts, a senior lecturer in law at Te Piringa – Faculty of Law Waikato University. Juliet publishes nationally and internationally in the fields of charitable trusts and European human rights and chairs the faculty's Publication and Ethics Committees.



Above: Dr Donald Poirier cutting the cake in the shape of the book



Above: Trevor Garrett and Brendon Ward

COGS – Get your proposal in

The annual Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS) funding round is now open for applications.

The grants distributed by 36 COGS committees are available to non-profit organisations and groups delivering community-based social services.

Making the announcement Community and Voluntary Sector Minister Jo Goodhew, said last year 4369 COGS grants were allocated to community organisations across New Zealand.

“COGS committees have a total of \$12.5 million to distribute throughout the country,” she said. “Some 260 volunteer committee members elected by local communities assess applications and make decisions based on local funding needs and priorities.”

Local funding priorities were set after consulting communities at public meetings held earlier this year. Applicants can view each committee’s local priorities when they apply online at www.communitymatters.govt.nz

Online applications are preferred, prior to the closing date on Wednesday 31 July 2013.

Department of Internal Affairs Community Advisers in offices across the country are available to help with applications. Please phone 0800 824 824 between 8.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday, or email to: community.matters@dia.govt.nz

Further information about COGS is also available on: www.communitymatters.govt.nz

Volunteers Acknowledged



With National Volunteer week this month, 16-22 June, organisations throughout the country have rightly taken the opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous work of volunteers and their contribution to the community.

Both Hon Jo Goodhew, Minister for the Community and Volunteer sector, and Minister of Police, Hon Anne Tolley acknowledge the great work of volunteers by presenting awards during the week.

Hon Anne Tolley presented the Inaugural Public Safety Volunteers Award recognising three public safety volunteers at ceremonies in Wellington and Auckland.

The Minister’s Public Safety Volunteer Awards recognise the contributions of

volunteers who assist both Police and Corrections in their critical role of keeping our communities safe.

Hon Jo Goodhew presented some of the [inaugural Minister of Health Volunteer Awards](#), saying, “these people play a vital role in building stronger communities, bringing diversity, personality, history and experiences to their role. Volunteers offer connections within their community and their whānau.”

Nominations open

Nominations for the Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year were also invited. Awarded for outstanding service, achievement and contribution to the nation, the awards celebrate excellence in New Zealand giving Kiwis the opportunity to identify an individual or community group who inspires them.

Rewarding everyday people doing extraordinary things in their communities, up to 250 Kiwibank local Hero medals will be awarded in up to 15 regions in November and December. One national winner will be celebrated at the gala National Awards dinner in February 2014.

Nominations are open until 30 September and nomination forms are available online at www.nzawards.org.nz or from Kiwibank and Mitre 10 stores. Any New Zealand citizen 15 years and over can be nominated in one or more of the six award categories.

Additionally the new inspirational story telling initiative, BeCause is taking nominations for young people aged 16-30 leading change and making a difference in their communities. Nominations close Friday June 21.

Check out www.because.org.nz for more information.

Career advice for managers

A new tool to assist managers of volunteers to plot their skill development and further learning opportunities has been launched by Volunteering New Zealand (VNZ).

The product of three years work the tool comprises a set of Competencies, a matrix to plot individual strengths and areas for growth, and a searchable, national database of relevant professional development options.

VNZ Chief Executive Vanisa Dhiru says the tool was developed in direct response to widespread calls from managers of volunteers across New Zealand wanting career advice.

“Managing volunteers is a career many people just fall into, yet it is actually a really important job that requires an array of skills,” she says. “Managers of volunteers told us they wanted a career pathway to help them progress in the profession, and demonstrate the many competencies they use in their work.”

The competencies address broad skill areas, and also allow people to tailor the specifics to their own situation.

VNZ’s Competencies for Managers of Volunteers can be found on their website: www.volunteeringnz.org.nz/volunteermanagers

A legal view to

Everyone is welcome to check out the fortnightly New Zealand Law magazine, [NZLawyer](#)

check out

Online, to read articles relevant to the charity and not-for profit sector in New Zealand.

Hastings lawyer Mark von Dadelszen's writes a regular [column](#) on societies and charitable trusts.

FINZ – training days

The Fundraising Institute of New Zealand FINZ – 360 degree Not-for-Profit Training Days are being run in four locations this year.

These comprehensive one-day events are aimed to assist people pick up essential knowledge to help them be more effective and confident in their work.

The training includes marketing, fundraising and other need-to-know topics. Events will be held in Rotorua, Auckland, Dunedin and Wellington.

Learn more and register at www.finz.org.nz/360

Sustainable Coastlines wins Supreme Green Ribbon Award



The Sustainable Coastlines Charitable Trust is the Supreme Winner of the 2013 Green Ribbon Awards.

Sustainable Coastlines manages a wide network of volunteers to protect and sustain coastlines in New Zealand and across the Pacific.

Among many other projects, the Trust coordinates large-scale coastal clean-up events, runs educational programmes, manages public awareness campaigns and organises riparian planting activities.

When announcing the award Environment Minister Amy Adams said, “the Trust has adopted an innovative and broad-reaching approach to environmental education and outreach. The Trust’s methods are highly engaging and effective.”

The Green Ribbon Awards recognise the outstanding contributions made by organisations, businesses and communities to protecting and enhancing New Zealand’s environment.

More information about the supreme winner and the other finalists is available on the [Minister’s](#) website.



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Update is a regular newsletter of the Department of Internal Affairs.

If you prefer, you can read it on our website: <http://www.charities.govt.nz/news/newsletter/>
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[Newsletter Group](#)