

Community Sector Taskforce

Panui 013

26th May 2006

*He ringa raupā
Ready for some hard work*



The Taskforce welcomes our new National Development Manager to assist in the delivery of the work programme which has been finalised. Rees started with the Taskforce on 8th May 2006 and comes to the CST with a passion

for the community and a diverse background of sector-wide involvement. After commencing a social science degree in 1986, he succumbed to the allure of theatre and film studies at Victoria University and began a life-long interest in utilising the creative arts for community development and capacity building.

Rees spent 10 years performing in a multitude of plays, movement pieces, radio productions, touring community shows, marae-based theatre performances, facilitating issues-based drama workshops and co-presenting a youth focused television programme. In that time he was involved with a diverse range of creative partners including Downstage Theatre and the New Zealand Police, Te Ohu Whakaari, TaiAo Dance Theatre, Radio New Zealand, the Auckland College of Education and Television New Zealand. He then moved behind the scenes to work in the local film and television industry with particular involvement in Maori and Pacific filmmaking and storytelling.

An obligatory Overseas Experience followed, with Rees living in Scandanavia and touring creative workshops on Polynesian and Maori mythology throughout Europe.

Rees returned to Aotearoa/New Zealand and once again became involved in the community sector working for a not for profit organisation delivering service contracts for youth mentoring and personal development. He was a project supervisor and then project manager for a NZ Conservation Corps programme for 7 years before taking up a community development role in local government. Rees spent a further 2 and half years with the South Waikato District Council working with the incredibly diverse communities of Arapuni, Tirau, Putaruru, Lichfield, Tokoroa and Atiamuri.

Rees is of Nga Puhī, Ngati Porou, Ngai Tahu, Dutch, Castilian, Portugese-Brazilian, Scots-Irish and English heritage. His wife Sapela is of Ngati Haua and German-Samoan descent and their young daughter Paris Nico is heir to a whakapapa resembling the United Nations.

Rees is excited by the opportunity of engaging and collaborating with the multi-cultural and multi-ethnic communities of Tangata Tiriti and is dedicated to an inclusive community sector that is sustainable, informed, connected and able.

Community Sector Taskforce Work Programme

The funded work programme for the period 1 May 2006 to 30 June 2007 is very comprehensive, challenging and concentrates on four major areas:

- Improving connectedness within the Sector at a national, regional and local level
- Building a comprehensive Sector-wide communications programme, database and website
- Developing a mechanism to support mentoring and staff exchanges with the Sector and between the Sector and Government
- Together with the Office of the Community & Voluntary Sector (OCVS), working towards building strong relationships with central government

Other work initiatives that the Taskforce will be involved with are:

- The establishment of a Research Centre of Excellence for the Tangata Whenua, Community & Voluntary Sector
- Building a strong relationship with Local Government

Two very exciting initiatives that the National Development Managers will be assisting regions to do is to establish Regional Collectives throughout the country. A pilot will be established in Waikato and Canterbury to develop the regional collectives. If you reside in one of those regions and want to get involved in these exciting initiatives, contact us.

An early issue for the Taskforce is to encourage further debate on Alternatives to Contracting. Watch out for further panui about how you can be part of that dialogue.

Background information on the Community Sector Taskforce and its development to date can be found on the website below:

<http://www.nzfwo.org.nz/?/cst>