

**Minutes of Tairawhiti Community Voice Network Meeting  
held at BNZ Partners, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016, 12.30pm**

**Present Executive Committee:**

Gillian Creach (Tairawhiti Community Law Centre), Christine West (Independent), Liz Graham (St John), Lynda Markie (Gisborne Budget Advisory Service)

**Present Members**

Anne Wright (CAB), Robin Briant (Gisborne Budget Advisory Service), Rata Nepe (Inland Revenue), Marg Price (Health & Disability Advocacy), Kate Macrae (Age Concern), Glenda Stokes (Sunrise Foundation), Nicole West (Autism NZ, Fruit Harvest, TCV)

**Apologies:**

Trudel McKeown (DPA), Linda Coulston (SuperGrans), Jon Davies (Idea Services)

**Guest Speaker:**

Lynda Markie, Gisborne Budget Advisory Service

URGENT MESSAGE- Our normal landline number 06 867 7173 is temporarily out of order. Until this problem is resolved Gisborne Budget Advisory Service can be contacted by text or call 027 8432 868 Email [gisbornebudget@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gisbornebudget@xtra.co.nz)

We can still phone out so anyone can text their name to 027 8432 868 and we can phone back. There has been a string of errors with our phone line since February 2016. About the end of March, we were alerted to an issue and have been in communication with Spark to get these errors corrected. We apologise to anyone who has been unable to make contact and we are concerned that often people calling us are often in some kind of hardship and need immediate assistance. Our office is still open Monday – Friday between 9.30am and 4pm. People can visit between these hours for assistance and to book appointments.

We are now able to offer small loans at no fees, no interest, no surprises through Ngā Tangata Microfinance Trust to clients on low incomes. There are two types: -

- *No Interest Loans* – these loans are for essential household of personal items and services. Up to \$1,500 is available per loan.
- *Debt Relief Loan* – These loans are for paying off debts incurring high interest and/or penalties, or for consolidating several debts, as long as one is high interest. Up to \$2,000 is available per loan.

The repayment period is up to two years and the maximum payment would be no longer than \$30 per week.

**Minutes of previous meeting:**

Minutes of previous meeting be accepted as a true and accurate record: Moved by Rata Nepe 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glenda Stokes.

**Matters arising from previous minutes:** Nil

**General Business:**

- Gift for Speakers -For AGM Speakers we will provide a gift.

**Catch Up Round:**

### **Age Concern – Kate Macrae**

First time at the Network Meeting ☺

Our organisation deals with Elder abuse and advocacy, our clients are 65 years plus.

### **IRD – Rata Nepe**

Our hours have changed, we now close at 4pm daily.

We are going into the peak season for tax returns.

Our focus is teaching myIR online services, we have computers set up in the office and we can talk you through and show you online.

### **Sunrise Foundation – Glenda Stokes**

We're going really well; our Special Interest Groups are increasing.

Reminder that I am involved with the Tyndall Foundation so please call me if you have some ideas for funding.

### **Anne Wright - Citizen Advice Bureau**

We have three new trainees beginning.

We take part in Civil Defence Training April 12.

### **Gillian Creach - Tairawhiti Community Law Centre**

Thanks to the Tyndall Foundation for funding our pilot Over-the-Phone Service, we have now received funding from Lotteries to continue this for the next 12 months.

We are presenting a free Workshop "Getting in to Work; Know your stuff and you can help yourself and your whanau" Thursday 28 April 2016 at the Salvation Army, 9.30 to 2pm, sessions from WINZ, Workbridge, IRD, Law Employment Rights and a Q & A session. Please register.

Education in the Community – please let us know of new topics you would be interested in knowing about.

Network Meeting ajourned 1.40pm.

Next Tairawhiti Community Voice Meeting will be **May 9<sup>th</sup> 2016**, 12.30pm at BNZ Partners Centre