

Mihimihi

E ngā mana, e ngā iwi, e ngā waka, tēnā koutou katoa.

Ko tēnei he pānui mo ngā tangata whenua, ko te iwi o ngā waka o Kāi Tahu, o Kāti Māmoe, o Waitaha me ngā iwi o ngā Mātāwaka ki roto i ngā rohe o te whānui o Kāi Tahu.

Kia ora

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Staff Profiles:

Joy Smith, Manager

Before joining the law centre as Manager in 2006, Joy was for 12 years Executive Officer at Kāti Huirapa ki Puketeraki Rūnaka.

Leah Rivers Llb, Barrister

Graduating in 2002 with a Bachelor of Laws, Leah joined the law centre as a Barrister in 2006.

Desiree Mahy (Tuhoe) Llb, BTch(0-8), Barrister

Graduating in 2006, Desiree joined the law centre in 2007 as a Barrister. Desiree has one daughter.

Haines Ellison (Kai Tahu) Llb, BA(Geog), Law Clerk

Graduating in May of this year (2009), Haines is currently completing Professionals to become a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand. Haines joined the Law Centre in January.

University of Otago Law Student Volunteers

Senior Students from the Māori Land Law paper taught by Jacinta Ruru at the Faculty of Law, University of Otago are given the opportunity to apply to volunteer at the Law Centre. This year we have 4 successful candidates. We will have two volunteers in the first semester and two in the second. The learning gained by these students in this specialist area of law is invaluable and only achievable because of the ongoing relationship between the Law Centre and the Faculty of Law.

New Board Member:

We are pleased to welcome Tim Vial, our new Ōtākou representative to the Ngāi Tahu Māori Law Centre Board of Governance.

Ngāi Tahu Māori Law Centre provides a free legal service in Māori land law issues to Ngāi Tahu Māori living anywhere in the world and to all Māori of any iwi living in the rohe of Ngāi Tahu. If you have questions or concerns about your Māori Land interests or want to know if you have any

Māori Land give us a call on 0800 626 745

Or email: info@ngaitahulaw.org.nz



Ngāi Tahu Māori Law Centre Website

You may have noticed our new letterhead and logo. We are pleased to announce our new website. Stay up to date with our service by visiting our website regularly. The images in this newsletter are images designed for our website.

Our website address is www.ngaitahulaw.org.nz



Trusts – Protect your assets

In this difficult time many of you may be wondering how you can protect what you already have.

A Family Trust is always a good option to protect your significant assets. The Trust becomes the owner of the assets and the settlor (person that puts their assets in to Trust) becomes personally poor but continues to enjoy the assets as a beneficiary of the Trust.

The benefits of a Trust can include: protection from creditors, family members, spouses and others; asset testing for the Government Residential Care Subsidy; income tax and estate duty.

Careful consideration must be given when establishing a Trust. You need to choose what assets to transfer to the Trust, who the trustees will be, who the beneficiaries will be, the terms of the trust deed (rules the trustees must follow), how long the trust will run for and the name of the Trust.

If you establish a Trust you will need to forgive the debt to the Trust over successive years. There are costs associated with establishing and maintaining a Trust. It is important that the Trust is effectively managed. Professional Trustees are not compulsory but it is essential that Trustees understand their duties.

Good legal advice is crucial. General Solicitors and Professional Trust companies will be able to assist.

More in depth general information regarding Trusts is available at www.howtolaw.co.nz.

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Redundancy – What you should know

Redundancy Payments will only be paid if your employment agreement provides for them. If there is no provision in your contract for Redundancy, you will only be paid for the notice period stipulated and for any leave owing.

Redundancy cannot be used to fire someone. You can only be made redundant if your job is no longer available and your employer has no other job that you could do.

Your employer must speak with you about the likelihood of redundancy before it actually happens. This is your opportunity to discuss alternative solutions with your employer such as restructuring or reduced hours. The redundancy process should be open and clear. If there is a specific process outlined in your contract, it must be followed.

If you are made redundant and receive less than \$25000.00 in redundancy payments you may be eligible for the Government ReStart package. This package provides 16 weeks of financial support and assistance to find another job. Your employer should inform you of this package. You must contact the Ministry of Social Development within 20 working days of the last date you have been paid up to take advantage of the ReStart package.

Community Law Centres – Funding Crisis avoided (For Now)

The Ngāi Tahu Māori Law Centre is a Community Law Centre. We are the only Community Law Centre specialising in Māori Land Law. There is no other service like ours anywhere in the Country.

The recent economic downturn meant that at the start of this year all Community Law Centres were facing funding cuts of up to 68% for the 2009/10 year. We would have struggled to maintain our service at that rate.

Thankfully, the Honourable Minister Simon Power recently announced that the Government would put in place interim measures to guarantee our funding for the 09/10 year and stated that the Government would look at medium measures to ensure our funding is not threatened in the same manner in a years time. So for the meantime our funding is secure!

The Hon Simon Power said that Community Law Centres are even more vital in these difficult times and that the Government was committed to ensuring all people had access to legal services.

Many of our clients could not afford the services we provide for free and we are pleased that the Government sees the many benefits Community Law Centres bring.

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UPCOMING MĀORI LAND COURT SITTINGS – TE WAIPOUNAMU

LOCATION	COURT SITTING DATE	PĀNUI CUTOFF DATE
Christchurch	4 August 2009	12 June 2009
Dunedin	6 August 2009	12 June 2009
Invercargill	7 August 2009	12 June 2009
Blenheim	1 September 2009	17 July 2009
Nelson	2 September 2009	17 July 2009
Christchurch	6 October 2009	21 August 2009
Invercargill	3 November 2009	18 September 2009
Dunedin	4 November 2009	18 September 2009
Christchurch	1 December 2009	16 October 2009
Chatams	10 December 2009	16 October 2009

Upcoming Ngāi Tahu Māori Law Centre Outreach Clinics

The Ngāi Tahu Māori Law Centre provides free outreach clinics in Southland; West Coast; Canterbury and Central Otago. The next outreach clinics are:

CHRISTCHURCH May 12th
INVERCARGILL August 7th

If you live in either of these areas and would like to come and speak with us, please call our manager Joy Smith on 0800 626 745 to make an appointment.

Department of Inland Revenue Māori Community Officers – Te Waipounamu

If you have any questions about Tax and the IRD, as an individual or on behalf of a Trust or Māori Authority, we recommend you contact the Māori Community Officers at your nearest Inland Revenue Office. IRD Māori Community Officers for Te Waipounamu are as follows:

Christchurch:

Mary-Jane Heu (03) 3631792 PO Box 287, CHRISTCHURCH

Daryl Mataiti (03) 3631648 PO Box 287, CHRISTCHURCH

Nelson:

Dayveen Stevens (03) 5461146 PO Box 747, NELSON

Dunedin

Kiwhare Mihaka (03) 467 7087 PO Box 1247, DUNEDIN

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