

Chairman's Report to Far North REAP Society Incorporated

Annual General Meeting Held Wednesday 24th October 2007



Kia ora koutou

It is with great pleasure that I present my annual report to the members of the Far North REAP Society.

Constitution Review:

BOD spent many hours reviewing our constitution for the first time in some years. This reviewed constitution was presented to and unanimously accepted by the Far North REAP society members at a special meeting on Monday 21st May 2007.

Also, as a direct result of a change to our Treaty of Waitangi clause in our constitution, a Board committee has been working tirelessly and unselfishly for more than a year to develop a treaty toolkit to assist us all.

Board Induction and Training Planning Day:

The Directors also held a Board Induction and Training planning day on Saturday 6th October to review our induction processes for new Directors and to develop a Board training plan. At this workshop they also agreed a calendar of meetings for the year where every 2nd monthly meeting will consist of reviews of the strategic plan, policies, board self evaluations, training etc. This means that the Board will be more far more progressive and active in carrying out its full range of responsibilities.

Conference:

3 Directors attended the annual national REAP conference held in Wellington. This was an excellent opportunity to meet with other REAPs' governance members and contribute to the on-going development of our national body REAP Aotearoa New Zealand (RANZ)

Retreat Attendance:

Several members of the board attended the staff annual retreat sessions held in Omapere in March this year. This was an excellent opportunity to meet with staff in a more informal setting and contribute to their planning for the year.

Financial Position:

You will note from the balance sheet that we have maintained a strong financial position due to income derived from venue hire, interest generated, leasing arrangements, and income generated through activities. In previous years we spent much more than the funding allocated through our core REAP contract and made up the difference through surpluses from other contracts and small grants. This year is the first year of ensuring that each contract stands on its own and we expect this policy to be fully implemented by the end of next year.

Contracts:

The number and range of contracts we hold continues to increase. As well as our REAP contracts with the Ministry of Education and Tertiary Education commission, we also have contracts with Land Transport NZ, ACC, and Child Youth & Family, as well as other “non-REAP” contracts with the Ministry of Education and Tertiary Education Commission.

Other Far North REAP Activities:

We continue to promote and deliver our TIPS parenting skills programme which has seen our staff conduct training workshops in Helensville, Wanganui, and New South Wales.

We are now a certified Cisco Academy which means we can train students to be computer technicians.

Our resource room staff member is making more trips to rural areas with our resources for schools and early childhood services to borrow and we have also embarked upon a plan to sell quality educational resources in response to community requests.

Review of REAPs

Late last year the Minister of Education announced that there will be a review of REAPs and their functions in rural New Zealand. RANZ are working with the Ministry on this initiative. This review is almost complete and we expect the review report in November this year.

Staffing:

We currently have a staffing complement of 20 full and part-time staff members. This year we were particularly sad to see the departure of Norma Evan who left for Australia after many years of loyal service both as a staff member and board Director as well.

Property

As part of our on-going property management plan the Board have approved the carpeting of the building and to embark upon a 2-stage plan to have the entire building air-conditioned by the end of next year. Our REAP facilities continue to be in high demand by the community, many of whom have commented on both the quality of the venue and the great service they receive from the Front Desk staff. Te Tari Puna o Aotearoa/New Zealand Childcare Association, Te Puni Kokiri, and Career Services continue to lease office space from us.

Conclusion:

Far North REAP is in great shape. We have the quality staff, resources and financial stability to continue to meet the needs of our community in appropriate ways. We believe that as changes occur we will see these as challenges and will not only meet them head on but will anticipate them to the extent we can.

I would like to express the thanks of the Board to the staff for their hard work, and also thank you to my fellow Board Directors for their dedication and passion in leading this wonderful community organisation.

Malcolm Matthews
Chairman