

12/02/09 - Media Release

New Executive Director to Lead Rainbow Youth

The Rainbow Youth Executive Board is excited to be welcoming Thomas Hamilton as Rainbow Youth's new Executive Director. Thomas started on Monday 9th February and will lead Rainbow Youth into the future.

Over the last few years Rainbow Youth has seen record numbers through its doors and at events, while visiting over 80 high schools in the Auckland region.

Rainbow Youth, starting as a seedling group 20 years ago, is now blossoming into a mature, professional organisation with its sights set on achieving an acceptance of the diversity of sexuality and gender throughout the whole of Aoteroa New Zealand.

"Now is a very exciting time to be a part of New Zealand's largest queer youth organisation." says Daniel Chorley, Chairman of the Rainbow Youth Board.

Chorley continues, "Thomas will be responsible for overseeing the growth and expansion of Rainbow Youth, as well as staffing, project management, funding, and will provide a face for Rainbow Youth in the community".

While financial woes have impacted many in the not-for-profit sector recently Rainbow Youth is financially stable. However funding will be one key area of focus in coming months to ensure they can continue to provide all services around Auckland. Thomas will be instrumental in this.

Thomas brings years of experience and skills working within the queer community, including working in queer specific organisations in Australia and the USA, and positions on the boards of GenderBridge and Outline. He brings invaluable knowledge from community law, support work/counselling, and office and volunteer management.

"I've always hoped to work for Rainbow Youth" comments Hamilton, "I'm grateful for this opportunity to develop one of New Zealand's most unique queer organisations, and really look forward to working with a youth board".

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