

# EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERING

VOLUNTEER WELLINGTON ■ TE PUNA TAUTOKO ■ YOUR COMMUNITY CONNECTOR



ISSUE 38 ■ DECEMBER 2019

## Wellington Electricity joins up

### Why did you join the EV programme?

For a large part of this year, our company took part in a health and wellbeing program, getting people to engage with each other and our communities in different ways. Part of the program was about the act of giving (time, money etc.) and when we looked around for opportunities to do some shared voluntary work as a company, Volunteer Wellington was one of the first organisations that came up!

### How did you go about generating enthusiasm for team volunteering?

To be honest, we haven't had to try very hard! Many people in the company are very keen to take part in the volunteering, especially if it's doing something very different from our normal day jobs.

We are a small company in terms of people numbers, with everyone in the same open plan office. This makes it relatively easy to keep people informed about volunteering activities, and for



RECYCLING MAGIC IN WINGATE

people to talk to each other about it and hype it up.

### How did you get the information out to people and how did you turn enthusiasm into actual teams taking action with volunteering?

Word of mouth plus our internal comms system, as well as emails and our monthly company catch-up meetings.

Before we decided on what activities to do, we asked for people to indicate if they were interested in taking part. Once we had decided on the particular activities, it was just a matter of allocating people into different groups. In the end, we had more volunteers than we originally thought, which was great!

### How did you make decisions about the kinds of projects to take on?

- finding the gaps in calendars
- different abilities and preferences of the volunteers (i.e. provide an option of a physical activity like planting and a less physical one like sorting items in a warehouse)
- making sure the location of the activity wasn't too far from our office, so it was easy to get to and back from
- picking activities that piqued the interest of volunteers

### What feedback have you had from you colleagues about the experience?

We have had some great feedback, with a few different stories and photos published in our internal comms in the



Wishing you all a happy and restful festive season. I am looking forward to another productive year in 2020, as we build on our marvelous partnership with Victoria University of Wellington who have implemented an EV programme. It has been a great pleasure to welcome many new Employee Volunteering Partners into the stable this year and to see the great benefits your volunteering brings to our Community Member Organisations. *Lyne Pringle*

last few months. Many people found the activities very enjoyable, both in terms of it being a social occasion with workmates and in learning about the organisations we were helping.

### How do you think it impacts on your workplace?

We think it has a number of positive impacts on our workplace:

- people interact with each other in a non-work environment, which benefits their working relationships
- it helps add to a more upbeat social environment in the office
- employees have an increased investment in the company, in the knowledge that it wants to engage with the community in meaningful ways
- it opens people's eyes to identifying other opportunities to volunteer in the future
- it can change our perspective on our own work, or spark different approaches to dealing with problems that we might not have thought of before

# Employee Volunteering Programme 2019 – A BUMPER YEAR!

As the year draws to a close we are celebrating! By the time we break for Xmas we will have brokered 117 projects involving 1107 corporate and public servant volunteers. The Victoria University Corporate Challenge for 2020 is well under way. The awards during National Volunteer week in June next year will celebrate projects that have contributed to two UN Sustainable Development Goals: Reduced Inequalities and Life on Land.



## The joy of planting

**AJ Park** and **ANZ** were introduced to restoration efforts at the **Bring Back the Natives** site.



## Recycle Recycle Recycle

**Kiwi Community Assistance** in Grenada hosted a team from **AJ Park**. They helped to bring order to their phenomenal warehouse where goods are disseminated.



## Bringing the paint

**Pynenberg and Collins Architects** not only volunteered a working day to paint the external fence of the **Te Omanga Hospice** they also organized sponsorship for the paint from **Resene**.



## World Poverty Day

Big ups to this team from **Mercer** who returned again this year to help set up for the **World Poverty Day** initiative led by **St Vincent de Paul**.

## Inner City Haven

A team from **Vinlink** came from **Marlborough** and spent part of their day volunteering at **Upstream/Central Park**. Time was spent preparing the park for summer conditions.



## Marvellous Makara

**Friends of Makara Peak** – a wonderful community project. For every metre of track a native is planted. The porokapa project takes off in 2020 to restore the podocarp canopy. **ANZ** recently contributed.



## Going Bush

**ACC** and **Wellington Electricity** relished the opportunity to work hard in the beautiful **Remutaka Forest Park** which is full of native birds and regenerating forest.



### Employee Volunteering Partners:

CC; AJ Park Ltd; ANZ National Bank; AsureQuality; IAG New Zealand; IBM New Zealand; KPMG; Massey University College of Creative Arts; Mercer Ltd; Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment -Legal; Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment – Capability Services; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Ministry of Justice; Parliamentary Counsel Office; Parliamentary Services; NZ Post Group; Pynenberg & Collins Architects; The Treasury, Victoria University of Wellington; Vocus Group; Wellington Electricity Corporation; Z Energy.



“ Thanks to you and your team for your GREAT effort today at KCA! I can't wait to see the Thursday warehouse team's face tomorrow when they arrive to see that the bins are 95% empty in the Incoming Bay. ”

**TRACY WELLINGTON KIWI COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE TO AJ PARK VOLUNTEERS**



**2020 Victoria University Corporate Challenge!**

**Join up!  
Become volunteering heroes.**

For more info email  
[ev@volunteerwellington.nz](mailto:ev@volunteerwellington.nz)



**In the Gorge**

**Trelissick Park** in the **Ngaio Gorge** is another of Wellington's lovely streams looked after by a dedicated bunch of community members headed by Peter Reiman. **MBIE-Legal** spent an enthusiastic and energetic day volunteering.

**Fabulous Zealandia**

This is another extremely popular option for teams. **Vocus Group** recently spent an energetic day in the field doing valuable maintenance work. They were on the look-out for the recently introduced rifleman/titipounamu.



**Protecting the Stream**

**Wellington Electricity** volunteered for the **Friends of Waiwhetu Stream**.

They did some valuable tending to the meandering stream banks.

**To the Island**

The rangers on **Matiu/Somes Island** are passionate about their conservation work and they are excellent hosts passing on their knowledge to volunteers. Recently **Vocus Group** spent a worthwhile day helping out on the island.



**Baking Treats**

**Vocus Group** spent their volunteer day cooking and baking for families who stay at **Ronald McDonald House** whilst supporting their sick children.



**5 MINS WITH  
PIP LEECH  
Team Coordinator  
AJ Park Ltd**

**How long have you been in your current role?**

I have been involved with the Wellington Office Community Volunteer Team since we began a work volunteer programme in 2018.

**Tell us a fun fact about yourself?**

I enjoy endurance sport and have completed the Taupo Ironman, a number of cycling events and a number of open water swim events.

**What is your background?**

I have been a PA at AJ Park for very long time!

**What is your take on the interface between businesses and the community?**

Businesses are increasingly aware of the communities in which they operate and are taking part in broader-based community activities.

**Why do you think volunteering is important?**

A lot of community projects would not be possible without volunteers.

**What other volunteering do you do (if applicable)**

I am a swim coach for Special Olympics Wellington.

“ The best team building activity I have ever done! ”

**MEMBER OF MBIE-LEGAL TEAM ON THEIR VOLUNTEER DAY ON MATIU SOMES ISLAND**

# Kaitiakitanga – taking care of people and the land



**TAPU TE RANGA MARAE FIRE**

Manawa Karioi is a community driven, ecological restoration and community recreation project in Island Bay. This green jewel is part of the Tapu Te Ranga Marae where fire recently destroyed Pare Waaka, the iconic main whare. It was a tragic loss for the community. Founder Bruce Stewart, acquired the land from the Home of Compassion to fulfill his vision for an urban Marae. He welcomed everyone and anyone that needed a place to belong. Kaitiakitanga or stewardship over the taiao (environment) is part of the Marae's ethos. In 1987 the Sisters of the Home of Compassion asked Bruce if he would like to add the hillside and surrounding land to the Marae: Bruce saw this as an opportunity to create a "bush and bird reserve".

In 1990 a public meeting was held to generate community support for the "bush and bird reserve" and the Manawa Karioi Society was formed to

Ko Tawatawa te Maunga  
Ko ngā waka o ngā hau e whā Ngā Waka  
Ko te Manawa Karioi te Puna  
Ko Ūkaipo nō Mahinārangī me Pare Waaka ngā Whare Tipuna  
Ko Hirini te Tangata  
Ko Tapu Te Ranga te Marae  
*Tawatawa is the mountain  
The people of the four winds are the waka  
Manawa Karioi is the spring  
Ūkaipo of Mahinārangī and Pare Waaka are the ancestral houses  
Hirini is the Rangatira  
Tapu Te Ranga is the Marae*

manage the project. According to Manawa Karioi, "this restoration project is one of the oldest such projects in Wellington and many hands have planted the trees, weeded the gorse, cut the scrub, cleared the tracks, nurtured the seedlings and most importantly enjoyed seeing the forest and birds return over these years."

Over 100,000 native trees have been planted across the hilly landscape

On the day that I visit a PD group are working on the grounds of the marae. The sounds of finches and weed-eaters reverberate around the valley. Two Ministers of the Crown are discussing the future of the marae with Bruce Stewart's son James Stewart. They express a commitment to keep the kaupapa alive.

I catch up with Chris Livesey who is one of the kaiwhakahaere of the restoration group and today is hosting a group of lawyers volunteering from MBIE.

Chris in a former life was an ecological economist. A passionate climber and trumper he holds a great love of the natural world. Since 1991 he has been involved in Manawa Karioi, as part of the original crew.

Over the years there have been many changes to the ecosystem: from gorse, broom and blackberry on the formerly



**MBIE-LEGAL AT MANAWA KARIOI**



**CHRIS LIVESEY**

grazed land to today's flourishing canopy of pioneer species such as flax, ngaio, mahoe, taupata and pittosporums. They provide shelter to the next phase which will see the climax species such as podocarps emerging in the coming decades. The kaupapa of the valley includes a commitment to providing a place where people, and especially children, can develop their relationship with nature.

Volunteers play a crucial role in the project. The Tapu Te Ranga Trust is keen for Manawa Karioi to be used by the community and today the MBIE volunteers are putting in posts for track signage.

The vision is alive and well at Manawa Karioi which is part of a chain of inspirational community led ecological restoration projects across the city.

To donate visit:  
<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/rebuild-tapu-te-ranga-marae>  
<https://givealittle.co.nz/org/manawakarioiproject>



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