

EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERING

VOLUNTEER WELLINGTON ■ TE PUNA TAUTOKO ■ YOUR COMMUNITY CONNECTOR



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Step away from the computer!

We are lucky to have the support of a group of Victoria University students. They are part of The Vanguard which is a youth-led Think Tank bringing fresh ideas to the EV programme. In September they delved into a series of case studies with some of our Employee Volunteering Partners. This was to gain insights into the reasons why people volunteer or are volunteer champions within their organisations. Jordan Lankshear undertook this case study:

Matt Fowler is a volunteering champion at **NZ Post Group** where he coordinates a team of fourteen. He has been driving this activity for five years by finding the potential projects through Volunteer Wellington or Volunteering Auckland, then brainstorming with his colleagues around logistics. His team is proactive and responsive. They tend to alternate between outdoor and social enterprise projects and because half the team is in Auckland they also alternate between cities. Last year they did a school 'gate to plate' project in Otago. He finds Volunteer Wellington an excellent 'portal' for finding and organizing a project.

NZ Post have a strong Corporate Social Responsibility and volunteering aspirations with 1250 employees and they are aiming for 10,000 volunteer hours by 2021.

The benefits of volunteering from Matt's perspective are: a chance to give something back to the community;



'The recent Vanguard Think Tank also focussed on the wider implications of volunteering, CSR and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Ideas generated were insightful and there were creative discussions into how CSR and the SDGs can become a more integral component of corporate life.'

MICHAELA HING, NEW VANGUARD MEMBER



team building where people take on different roles to normal and different leaders within the team can come to the fore; we get to communicate with each other and there is a completely different feel in the team from the usual work place vibe; **away from the computer** doing physical work with tangible outcomes.

'We are a diverse group demographically and in terms of ethnicity this kind of project brings us all together.'



2018/19 Victoria University Corporate Challenge!

Contribute to Sustainable Cities and Communities

For more info email ev@volunteerwellington.nz



Wishing you all a happy and restful festive season. I am looking forward to another productive year in 2019, as we build on our marvelous partnership with Victoria University of Wellington. I encourage you to contact me to start the process of finding matches. Working together to strengthen your Employee Volunteering programmes. Let's get as many people as possible out of the office and into the field. Join us in the Corporate Challenge and take action towards making Wellington a sustainable city and community. **Lyne Pringle**

We celebrate another successful year of Employee Volunteering and the completion of **99** projects involving **930** volunteers with **30–40** community partners.



Get involved in the Corporate Challenge in the coming year and support the goal of Sustainable Cities and Communities.

Melissa Middleton, is a **volunteer champion** at ANZ. She explains her perspective on employee volunteering: 'Colleagues gain a lot from the experience in terms of feeling they are contributing something back to the community. [Volunteering can be] an introduction to a previously unknown part of the community and an opportunity to interact with the work undertaken in that sector. It is also a chance to build connections with fellow employees. We are a large organisation so an event like this allows employees to get to know each other.'

Creating curtains

Members of the legal team from **MBIE** brought their sewing skills to the **Curtain Bank** at the **Sustainability Trust** to support the superb team of regular volunteers.



Planting heroes

Bringing Back the Natives in Newtown – the re-forestation of the inner city continues. Multiple teams including **Mercer Ltd** and **Treasury**, have made a huge impact and the plants have been flourishing with the spring rain.



TEAM MERCER



TEAM TREASURY

Cemetery capers

Bolton Street Cemetery have a dedicated group of volunteers who tend to the graves in this historic site. Volunteers from **NZ Post** assisted them with taming spring growth and general tidying.



Tea with the residents

Huntleigh Home in Karori hosted a team from **ANZ** who had morning tea then spent part of the day with residents, chatting and playing board games.



Sowing and potting

Cashmere Home hosted a group from **MBIE** assisting residents to sow and pot up native plants that will eventually find their way to the Nossiter Park restoration project.



POP UP people

Further to our feature article, **Mercer Ltd** lent a hand at **St Vincent de Paul**, to help them prepare for their awesome POP UP Shop project.



Employee Volunteering Partners

ACC; AJ Park Ltd; ANZ National Bank; BNP Paribas; IAG New Zealand; IBM New Zealand; KPMG; Massey University College of Creative Arts; Mercer Ltd; Ministry of Business Innovation and Enterprise; NZ Post Group; NZI; Pynenberg & Collins Architects; MAS; Parliamentary Counsel Office; The Treasury, Victoria University of Wellington; Vocus Group; Z Energy.



Remutaka magic

The newly named **Remutaka Park** was the first project for new EV partner **Pynenberg and Collins**. Conservation maestro Peter Cooper hosted them brilliantly.

Beach babes

AJ Park are putting their toes in the water, so to speak, with a **Beach Clean-up** at Moa Point, as their first project on an extremely windy Wellington day.



Seedy characters

Wellington City Council needed help putting seed packs together to give away at community events. **Trade Me** were sent their way as a complimentary service from our EV programme.



Terrific Te Rito

Treasury got their hands into the soil at **Te Rito Gardens**. They spent the day doing a combination of re-potting natives and preparing the new site for the gardens to move to early in the new year.



“ Loved it and getting away from the office. Also making ‘great’ connections with a new community group, we still receive updates from them. I have never seen people laugh so much together – the team building aspect is so important. ”

CHRISSY RANSELY FROM Z ENERGY WHO WENT TO NGĀ HAU E WHĀ O PĀPĀRĀRANGI



MILLIE LAMBESS

5 MINUTES WITH MILLIE LAMBESS Communications and Marketing Manager St Vincent de Paul Society Wellington Area

How long have you been in your current role at St Vincent de Paul?
2 years

Tell us a fun fact about yourself?

I have two awesome dogs – they have their own Instagram account @charlieandnomad

What is your background?

Professionally my background is within hospitality, design and media.

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

They both rely on each other to grow.

Why do you think volunteering is important?

Volunteering provides a variety of benefits to both individuals and organisations. It’s a great vehicle to connect people back into communities (which is often lost these days) and a great way to build confidence and a sense of belonging.

What other volunteering do you do?

To be honest, I haven’t volunteered outside of work in a long time. The last volunteer type thing I did was with Make A Wish where I supported one of their wishes by organising a personalised skateboarder to be made and painted by local artist Mica Still and bringing skateboarder Levi Hawken along to their house to teach the kid a few tricks.

The Vinnie's Powerhouse

Millie Lambess is the Communications and Marketing Manager at **St Vincent de Paul** (Vinnie's). We meet at their Newtown premises. It is a hive of activity: bursting at the seams with projects to support sustainability and social well-being. Next to the room where we meet, a small group are manufacturing alter breads.

'They produce 80% of the wafers used in New Zealand. Quite incredible considering how small the kitchen is,' says Millie. This project has been going for 30 years, providing employment and social connection for a small team with intellectual disabilities, one of whom has been here for twenty years. This small team with a huge output epitomizes the kaupapa of Vinnie's and the impact they have in the community.

After our meeting Millie is heading to Auckland to the **NZI Sustainable Business Network awards**. The Vinnie's *Re-sew* project is a finalist in the 'Going Circular' category and going 'head to head with some huge corporations' as Millie puts it.

This is a testament to the innovation, vision and tenacity of Millie and her colleagues. Caroline O'Reilly, the Textile Recycling Coordinator, heads the *Re-sew* project which has an impressive purpose. It came into play when the team were brainstorming around how to deal with the mountain of donated clothing which arrives at Vinnie's week after week.

'It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the sheer volume. Waste is the "bread and butter" of opportunity shops. The *Re-sew* project gives us the opportunity to deal with this in a responsible way. We had an audit with the Sustainability Trust through their "Your sustainable work place" programme.'



A shift in thinking through this process led to the *Re-sew* project which is giving value back to waste by repurposing donated clothing unsuitable for the retail shop. The project fulfils a welfare need as well as an educational purpose in terms of skill building for the volunteers who participate. It can also provide a pathway back to work, reduce social isolation and improve community connections by working in conjunction with other organisations that have opportunity shops. It is an impressive project.

'People from all walks of life are engaging in Vinnie's *Re-sew*. The challenge is to support these folks whilst finding a balance in terms of creating a product for sale, which Caroline O'Reilly and the *Re-Sew* team is achieving.'

Alongside this Vinnies are involved in other projects such as the recent POP UP FREE SHOP on World Day

of the Poor, giving people a 'shopping experience without the cost'. Free food and good company with other members of the community were also on offer on the day. A team from **Mercer Ltd** helped out with the preparation for this event.



Vinnies continue to work in collaboration with the Wellington City Council and other NGOs to fulfil their mission to **'give a hand-up, rather than a hand-out, breaking the cycle of poverty'**.

'A recent operational change with our food parcels and with our Xmas gift shop has been giving people choice over what they receive from us rather than us assuming this.'

A conscious drive towards a sense of agency for people in need.

Millie hoists her bag over her shoulder and heads out the door to the awards event in Auckland. Regardless of the outcome, St Vincent de Paul are already winners.



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