

Your community CONNECTOR

VOLUNTEER WELLINGTON | TE PUNA TAUTOKO



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International Volunteer Day – volunteers build resilient communities – Highlight of a Mayor’s year!

‘Through volunteering we get to know one another,’ said Mayor Justin Lester at **Volunteer Wellington’s** celebration of *International Volunteer Day*, 5 December. ‘This connecting is what builds resilient communities.’

The event was held at the Sustainability Trust’s attractive headquarters, where more than 60 people from Wellington community organisations created a buzz as they swapped stories and experiences.

Even the Mayor had a ‘funny story’ to tell ... about how he, apprehensively at first, took on a coaching role with his young daughter’s hockey team. Obviously for a Mayor who does his job well, time was of the essence. But his story ended with ‘this was the highlight of my year.’

Dr Katie Bruce, executive director of Volunteering New Zealand, spoke about volunteering worldwide again reiterating the pleasure and connecting which happens when people get together and work for a common cause.

Dr Bruce also launched **Volunteer Wellington’s** new publication *Volume 5 Once upon a time ... stories about volunteers and volunteering*. ‘If you are feeling downcast about the state of the world read this book,’ she said. ‘The outcomes from volunteering and the wonderful stories about changed lives, will lift your spirits.’

She mentioned the diversity, the



EVA KAPRINAY

The Mayor and Katie Bruce (second right) with books – and local volunteers.

surprises, the new friendships and directions that were all portrayed through the 35 profiles about volunteers. And as was mentioned in the book’s introduction ... ‘the stories are a slice of **Volunteer Wellington’s** overall palette. Thousands of volunteer seekers are connected every year with member community organisations. These 35 represent the many. Their ages ▶



Christmas/New Year Holidays

Many thanks to our community members for supporting our services this year and for the sterling work you and your volunteer teams do to support and enrich the diverse communities of Wellington.

The team at **Volunteer Wellington** wish you and your whānau a relaxing and enjoyable festive season.

Volunteer Wellington will close for the Christmas/New Year holiday period on Friday 21 December and open on Monday 14 January.

Volunteer Hutt and **Volunteer Porirua** will close on 21 December and open on 16 January.

Porirua finding and rewarding

On International Volunteer Day, Volunteer Porirua celebrated by finding and rewarding volunteers within our community.

Stalking complete strangers on the street and in the mall, branch manager Julia Donovan asked: ‘Have you volunteered this year?’ while proffering a basket of Fruit Bursts and brochures. An extraordinary number of Porirua residents were able to say ‘yes!’ and get a treat. We heard some fantastic stories of community involvement, and had several people say they wanted to book an interview with us.



Yes we volunteer...

CHAIR'S COLUMN



Well this is it, my final chair's column. Looking back over the last three years I marvel at what

Volunteer

Wellington has achieved, both as an organisation and for the wider community sector, and I am super proud that I have been part of that journey. I must confess that when I first volunteered to chair the Board of Trustees I was a newbie to the sector and I wondered how it would work out. However, I needn't have worried. I have met people from all aspects of society, worked with such an amazing group of dedicated staff and volunteers, and have had the support of a highly engaged Board of Trustees.

Although the time commitment was sometimes more than I expected, and there were some daunting challenges, it has been an experience that I have enjoyed immensely. A key aspect of this outcome has to be the great working relationship that existed with Julie Thomson, **Volunteer Wellington's** regional manager. I would like to express my special thanks to Julie, who has worked tirelessly in leading her team; and for the trust and support she has provided to me in the role.

I am excited to hand over the helm to the new chair, Ming-chun Wu, as I know she will do a great job of charting **Volunteer Wellington's** future course and the challenges it will entail. In closing I would like to thank the community organisation members, business friends, partners, funders, supporters, staff and volunteers for their engagement and support and wish you well for Christmas and the New Year. Keep safe, and enjoy the festive season.

Kia Kaha

Glenn Todd

'Do not judge me by my success but by how many times I have fallen down and got back up again.'

NELSON MANDELA

► and ethnicities are as varied as their employment status, backgrounds and motives ...'

Julie Thomson, **Volunteer Wellington's** regional manager, thanked the volunteers who shared their inspiring stories, and the volunteer writers, photographers and graphic designer Sue Hobbs of minimum graphics. 'Together you have produced an inspiring publication that celebrates and acknowledges the dynamic and magic of volunteering,' she said.

To order copies of **Volume 5** *Once upon a time ... stories about volunteers and volunteering* email julie@volunteerwellington.nz. A koha is suggested of \$15.

Thank you Glenn

The team at **Volunteer Wellington** would like to acknowledge the significant contribution Glenn has made as Chair of the board, and as the project manager of our new website. Glenn has led our organisation through some challenging and exciting times. He has been fully committed and engaged in our many events and programmes and has been an outstanding ambassador for **Volunteer Wellington**.

I have very much appreciated Glenn's support, trust and confidence in my role as regional manager. We will miss our regular contact with Glenn but the good news is ... he realises that you never really leave **Volunteer Wellington** and he will continue to support the management of our website remotely! *Aroha nui Glenn*

Diverse range of quality workshops hit the mark!

More than 620 people attended our 2018 professional development programme of 19 workshops covering a wide range of topics relevant to the community and voluntary sector.

Feedback has been enthusiastic about the relevant topics, the new knowledge and practical tools gained, the quality of the facilitators, and the valuable connections made.

'Every workshop I've attended has provided me with information that I can use immediately or I have added to my personal "toolbox" for later reference.' 'It has made a huge difference to how we manage ourselves, others and our volunteers.' 'Increased my understanding and ability to apply newly gained info. Always good to meet with like-minded people also attending ... good for networking!'

Having difficult conversations was the top topic in our recent training survey and will be the first workshop of our 2019 professional development programme.

MONDAY 18 FEBRUARY

Having difficult conversations

Most people are experts at talking but often we shy away from having meaningful and constructive conversations about things we find difficult to talk about. We don't always manage to get it right when we need to have a direct and challenging conversation with someone about their performance or conduct. This can be particularly difficult when we work with volunteers who give generously of their skills and time and effort.

This half-day workshop will provide a greater understanding of when and how to talk to people on confronting topics, or when conflict is present.

Further information and registration [here](#).

Congratulations

Ruth Hogg, director of Hutt Valley Activity Centre won a free place on one of Volunteer Wellington's 2019 workshops for completing our training survey. Well done Ruth!

Volunteers and the 1918 flu epidemic

Most of us know about the 1918 flu epidemic which spread like a plague throughout New Zealand as World War I ended. But few know about the extraordinary work done by volunteers during this terrible time.

Exactly 100 later **Volunteer Wellington** has launched an impressive publication called *Wellington volunteers and the 1918 flu epidemic*, to remember the brave teams of volunteers who responded to the call for help.

Appropriately held in the War Memorial Museum café during November – when the epidemic was at its worst in Wellington – the launch, with guest speakers Professor Geoffrey Rice, Emeritus Professor of History at University of Canterbury and Mayor Justin Lester, was a celebration of both the current team of volunteers who

master-minded the research, writing and printing of the book; and a salutary reminder of the volunteers who nursed, fed, supported the families of the dying and ill ... and many of whom died themselves.

Ann Hodson, who sparked the idea of the publication and was also involved with the Karori Cemetery 1918 influenza epidemic project, says in her reflection in *Wellington volunteers*: 'I tried to imagine how it must have been for volunteers in Wellington during those challenging, devastating and heart-breaking weeks that the influenza epidemic raged.'

How different the experience was, she said, for the team of volunteers working in the Karori cemetery. And yet how much has not changed. 'A



The team that made it happen.

EVA KAPRINAY

unique link between the events of 1918 and 2018 has been the glimpses of the impact of volunteering. It has been a reminder that 'volunteering is life-changing'.

The book production volunteer team, Brendan Sweeney, Lynne White, Ann Hodson, Ida Bagus, Aditya Manuaba, Julie O'Brien, Sharon Kirk, Alex Birch, Hilary Stace, Max Kerr and Sue Hobbs, who worked under the leadership of **Volunteer Wellington's** manager programmes Aileen Davidson, experienced similar outcomes as their work progressed.

All were thanked and applauded at the book launch.

Visit www.volunteerwellington.nz to access the booklet or if you would like a copy of *Wellington volunteers and the 1918 flu epidemic* contact Aileen Davidson on 499 4572 or email aileen@volunteerwellington.nz

IVD in the Hutt

Mayor Ray Wallace was an enthusiastic guest speaker at **Volunteer Hutt's** IVD celebration. 'Whether it's keeping our community safe, helping develop new skills, or caring for the health and wellbeing of your fellow citizens – you are making a difference,' he said.

Volunteers and volunteer managers gathered to be acknowledged for the vitality, diversity and resilience they bring to the Hutt community.

Volunteer Hutt manager, Katie Terris, reiterated the 2018 IVD theme *volunteers build resilient communities* when she said how apt this was today. 'We are living in a time of great change with its possible consequences at the forefront of the news. Amazing work is being done in the community to build connection and resilience.'



'We're all in this together.' Wow!!

→ THANK YOU FOR FUNDING AND SUPPORT

Betty Campbell Trust, Christine Taylor Foundation, COGS, Department of Internal Affairs Support for Volunteering Fund, Roy Ferguson, First Sovereign Trust, Four Winds Foundation, Havana Coffee, Holcim New Zealand Ltd, Hutt City Council, Hutt Mana Charitable Trust, John Illott Charitable Trust, Lion Foundation, Lottery Community, Ministry of Social Development – Work and Income, Nikau Foundation, Pelorus Trust, Sargood Bequest, Tai Shan Foundation, T G McCarthy Trust, Trust House Porirua, Victoria University Wellington, Wellington City Council, Wellington Community Trust
IN-KIND SUPPORTERS: *Kapi-Mana News*, minimum graphics, St John's in the City Presbyterian Church, Southern Cross Garden Bar, Vertia, Whittaker's

→ EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERING PARTNERS

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

→ FRIENDS OF VOLUNTEER WELLINGTON

BUSINESS FRIENDS: Symonite Wellington Ltd, Mosquito Consulting Services Ltd, Hutt Automatics Ltd, House of Sabra
INDIVIDUAL FRIENDS: Sue Hine, Sue Hobbs, Ann Hodson, Colin Hyde, Pat Lakeman, Helen Middleton, Raewyn Sinclair, Chris Streatfield, Olwen Taylor, Celia Wade-Brown

Review of the Charities Act 2005

BE HEARD....

This is the first time since 2005 that the Charities Act has been reviewed and it is vital that charities and the community sector's voices are heard. Please complete the survey, which will take around 20 minutes. Please also share a link to the survey widely within your networks and on social media. [Survey link.](#)

If you are connected to more than one group or organisation (whether a registered charity or not), you are welcome to fill the survey out multiple times, giving the information separately for each one. The more completed questionnaires we receive, the stronger the data is that we can gather for input to the review of New Zealand's Charities laws.

Employee Volunteering Partnerships

Many of our **Employee Volunteering Partners** are putting in requests for opportunities in 2019.

At this time of the year, when you are looking forward, include some thinking around how you could involve a team of keen business volunteers. Or you might like to focus on a specialist project where you could use some of the specific skills that our business partners have, i.e. business planning, auditing, HR advice or accounting to name a few.

In the latter part of the year we have welcomed three new businesses into the Employee Volunteering stable. They are: **AJ Park** who develop patents especially in the pharmaceutical sector; **Pynenberg and Collins** – an award winning architectural firm and **MAS** – an international insurance company.

For the third year in a row we have brokered a large scale project for 60



Pynenberg and Collins and Remutaka Forest Park.

Z Energy volunteers who come from the retail section of this organisation. The relationship with Z Energy goes from strength to strength through these collaborations.

This year they are taking their enthusiasm to the **Laura Fergusson Trust** home in the Hutt Valley. This wonderful organisation provides live-in facilities and outreach programmes for people with disabilities. The Z Energy volunteers will be working on their beautiful grounds beside the Waiwhetu stream as well as putting up Christmas decorations, painting two large rooms and building a herb garden. The **Lions Club of Lower Hutt** has kindly contributed towards the cost of paint and the garden beds and Resene has given us a generous discount on the paint.

Volunteer Wellington really does connect people together. This EV project is a great example of multiple partners working together towards a common good.

To brainstorm projects and harness the energy of our employee volunteering teams contact Lyne Pringle on 499 4572 or email ev@volunteerwellington.nz

Kindy kids and Manaaki Day

When a young boy called Eddie wrote to Mayor Justin Lester that he thought the city needed a Manaaki day, the Mayor contacted **Volunteer Wellington**. Eddie told the Mayor 'I learned about manaaki at Kindy, it means when you are kind and show manaaki by sharing and caring for people around you to make everyone feel nice in their hearts.'

Volunteer Samantha was recruited as project manager and emailed every kindy in Wellington, asking them to invite their families to donate new toys and books. The response was fantastic and through the manaaki of the Kindy kids many more children will be receiving gifts this Christmas.



Eddie and Mayor Justin Lester.

Meeting up at the Southern Cross

'I didn't know there was so much going on in the Wellington community!'; 'I came to keep my partner company and have just signed up with one of the community groups.'

More than 150 volunteer seekers attended our volunteering meetup events held on the second Tuesday of each month this year at the Southern Cross Hotel where representatives from 35 of our community organisations spoke enthusiastically about the range of diverse volunteering opportunities on offer. Many valuable connections were made. The first meetup event for 2019 is on Tuesday 12 February. Take this unique opportunity to raise the profile of your organisation and promote your volunteering roles to a ready audience. **If you would like to be involved in the volunteering meetup groups in 2019, email aileen@volunteerwellington.nz**



Wellington College students wrapping Xmas presents at Birthright Wellington.

School students leading the way

The younger generation are truly leading the way! 360 Wellington College year 10 boys in teams of 16, spent the morning of 21 November tackling a range of interesting and fun volunteering projects with 14 of our community members.

Thank you to Conservation Volunteers, Boomerang Bags, SPCA, Vincentian Home, St Vincent de Paul, the Salvation Army, Wellington City Council (3 projects), Huntleigh Retirement Village, Upstream – Friends of Central Park, Ronald McDonald House, Birthright, Mary Potter Hospice and Wellington Hockey for creating projects to harness the energy and enthusiasm of these budding volunteers.

An energetic team from Rongotai College tackled the pile of mis-matched uniforms at Wellington Hockey, tidying them up and getting them ready for the next season. Students from Newlands College volunteered during Senior's Week hosting local seniors, and brightening their day with a cup of tea and chat. The students enjoyed their volunteering so much that they have signed up for the Kilbirnie Santa Parade!



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