

Your community CONNECTOR

VOLUNTEER WELLINGTON | TE PUNA TAUTOKO



→ VISIT US AT www.volunteerwellington.nz → EMAIL info@volunteerwellington.nz

Community solidarity during National Volunteer Week: 16 – 22 June 2019

Everyone, the world over, has been deeply shocked and saddened by the terrible massacre which took place so recently in those two mosques in Christchurch. To remind us of the importance of retaining community solidarity the theme for **National Volunteer Week (NVW)** 16–22 June is relevant. **Whiria te tangata – weaving the people together.**

Monica Carrer, practitioner in the field of peace and conflict studies and co-founder of the Everyday Peace Initiative, talks about how everyday

acts of peace in the community can stop violence. 'Let us start a new story,' she said in an article in the DomPost following the shooting. 'Get to know your neighbours...direct experience makes us realize how alike we all are.'

The voluntary sector has the power to bring people together through volunteering. We are able to work and meet with refugees and migrants on a daily basis. More than 65 different nationalities came through the offices of **Volunteer Wellington** last year, seeking volunteering roles. They are among the

1.2 million Kiwis who are giving their time and skills around New Zealand each year.

NVW is a time to celebrate that we are all, with our differences of race, religion, gender, age and background, getting to know one another. We are ordinary people doing extraordinary things. All volunteers and the communities with whom they are working are 'telling a new story.' Steps are continuously being taken towards community solidarity – and peace.

Volunteer Connect Awards 2019

Volunteer Wellington's annual Volunteer Connect Award celebration will have heartfelt significance this year. As we reinforce Monica Carrer's words (see story above) by 'getting to know one another' it is a privilege to be now asking you, our community organisation members, to nominate volunteers from a migrant background for this award – a highlight in the volunteer calendar. Forms will be sent out shortly.

Once again the event will be held at the welcoming garden bar of the Southern Cross. The date is Thursday 18 July from 5.30–7pm. Save the date.

The Volunteer Connect Award celebrates the valuable contribution made by migrants who volunteer with our community member organisations. The evening is a chance for family members to hear more about what



There is no doubt that everyone in this 2018 group of recipients, is happy to receive their award certificates.

the volunteer in their family has been doing, and for our members to show their support and appreciation to the volunteers.

One of the volunteers receiving the award last year said: '*... the thing that I enjoyed the most was that I could meet liked-minded and interesting people, with whom I had good conversation that helped me to know and understand New Zealand better.*'

**CULTURAL AWARENESS
6 MAY 9–12.30pm HUTT**

Cross-cultural communication

New Zealand is a multicultural society where we work alongside and provide services to people who may have very different world views and ways of communicating from our own. Improved awareness, understanding and appreciating differences helps make respectful relationships, reduces misunderstanding and enables provision of services that better meet the needs of diverse clients.

This interactive cross-cultural training is for managers, team leaders, volunteers and paid staff. It will equip you with skills to work more effectively and productively with clients and colleagues from different cultures.

Further information and registration [here](#)

CHAIR'S COLUMN



Ernest Hemingway once said "..., true nobility is being superior to your former self."

At **Volunteer Wellington**, we are always looking for ways to

improve how we work with our members and the community. Over the coming year, we will be seeking your input into targeting our services to better meet your needs.

The board and staff met for our annual strategic planning day at the end of February where we reflected on key successes from the previous year and looked forward to opportunities in the next three years.

With the recent student-led climate change march and the increasing public awareness of various social and equality issues, we are expecting 2019 to be a year of new economy movement towards social responsibility and wellbeing.

Our Employee Volunteering programme has been supporting and facilitating businesses in order for their employees to form partnerships with community organisations to achieve worthwhile projects together. We will be looking at how we can better communicate the merits of business being involved with our members, the community and environmental impact and how businesses manage social responsibility through employee volunteering.

This year we are keen to improve our core capabilities and infrastructure to build our organisation's ability to respond and adapt to changes in the future. This includes improving our information technology, so our staff are better equipped to carrying out their roles.

Currently we are calling for expressions of interest to join the board of **Volunteer Wellington** and contribute to the ongoing strategic development of our organisation. Please pass on the word if you know of anyone with relevant interest, experience and skills.

Kia kaha,
Ming-chun Wu

The Victoria University Corporate Challenge 2019 – Off to a strong start!

The Employee Volunteering programme serves to connect businesses, government departments and our Community Members. The brokered projects provide an opportunity to share ideas and gain understanding of the rewards and challenges that face both sides of the partnership.

2019 is turning into a record year to date: 51 projects engaging 501 volunteers. We are half way to our targets and it is only April! In part this is due to the sterling efforts of ANZ. They are a great exemplar of employees 'walking the talk' of their company values through volunteering.

In the last four months of the Corporate Challenge we have had teams engaging in projects offering: conservation support at Matiu/Somes Island and Zealandia; warehouse sorting at St Vincent de Paul; gardening assistance at Te Rito Gardens in Porirua; various tasks at Riding for the Disabled in Silverstream and Pauatahanui; employees from KPMG working in partnership with Makara Peak Bike Park; ACC employees spending time with residents at Huntleigh home in Karori, and many more fabulous encounters by volunteering teams with various sectors of the community.

We are tracking well to fulfil our theme and focus for the **Victoria University of Wellington Corporate Challenge** in 2018/19, with projects



ANZ clearing tracks on Matiu/Somes Island.

that contribute to sustainable cities and communities. This continues to strengthen our partnership with Victoria University of Wellington and their push to be a civically responsible organisation.

The challenge covers the July 2018 to June 2019 period and every project that happens during this time is eligible to win an award. We will have our annual event at **KPMG on Wednesday 19 June 5–7pm** – save the date.

Recently we had a successful Project Brainstorm with some of our community members which unearthed several interesting specialist volunteering projects, as well as team projects; but we are always on the lookout for new projects. If you would like to discuss an idea contact Lyne Pringle ev@volunteerwellington.nz

Outward Bound Scholarships for volunteers aged between 18–26

Ka Mahi! Great Work!

Do you have young people volunteering with you who would enjoy the benefits of attending a 3 week Outward Bound course? Outward Bound NZ's Ka Mahi Scholarship programme is supported by a variety of individuals, organisations and foundations. The programme makes participation on the Classic course

possible for young people actively volunteering in their community. The scholarship does not cover transport clothing etc. and is only available to NZ residents and passport holders.

To register interest, ask volunteers to go to: <https://www.outwardbound.co.nz/community/scholarships/>

He taonga ranganui te aroha ki te tangata
Goodwill towards others is a precious treasure

Mentoring and Managers of Volunteers peer support groups

Ever felt you'd like to discuss issues or your professional development needs with a more experienced mentor? Or would you like to join a group of managers of volunteers to discuss ways of working with volunteers and ensuring they feel valued?

Volunteer Wellington has a mentoring programme and Managers of Volunteers peer support groups. Sometimes just talking to someone can help clarify your own thinking! If you'd like to know more email ailen@volunteerwellington.nz



MONDAY 8 APRIL 10am–12pm

Managing staff performance

How do you address staff performance issues and maintain the dignity of your valuable staff – paid and unpaid?

Facilitator **Keith Vaughan** will focus on managing staff that do not meet the requirements of their roles and provide tools on how to address the performance issues without time consuming adversarial processes.

Topics covered in this two hour session include:

- Staff don't do a job to expected level/expectations are not met
- They take long breaks or leave early/not on time/punctuality is a problem
- They make repetitive mistakes over and over and over
- How to turn these around to positive behaviour

Further information and registration [here](#)

WEDNESDAY 29 MAY 9.30–4pm

Connections and collaborations

A community thrives when locals connect and collaborate to realise the potential of their place. Community-led development enables people to find, make and maintain relationships across diverse groups and sectors. Effective community engagement is more than consultation. It requires the vital elements of trust, observation, analysis and an ability to co-create vision and plan for change. This workshop being offered by Inspiring Communities in partnership with **Volunteer Wellington** will help you:

- Assess your community relationships
- Identify new allies, connections and influencers
- Apply tools to build and sustain stakeholder relationships
- Establish steps to map and tap into the strengths of your wider community
- Expand your capacity to hold and maintain diverse relationships

Further information and registration [here](#)

WEDNESDAY–FRIDAY 3–5 JULY 9.30am–4.30pm

Managing and leading community organisations

Leading in a community organisation can be complex! This training programme develops your skills, knowledge and confidence to manage the people, money, projects, and stakeholders, whilst still driving results. So, no more second-guessing yourself ...

During three days of highly interactive learning, topics are explored in the context of your community and organisation. You will have plenty of opportunity to also identify the areas of interest and development that particularly apply to you, influencing the shape and content of the programme. By the end you will have two plans – one for your own leadership development, and one for building the capacity of your organisation.

A discount is being offered to **Volunteer Wellington** members.

For more information contact Hilary Star-Foged – hilary@lead.org.nz or visit www.lead.org.nz



Student Volunteer Week

1–7 April 2019, celebrates and encourages the contributions of students in our communities. Kaitiakitanga, the guardianship of nature, is this year's campaign theme. With environmental issues currently in the public eye, Student Volunteer Week is a fantastic opportunity for your organisation to recruit new volunteers and celebrate existing ones!

Volunteer Wellington has been working with Victoria University of Wellington and our community members to develop team projects for the week. Remember – students volunteer all year round and **Volunteer Wellington** is working with more and more student-led secondary school volunteer clubs looking for volunteer roles for both individual students and teams. Students working towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award are often wanting volunteer roles too, so it's a good time to think about new ways to engage young people in volunteering. Let's help grow the next generation of volunteers!

Throughout the week, universities, schools, and organisations nationwide will host a variety of events celebrating and connecting young people with opportunities to get involved. No matter how big or small your promotion, you will be making a difference to the future of student volunteering in New Zealand by raising awareness of the work students do, and encouraging their efforts. For information on how to get involved with #SVW2019 visit

www.studentvolunteerweek.nz



VUW Students – Seniors Week, Karori.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Mai Mostafa loved Dubai, a modern city in the Middle East and a comparatively easy place to live after the rigours of Saudi Arabia and the constraints of her native Egypt.

But New Zealand – where is that? No no no, was her first reaction when her husband let her know about a further job offer he had received in this faraway country. Finally, with two small children in tow, the family said ‘let’s give it a go!’

I met up with Mai two years later and on day one of her new job as the Churton Park Community Centre advocate and organiser. She was eager to talk about her journey since arriving in Wellington and how she got to this moment.

Her first aim was to become fluent in English, her third language. Arabic is her mother tongue and French a fluent second language. Mai praised the ESOL courses at Wellington High School.

‘I met so many different people and



our main tutor, Penny, was great and always encouraging.’ And wherever she went she was ‘surprised about the people. I find positive energy every time I go out.’

As her confidence – and fluency – grew, Mai’s next step was to take on a volunteering role with **Volunteer Wellington**. She became a follow-up assistant using the telephone and making conversations to find out how people (those who have come through **Volunteer Wellington’s** processes) were progressing with their volunteering.

‘This pushed me a lot. I was scared at first – scared to talk, scared to write! But Aileen (manager projects with **Volunteer Wellington**) kept supporting me. Day by day I practised and got better at the job until I could work things out by myself.

‘Without **Volunteer Wellington** I would be nothing ... have none of this confidence.’

Volunteering at her son’s school followed, helping out with after-school programmes involving craft and art.

‘With these activities I found something new in my personality – I like craft.’

This led to Mai herself running craft classes during the holidays at the nearby community centre. With her previous work experience always in banking, she was excited by the new skills and possibilities she was experiencing through volunteering. She had also gained valuable knowledge of community life and its thread of resilience throughout New Zealand society.

When she was interviewed for her current position she was again surprised that she had so many answers and ideas; that she felt positive speaking – and listening to – English. With the rest of her family her original ‘no no no’ has now become ‘yes yes yes.’

Post script: Since this story was written Mai has had a job promotion. She is now the co-ordinator of Churton Park Community Centre and is often in contact with **Volunteer Wellington** finding volunteers for different projects ... and promoting the benefits of volunteering.

REVIEW OF THE CHARITIES ACT 2005



BE HEARD ...

A discussion document and quick read to support public consultation have now been released and **written submissions can be made until 30 April**. The review focuses on such issues as:

the purpose of the Act; obligations of charities; how registration decisions are made; how charities can appeal decisions; charities that have businesses; issues for Māori charities; and how charities can advocate for their causes.

Further information, including the discussion document and quick read, dates and locations of the community meetings and submission forms can be found at:

<https://www.dia.govt.nz/charitiesact#Consult>

Note that the review is highly technical but that the impacts could be far-reaching. An independent group have been working on behalf of the community sector to investigate the possible impacts and this is a **must read** before submitting.

→ 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 Ilott 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

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INDIVIDUAL FRIENDS: Sue Hine, Sue Hobbs, Ann Hodson, Colin Hyde, Pat Lakeman, Helen Middleton, Raewyn Sinclair, Chris Streatfield, Olwen Taylor, Celia Wade-Brown

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