

# Your community **CONNECTOR**

**VOLUNTEER WELLINGTON | TE PUNA TAUTOKO**



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## Increased demand for Volunteer Wellington's services **Annual General Meeting 2019**

More than 2800 volunteer seekers accessed Volunteer Wellington's services and a further 500 secondary and tertiary students 'injected their energy and enthusiasm into a range of interesting projects with our community organisation members', said Regional Manager Julie Thomson at the 27th AGM, held recently at Sustainability Trust.

Other highlights from the past 12 months spoken about by Julie were:

- Securing an MSD contract which allowed **Volunteer Wellington** to continue its work of supporting more than 100 Work and Income clients with diverse needs to achieve their goals towards preparation for employment. *'It felt great when I was volunteering that I was wanted and I was useful to people. That helped my confidence a lot in applying for my paid job.'*
- A second successful year of the Victoria University of Wellington Corporate Challenge resulted in 1059 employee volunteers who 'walked the talk' of social responsibility and became actively involved in 94 community projects.



■ **Volunteer Wellington's** community organisation members took advantage of the quality professional development opportunities. 662 people attended the 17 workshops held during the year.

■ Two inspiring publications were produced. *Wellington volunteers and the 1918 flu epidemic* celebrates the volunteers who worked with the victims and their families during the devastating flu epidemic.

■ The 5th volume of *Once upon a time ... stories about volunteers and volunteering* was launched at our International Volunteer Day event. Guest speaker, Dr Katie Bruce, said *'If you are feeling downcast about the state of the world, read this book of 35 stories. The outcomes from volunteering and wonderful stories about changed lives will lift your spirits.'*

Julie spoke highly of the motivated team of paid staff and more than 100 volunteers who contributed to the development and delivery of **Volunteer Wellington's** services this year. She thanked the funders and stakeholders for their generous support which enabled **Volunteer Wellington** to continue to play its vital role in building strong, connected and resilient communities in the Wellington region.

### **Guest speakers**

Chair Ming-chun Wu welcomed the enthusiastic group of stakeholders and guest speakers who gathered for this celebratory event.

**Volunteer Wellington's** 2018–19 Annual Report is available here



Michelle Kitney, Acting CE for Volunteering New Zealand outlined the projects the volunteering peak body does to ensure that volunteering is recognized for the value that it brings to our communities. Katie O'Meeghan, a leader of the Wellington Community Justice programme, spoke about this group of socially minded law students and their two aims: to improve access to justice in New Zealand and to give their volunteers opportunities to develop their legal skills.

Robert McIntyre, CEO of the Laura Fergusson Trust gave an inspirational talk about the importance of connecting with people with disabilities, how even the smallest gesture of reaching out can make a huge difference in their lives.

## CHAIR'S COLUMN



It would come as no surprise that at **Volunteer Wellington**, we believe that volunteering is great for the community,

and it's great for volunteers, too. Volunteering helps us connect with people, and it can be incredibly rewarding.

During these coldest months of the year we took the opportunity to celebrate and recognise the many volunteers and organisations that supported them over the last year.

We were pleased to partner up with Victoria University of Wellington again this year in recognising businesses which participated in our annual Corporate Challenge through our Employee Volunteering programme. The award evening held at KPMG reflected highlights from 94 projects, involving 1059 employee volunteers, and 30–40 community partners.

This year's Volunteer Connect Awards honoured the outstanding volunteering contributions of 16 recent migrants to our local community. During the award evening held at the Southern Cross, Arathy and Julia shared with us their experiences of volunteering as a new migrant in New Zealand which inspired everyone at the event.

Our AGM held at Sustainability Trust recognised contributions from our staff, volunteers, member organisations, supporters and board members over the last year. With our new board members Ben and Tracy on board, we look forward to working with you all for another year in sharing the love for volunteering across Wellington.

*Kia kaha,  
Ming-chun Wu*

## Welcome Hon. Poto Williams

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern recently announced the appointment of the Hon. Poto Williams to the position of Minister for the Community and Voluntary sector. Poto Williams has worked in the community sector for most of her professional life, including mental health, disability, community health and family violence. She is also Associate Minister for Greater Christchurch Regeneration, Immigration, and Social Development.

## New migrants contribute to community life

A wonderful evening was had as family, friends and colleagues of 16 migrant volunteers gathered at the Southern Cross to celebrate their volunteering contribution and the 2019 Volunteer Connect Awards.

This year's award recipients came from Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, India, Iran and the Philippines. They worked in roles ranging from translating for lawyers representing asylum seekers, running clinics, stakeholder communication

management, mentoring, supporting others into work, database management, fundraising, community engagement, social media management, administrative support, to transporting people to meetings.

Through these experiences the volunteers have improved their confidence, developed English language conversation and communication skills, learnt sign language, had the 'New Zealand work experience', made a difference in the community and built strong, lifelong friendships.

Guest speaker Deputy Mayor Jill Day spoke from the heart about the value of volunteering and the vital role it plays in making Wellington a welcoming, vibrant and safe place for all. She highlighted how great it is to have new members of our community contribute so much and so freely with their volunteering efforts.

A quote from award recipient Aarti Nair summed up the impact of volunteering: *'Volunteering helped me build confidence and gain more practical skills. Above everything, contributing to the community gave me a sense of belonging and fulfilment that I missed when I was new to NZ.'*

This annual celebration is a collaboration between **Volunteer Wellington**, the Job Mentoring Services of English Language Partners and Wellington CAB.

## A national strategy to support recent migrants

Volunteering New Zealand (VNZ) launched Te Rautaki mō Whanaungatanga, A national strategy to support volunteering for new migrants at Parliament during National Volunteer Week 2019. The strategy has been developed to improve the experiences of recent migrant volunteers and promote migrant volunteering best practice across the sector. It was informed by the experiences of hundreds of recent migrant volunteers shared in surveys, interviews, and during migrant volunteering workshops held around the country. At the heart of the strategy's vision is the concept of whanaungatanga – kinship, connection, relationships, and reciprocity. To find out more: <https://www.volunteeringnz.org.nz/migrant-volunteering-programme/>

### → THANK YOU FOR FUNDING AND SUPPORT

Betty Campbell Trust, Christine Taylor Foundation, COGS, Department of Internal Affairs Support for Volunteering Fund, Roy Ferguson, Four Winds Foundation, Havana Coffee, Hutt City Council, Hutt Mana Charitable Trust, Infinity Foundation, John Ilott Charitable Trust, Lion Foundation, Lottery Community, Ministry of Social Development – Work and Income, Nikau Foundation, One 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:** CSG Technology, Kāpiti Mana News, minimum graphics, St John's in the City Presbyterian Church, Southern Cross Garden Bar, Vertia



## Celebrating employee volunteering

Members of the **Volunteer Wellington** Youth Vanguard were among guest speakers at **Volunteer Wellington**'s memorable National Volunteer Week Employee Volunteering event held at KPMG.

Celebrating the Employee Volunteers who step away from their jobs to go and volunteer for **Volunteer Wellington**'s community member organisations, this event was the culmination of a partnership between Victoria University and **Volunteer Wellington** promoting corporate volunteering. Wendy Larner, Provost at VUW, spoke about the value of the projects undertaken which were created to assist the goals of Sustainable Cities and Communities and Life on Land ... two of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Mayor Justin Lester presented the awards. Recipients were: St Vincent de Paul with Mercer Ltd; Sustainability Trust – Curtain Bank with MBIE-Legal; Huntleigh Home, Maritime Heritage Trust and Friends of Vogelmorn with groups from ANZ; Lower Hutt Primary Schools Sports Assn with Vocus Group. The awardees in the Life on Land category were: Bring Back the Natives with NZ Post Group and The Treasury; Houghton Valley Rain Forest project with Massey College of Creative Arts; Remutaka Forest Park with Pynenberg and Collins Architects; Zealandia with ACC; Friends of Upstream with MBIE – Legal and Friends of Makara Peak with KPMG.

Laura Fergusson Trust and Z Energy received an award for a stand-out project involving 60 volunteers. Our new Volunteering Heroes award was given to ANZ who have completed an outstanding number of volunteering projects during the past year.

If you have a project for a team of volunteers or a project that requires a specific skill such as a board member or strategic planner, contact Lyne Pringle [ev@volunteerwellington.nz](mailto:ev@volunteerwellington.nz)

**10 SEPTEMBER**

## Leading community-led change

Community-led Development challenges our way of thinking, acting and leading. We need leadership from lots of different people, not just from a few exceptional people we call leaders. This workshop explores approaches and tools for thinking, acting and leading in complex situations, where leadership is possible for anyone committed to continuous learning on the job.

[To find out more and register...](#)

**23 SEPTEMBER**

## Working effectively with culture

### An intercultural training for NGOs and community groups

As New Zealand continues to become more culturally, ethnically, linguistically and religiously diverse, the need for cultural competency skills is more important than ever. This one-day workshop developed by the Applied Cross-Cultural Research Centre, aims to develop participants' knowledge, skills, and attitudes to work effectively with people from different cultures, including their work colleagues, volunteers and clients.

[To find out more and register...](#)

**22 OCTOBER**

## Keeping it legal

### Volunteering and the law – an overview and updates

So many laws touch on how to treat volunteers and laws are constantly changing. Come along and get an update on Health and Safety cases and an overview of the Privacy Bill, in addition to hearing about many other areas where volunteers and the law interact. Topics covered include: Legally who is a volunteer? Health and Safety, Privacy Bill, Human rights and discrimination, police vetting, volunteers transporting passengers.

[To find out more and register...](#)



**SAVE THE DATE  
16 OCT 2019**

## Pivot Conference

**15–17 October 2019, Wellington**

Volunteering NZ's 2019 annual national conference will be held in Wellington on 15–17 October. The Pivot Conference theme "Linking vision to action" challenges leaders and managers of volunteers to translate new ideas shared at Pivot into action within their organisation and practice. With a range of International and New Zealand practitioners and thought leaders, participants will leave inspired and invigorated with skills and ideas. To find our more and register: <http://www.pivotconference.nz/#register>

## Peer support groups invaluable

*'The Peer Group has been a very safe place to talk out loud about future plans. I recently laid out on the table some thoughts about where I was headed in my volunteer manager role and used the feedback to guide my next actions. It was invaluable support and I went on to make changes with increased confidence that I was doing the right thing.'* Christine

*'I look forward to these meetings for the collegial relationships, the sharing of issues and concerns, and for the way they can be resolved just by talking out loud. We can rejoice in successes achieved over what seemed to be the big problems. Most of all we are keeping in touch with the general framework of volunteering, beyond the issues of our own organisations, and can take time for reflection.'* Sue

*'Peer group meetings offer for me an Oasis of Calm between busy weeks. It is Me-Time, in contrast to all the time spent supporting other people.'* Christian

The above comments say it all about the value of the Managers of Volunteers peer support groups operating in Wellington, Hutt and Porirua.

If you would like to know more email [jo@volunteerwellington.nz](mailto:jo@volunteerwellington.nz)

# Engagement in the Community Programme

**Volunteer Wellington**'s very successful Engagement in the Community Programme is contracted through MSD and specialises in providing a pathway to employment for people who are on a main Work and Income benefit.

Volunteering provides a wide range of employment related opportunities for job seekers from learning new skills and gaining great references through to improving self esteem and confidence. Through this programme we provide indepth support beginning with personal planning and individual goal setting through to practical assistance with applying for roles, support at interviews, ongoing encouragement and regular follow-up to assist these clients reach their goals and experience success.

We recently produced a profile story about 19-year-old Carlin, a young job seeker disillusioned with traditional education, but who knew she was interested in working with youth. Her story appears on this page and illustrates just how important volunteering can be in a young person's career journey.

If your organisation would like to be part of this exciting programme please contact Tracy on engage@volunteerwellington.nz or 04 499 4570.

## → EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERING PARTNERS

ACC, AJ Park Ltd, ANZ Bank NZ, BECA Ltd, 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, Vinlink Marlborough, Vocus Group, Wellington Electricity, Z Energy

## → FRIENDS OF VOLUNTEER WELLINGTON

**BUSINESS FRIENDS:** Symonite Wellington Ltd, Mosquito Consulting Services 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

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE

### Volunteering changing young lives



**Carlin Fairley** (pictured left) is 19 years old. Her peers may have already picked a path, but what's different for her is that she's aware of her passions. Feeling disillusioned with traditional education, jumping from school to a level-4 course at WelTec, she decided to take a break and explore her options in a hands-on, real-world sense. Torn between child and youth care, and with Work & Income recommending **Volunteer Wellington**, she found a role at the **Karori Youth Centre**.

At least twice a week, Carlin buses out for an hour to Karori from Berhampore – 'I do it for the kids. When they greet me with smiles and hugs, I just know this is what I'm meant to do.' She gleams further, 'They trusted me in my first week itself. A boy came up to me and said, "Can you play Halo?" and I said, "No, but I can try." And this attitude has defined her volunteering experience.

Being a drop-in centre, Carlin has no idea how many kids will be there. In that unstructured environment, her skills and attributes are being tested and honed. She says, 'People always said I'm relatable and adaptable, but I didn't believe it until I worked here. I've had to find ways to connect with these boys who may not share my interests. We play sports or simply talk and unwind with whatever they're feeling.'

When she realised there weren't a lot of girls at the centre, she showed initiative. 'I love makeup, so I tied it into my passion for youth. The girls were very excited to come in and play with it, and express some of that creative freedom.'

Alex (pictured right), a youth development worker at the centre, spoke of Carlin's achievements: 'I have been very impressed by Carlin's willingness to come alongside our

young people and build relationships with them. Whether it's through laughter and banter, or by having meaningful chat, she has risen to the challenge! She's an extraordinary young woman and I can't wait to see where this experience takes her.'

Alex has also introduced Carlin to future study options like Praxis block courses. With first-hand knowledge and a reference, she feels reassured that, 'Volunteering gave me an amazing stepping stone. When I take those steps, I know now I'll be ready.'

Carlin has found that volunteering can help people discover if their passions and hobbies can become feasible careers or vice-versa, where they can weave their passions into their jobs. She sums up the importance of places like the youth centre with, 'When I was their age, I didn't know such places existed. I may not be in a classroom, but I'm still in a room full of kids who are teaching me things. Like patience. They bring me joy and purpose.'

Thinking ahead, Carlin feels that if there's any job tailor-made for her, it's youth development. Her experience is ultimately emblematic of what volunteering can do for others. It can appeal to any demographic and it can change lives. ■

STORY BY RICHA KOHLI

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