

# Your community CONNECTOR

VOLUNTEER WELLINGTON | TE PUNA TAUTOKO



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## Together we can through volunteering

'Volunteers make people's lives happier,' said Paul Eagle at the recent International Volunteer Day celebration held at St Peter's garden room in early December hosted by **Volunteer Wellington** and Volunteering NZ. After 20 years with local government and now Labour MP for Rongotai, Paul is a long-time supporter of the community sector.

Speaking on behalf of the Minister for the Community and Voluntary sector, Priyanca Radhakrishna, he said that the government is 'approachable and accessible ... and committed to engage with community organisations'.

Good news for the approximately 70 guests present with volunteers and those who work with them, representing many of the communities of the Wellington region.

Julie Thomson, **Volunteer Wellington's** Regional manager talked about the significance of this year's IVD theme 'together we can through volunteering.' Referring to the COVID19 pandemic ravaging the world, she said that volunteers had been to the forefront of medical, community and societal responses.

And locally, nationally and globally



Mayor Andy Foster talks with a volunteering enthusiast.

they have given their energy, diversity and aroha to become a collective power within communities everywhere, she said. 'To mark this special occasion three amazing local volunteers are being recognised for their extraordinary contribution and commitment to **Volunteer Wellington** and the organisation's associated communities.'

Graphic designer Sue Hobbs, IT specialist and project manager of 'office moves and associated resources' Chris Streatfield, and Peter Atkinson, an interviewer, former trustee and chair of **Volunteer Wellington's** board, and management team advisor, were all presented with awards as a tribute to their two decades of generous service and dedication.

'Chris, Sue and Peter, who between them have volunteered with us for a combined 57 years, have always been great ambassadors for **Volunteer Wellington**. They are part of our legacy and our continuing story.'

### Team spirit fantastic

Claire Teal, **Volunteer Wellington's** Manager of member services introduced Gary Sutton Manager of the Compassion

### Christmas/New Year holidays

This time last year as we prepared for the festive season we had no idea what 2020 had in store for us! We are sure like us you are looking forward to relaxing and enjoying a well-deserved holiday with your whānau and friends after what has been an extraordinary year.

Thank you to our community members and the teams of volunteers involved in your organizations for the fantastic mahi you do to support and enrich our diverse communities.

Thank you to our supporters, funders and partners. Your support and belief in our mahi ensures we can continue to deliver our services to Wellington's diverse communities

The **Volunteer Wellington** team is taking a break! Our three offices will close on Tuesday 22 January and open in 2021 on Monday 11 January.

Centre's Soup Kitchen who spoke about the 'fantastic team spirit' which enabled their volunteering staff to maintain the serving of meals to vulnerable people during the lockdown.

'We had to change all our systems and turn to takeaways with new materials needed and different procedures,' he said. Several volunteers were considered 'vulnerable' themselves (being over 70) and were advised to stay at home. 'But thanks to **Volunteer Wellington** there were a number of young people – students included – itching to do something. They were assigned tasks and all pitched in with willingness and a great sense of camaraderie.'

For 11 weeks of lockdown 153 meals a day were distributed by between 98 and 103 volunteers every week – 'always with dignity and respect.' Besides the need for food the team of volunteers were ►



Paul Eagle with long-service award recipient Peter Atkinson and Julie Thomson.

## CHAIR'S COLUMN



We are blessed in New Zealand to be able to meet and celebrate this festive season.

Since our AGM, we have restarted our face-to-face training

courses, restarted Meetup events at the Southern Cross, celebrated Employee Volunteering and International Volunteer Managers Day at KPMG, and more recently the International Volunteer Day.

The year 2020 is sure to go down as a significant year in global history and a year of change for Volunteer Wellington. We have farewelled and welcomed a number of new staff this year whilst adapting to the changing environment and ways of working. The pandemic demonstrated the value of how localised volunteering arrangements can help respond to specific needs of the community and fostered stronger community links.

As an organisation, **Volunteer Wellington** is blessed with a great team of employed and volunteer staff, supportive community member organisations, employee volunteering partners and generous funders and supporters. On behalf of the Board, I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge our Regional Manager, Julie Thomson, and her dedicated team for their adaptive ways of working in collaboration with our stakeholders in this unusual year.

Most importantly, I would also like to thank all the volunteers, community member organisations, employee volunteering partners, funders and supporters in continuing to support us through this turbulent year. We look forward to working with you all in 2021. Best wishes for a safe and restful holiday break ahead!

*Kia kaha,*

**Ming-chun Wu**

▶ also addressing social isolation. 'A few words with every guest who was in the takeaway line was as necessary as the food,' said Gary.

### Keeping engaged

Keeping mentors engaged, who had recently been trained for Challenge for Change's youth mentoring programme, throughout the weeks of Level 4's lockdown, was a demanding task for organiser Ailsa Krefft. Claire outlined a description of Ailsa's response and how volunteering during a pandemic,

kept people's spirits up while they also developed a bevy of new skills.

Creative thinking was required as well as technological innovation. 'The 18 mentors, with no physical contact, were able to stay fully engaged throughout.'

These vivid accounts of communities remaining supported and connected during a time of stress and worldwide anxiety gave Claire's introductory statement based on the International Volunteer Day 2020 theme, further resonance. 'We could and we do and we are – together we can.'

## 'Together we can' in the Hutt

A celebratory atmosphere of 'being together' after the rigours of isolation and finding new ways of working, was enjoyed by many volunteers and community groups at **Volunteer Hutt's** International Volunteer Day lunch at the Dowse. Hutt Mayor, Campbell Barry, and others spoke about the mahi, kindness and commitment of those who so generously gave their time and energy to supporting the Hutt community the past year. We are grateful to the Mayor for supporting the celebratory lunch.



Mayor Campbell Barry (right) enjoying the opportunity to engage with Arthur from Save the Children.



After a year of change and crises, volunteers were happy to get together at Volunteer Hutt's IVD celebration for discussion – and lunch.

SIMON HOYLE

## What's next – International Managers of Volunteers day 2020 ... the ongoing trip

Early on Thursday 5 November, International Volunteer Managers Day 2020, a large group of travellers arrived at the KPMG Departure Lounge to board their flight to What's Next.

After settling into their seats that, according to Captain Karen Smith, swivelled but didn't recline, the VIPs worked together to develop a first aid kit for well-being (what can leaders of volunteers do to prioritise their own well-being?) and dropped some excess baggage (what are the roadblocks to self-care you need to lose?) somewhere over Customhouse Quay. Janice Henson (Te Omanga Hospice) and Vicki Beachen (Youthline Wellington) provided some thought-provoking in-flight entertainment as they reflected on the ways they had put self-care into practice this year.



The morning's cabin crew and pilot! Leigh Keown, Karen Smith, Claire Teal, Julie Thomson and Amanda Ashby.

After the least turbulent landing into Wellington ever, the travellers disembarked with gifts kindly donated by Trade Aid, Essentially Tamara, Sustainability Trust and Whittaker's ... has this made no sense to you whatsoever?! Then clearly you missed the fun and NEED to make sure you're along for the ride to celebrate this important day in 2021!

EVA KAPRINAY





## Welcome Minister Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan

We were delighted to learn of the appointment of our new Minister, Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan. As well as being the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, she is also the Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities, and Minister for Youth.

## On the horizon

Some things to look forward to in 2021!

As always volunteerism is going to be an exciting place to be as we head into a new year! Some of the things on our horizon includes:

- A year long, once a month governance training programme
- A year-long leadership programme for Managers of volunteers
- **Volunteer Wellington** goes mobile with outreach services commencing at Webb St in the home of KiwiClass and NZ Red Cross as part of our New migrant and former refugee programme
- Investigating a new role of 'buddy' volunteers who can support people in their volunteering and ensure that this incredible involvement opportunity is available to all.

More information will be coming in the New Year ...

## → 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, Celia Wade-Brown

## New team member

### Introducing Rebecca Macfie, new fundraiser

We have recently welcomed Rebecca Macfie who has taken on the role of Fundraiser for **Volunteer Wellington**. Rebecca has worked for charities both here and overseas and enjoys the challenge of raising funds to support the important work of the sector. Rebecca is looking forward to working on our well established grants programme and growing an individual donor base.



## Thank you

We were the grateful recipients of a grant from Wellington Community Trust to fund staff training in Te Reo Māori and Te Ao Māori. The training has been a highlight for us in an uncertain year.

We had our final lesson this week and we can report that our staff are more confident and comfortable using Te Reo in everyday conversation, we are able to introduce ourselves in Te Reo Māori and we have a greater understanding of the Te Ao Māori worldview.

We would like to sincerely thank Wellington Community Trust for the opportunity to hold these sessions, and to Piripi and Whetu Rangihaeata for being such awesome teachers.



Z Energy at Te Rito Gardens.

## Nurturing workplace culture

### Transforming communities

Partners with **Volunteer Wellington's** Employee Volunteering programme have been getting away from the office to connect with their communities. Our community member organisations benefit from this exchange but equally our business and community partners also need support at this time – volunteering offers them a way to nurture their own well-being and work place culture.

Last week a team of 40 Z Energy volunteers went to Porirua to volunteer at Te Rito Gardens, which is undergoing a huge transformation as it develops a new site near Kenepuru Hospital.

The volunteers were in good cheer and put their energies into a variety of tasks, including creating drainage ducts (in the photograph) for the new orchard. It was a great pleasure to work with Simon Dambrowski and his team who had a real 'can do' attitude as they embraced the somewhat chaotic nature of the site. As always, Steve Wilson was a sterling host on the day.

Despite losing three months this year the Employee Volunteering Programme is still on track to complete close to 70 projects involving 700 + volunteers.

In the pipeline we have pilot projects for national programmes with Jarden Limited and ACC, collaborating with Volunteering Auckland and other Volunteer Centres. We look forward to the development of these initiatives in 2021

We are always on the look-out for projects so please get in touch if you have something in mind or you would like one of our staff to brainstorm some possible team volunteering projects, including any that might involve specialist skills or strategic thinking.

Please contact Lyne Pringle  
[ev@volunteerwellington.nz](mailto:ev@volunteerwellington.nz)

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE

### Being of service with a smile

**Nivanga Numiamalii** has many communication gifts. She knows how to listen with empathy and understanding, she can touch people's hearts to such an extent that their troubles and stories come to the fore and they, in turn, listen to her. But probably her most powerful gift is her smile.

'Once when I was in Pak'nSave I noticed a palagi woman who looked a bit downcast and I smiled at her. We continued shopping and then I felt a tap on my shoulder. "Thank you for your smile," said the woman. "I am dying of cancer and today you have made my day." I cried when I went home – but was happy to have been of service.'

So when Nivanga went to **Volunteer Hutt's** office after retirement as a teacher aid in Wainuiomata, having been referred via Work and Income to the Preparation for Employment Programme, she enjoyed talking about volunteering with then manager Katie Terris; and looking through the list of roles which could make use of her people skills.

After Wainuiomata she had worked for a few months in an 'ice-pop' shop in Apia, Samoa. In her usual smiling way, this had led to groups of children being drawn to her kind spirit (and not just the ice-pops) sharing stories and beginning to sing together rather than get into trouble on the streets.

Back home in the Hutt – where she has lived since she left Samoa aged 15 – and realising that volunteering was a positive way to build new networks and build the confidence needed to



continue the search for full-time paid employment, Nivanga talked through **Volunteer Hutt's** long list of options. She was drawn to **Thumbs Up**, a Petone organisation dedicated to providing creative activities for people with disabilities.

There was one Samoan boy among the group. His face immediately lit up when he saw Nivanga. He recognised the cultural roots they shared and was always ready to sing, dance – and smile. Then the lockdown happened and everything was on hold.

At the next stage of her volunteering journey Nivanga went to another volunteering organisation, **The Remakery** attached to Epuni School's **Common Unity** project. More experiences, more networks, more smiles. She was impressed with the creative work happening in this hub of growing, making and cooking.

Wherever the future takes Nivanga she will always take her smile. 'I believe there is nothing more rewarding than being involved in people's lives and helping to make their day happy.'

## → 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, Hutt City Council, Hutt Mana Charitable Trust, Lion Foundation, Lottery Community, Lottery COVID-19 Community Wellbeing Fund, Ministry of Social Development – Work and Income, One Foundation, Pelorus Trust, Pub Charity, Tai Shan Foundation, Trust House Porirua, Victoria University Wellington, Wellington City Council, Wellington Community Trust **IN-KIND SUPPORTERS:** CSG Technology, *Kapi-Mana News*, minimum graphics, New World Metro, St John's in the City Presbyterian Church, Southern Cross Garden Bar, Sushi B, Vertia

**Donate:** your support will enable us to continue to support the Wellington, Hutt Valley and Porirua diverse communities [donate here](#). As always thank you to our existing financial supporters for your support.

## → EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERING PARTNERS

ACC; AJ Park Ltd; ANZ National Bank; AsureQuality; GNS Science; IAG New Zealand; IBM New Zealand; Jarden Group; KPMG; Massey University College of Creative Arts; Mercer Ltd; Ministry for the Environment; Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment-Legal; Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment – Capability Services; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Ministry of Justice; NZ Post; Parliamentary Services; Pynenburg & Collins Architects; Te Tumu Paeroa; The Treasury, Todd Corporation; Victoria University of Wellington; Vocus Group; Wellington Electricity Corporation; Z Energy

## Thinking about Peer Support Networks for 2021?

At **Volunteer Wellington** we host several peer support groups for people involved in leading volunteer programmes. Facilitated by experienced Managers of Volunteers, the groups provide a monthly opportunity for members to get together and share ideas and support. Membership is currently quite diverse, which makes for interesting and innovative perspectives and encouragement! Groups currently meet monthly in Wellington, Lower Hutt and Porirua – if you are keen to join one, or just to find out more about them, contact: Claire for Wellington on [members@volunteerwellington.nz](mailto:members@volunteerwellington.nz), Kim for Lower Hutt on [managerhutt@volunteerwellington.nz](mailto:managerhutt@volunteerwellington.nz) and Zosia for Porirua on [managerporirua@volunteerwellington.nz](mailto:managerporirua@volunteerwellington.nz)

## ComVoices 2020 State of the Sector Survey



This 2020 State of the Sector Survey is the fourth biennial snapshot of

the community and voluntary sector undertaken by ComVoices. Its findings reinforce those of previous surveys and other recent reports on the community and voluntary sector.

View the report (<https://comvoices.org.nz/publications/>)

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