

Your community CONNECTOR

VOLUNTEER WELLINGTON | TE PUNA TAUTOKO



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

A time of fruitfulness

John Keats wrote in his famous poem Ode to Autumn almost 200 years ago 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness.'

With so much change resulting in new initiatives as 2021 gets underway, we can certainly look at Autumn as a time of 'fruitfulness' for **Volunteer Wellington**. Here are the details of three new actions which will get underway while Autumn fruits are ripening...

In with the new while building on past successes and reflecting on our many conversations with community members, is a catchphrase for 2021.

Support for governance

Our past member surveys have shown that governance groups are always in need of training and support.



New migrants exploring volunteering opportunities with Volunteer Wellington interviewer Peter.

Governance volunteering with a community organisation is an important role. In order to support these board members and commit to the importance of their ongoing development, we are connecting with the **monthly Governance Bytes training sessions** facilitated by LEAD. Held via Zoom after-hours, these sessions **begin in**

late March. More information and registration [here](#)

Also in March, a small group of Managers of Volunteers from Wellington and Hutt Valley will begin a year-long pilot **Leadership Programme**. Designed to get participants thinking about their current leadership and future goals, the programme comprises training sessions, mentoring relationships and topic-based discussions.

In **April**, we will be launching an outreach service to connect **former**

refugees and migrants with both the concept of 'volunteering' and opportunities to get involved. Developed in partnership with KiwiClass and NZ Red Cross, and hosted at their Webb St premises, the fortnightly service will offer appointments with **Volunteer Wellington** interviewers and comprehensive support. This new initiative is part of our Migrant and former Refugee programme which is supported by Wellington Community Trust.

Exciting new sponsorship



InternetNZ and the Domain Name Commission has become the new sponsor for the

Volunteer Wellington Mahi Aroha Awards (previously the Corporate Challenge Awards). In their statement confirming the partnership they say: **COVID-19 is changing the way we see the Internet**. InternetNZ and the Domain Name Commission are proud to support **Volunteer Wellington's** Mahi Aroha Awards in 2021.

InternetNZ is the home and guardian for the .nz domain, and it's our mission to create an Internet for all New Zealanders that is safe, accessible and a place for good. A non-profit membership organisation, we provide the infrastructure, security and support to keep the Internet of New Zealand humming.

The Domain Name Commission is the regulator of the .nz domain name space – helping individuals with their .nz online presence. We want people, businesses and communities to have a trusted and distinctively New Zealand online presence. Together we support New Zealand to be its best online.

In March, InternetNZ released new research. It shows, as new issues arise here and across the world, our views about the Internet keep changing. COVID-19 is consuming our thoughts, media and day-to-day lives. It's a devastating pandemic that the world is trying to tackle. We think it's also shaping our perceptions of the Internet.

Over half of Kiwis are very concerned that the information on the Internet is misleading or wrong. And 42% of us are concerned about online conspiracy theories.

Check out InternetNZ's research at ►

CHAIR'S COLUMN



Socrates had already said over 2000 years ago that *'The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.'*

As we turn the leaf on an unusual year that's been, we are pleased to be looking forward and embracing possibilities of the year ahead!

Volunteer Wellington is pleased to announce InternetNZ and the Domain Name Commission as the new sponsors of the newly branded **.nz**

Mahi Aroha Awards. After successive years of recognising contributions by organisations involved in employee volunteering through the annual Corporate Challenge event, we have extended the scope of this award to recognise the wider impact of volunteering. You will hear more about the awards over the next few weeks.

The success of **Volunteer Wellington** has always been the strength of its people, and we have been blessed with successive supply of talent. I would like to acknowledge and thank Lyne Pringle for her passion and significant efforts over the past five years in building and running our successful Employee Volunteer programme, and Anton Samoilenko for his contributions over the last two years on the Board. I would like to welcome two new staff members, Heidi Quinn (Employee Volunteering) and Dianne Boyce (Manager **Volunteer Porirua**), and board members Doug Newdick and Nicola Gallacher. We are excited to have you joining the **Volunteer Wellington** team and look forward to your contributions.

Kia Kaha

Ming-chun Wu

► internetnz.nz/internet-insights. It has some really interesting stats about Kiwis working from home and why people aren't doing it more.

We know you all support communities in your own ways, and no doubt have found the Internet a powerful tool since the pandemic hit our shores. Let's all help in keeping our online spaces useful and supportive.

Read more about how we see major world events change for the Internet [here](#) ●

Farewell from Lyne



This morning I met up with Pauline Harper to 'interview' me about the past year of Employee Volunteering activity, for the upcoming annual report. We reflected that, five years earlier, at the end of 2015, she had interviewed me for EV coordinator role in the same room. I thanked her sincerely for giving me the opportunity.

My time at **Volunteer Wellington** has been revelatory. I feel nourished and enriched from the abundantly 'good' people I have met. **Volunteer Wellington** is an incredibly valuable organisation.

One of the things I have especially enjoyed is the cross fertilization that happens across sectors. It is too easy to get stuck in our various silos. Employee Volunteering gives people the opportunity to reach out and have experiences outside of the office environment. To get away from the ubiquitous 'screens' that dominate our lives. Equally it affords **Volunteer Wellington's** community member organisations a chance to connect with people in government and business – often these connections lead to long-lasting relationships.

So, it is time to bid you all farewell as we welcome the new EV Coordinator Heidi Quinn. Heidi has a wealth of experience as a Strategic Advisor in the sector, and has particular knowledge about Employee Volunteering. You are in good hands.

The performing arts are calling me back as I juggle various stimulating projects. Go well everyone – I have loved working with you over the past five years, it has been life changing. I look forward to running into you in the village.

Introducing new team members ...



Heidi Quinn, new employee volunteering coordinator

Heidi's has a long career in the voluntary sector, spanning 15 years and two countries. She has lived in New Zealand for 10 years and firmly calls it home. Her career in New Zealand has been on the national level, where she held pivotal roles for government departments and NGOs.

Heidi has a real talent for achieving what she terms 'the triple win' in employee volunteering – where the volunteer, the business and the host organisation all benefit from the volunteer experience.

In her free time, you will find Heidi ... volunteering! A firm believer in giving back to the community, you will find Heidi fussing dogs at the SPCA and hanging out with adults with intellectual disabilities through the IHC.



Dianne Boyce, new manager at our Porirua office

Dianne has joined our team as the new manager of our Porirua office bringing a wealth of community experience with her. She has recently worked with IHC, co-ordinating a Friendship Programme and prior to that was the Volunteer Manager for The Cancer Society Canterbury / West Coast, based in Christchurch.

Raising the profile of volunteering in the Porirua area will be a priority, along with connecting and supporting our Porirua community members. We're excited to have Dianne's enthusiasm and experience as part of our team.

What makes the best leader of volunteers?

Knowledge and skills

What part of your job would you really like to do better? What do you find really tough? How will you find answers to these questions?

Peer mentoring, or Peer Support Groups are a very good starting point, offering an informal opportunity for Professional Development.

Peer Support Groups can help build confidence, give space for reflection, for problem-solving, for sharing information in a safe, non-judgmental space, where trust and respect and confidentiality are accepted without question.

Members of these groups appreciate the opportunity to discuss the challenging topics we can face as managers of volunteers. One person says:

'When we bring a topic, idea or question to the table, it is reassuring to know that others often face similar challenges. We are able to share ideas with each other, learn new approaches and gain new insights. We always leave with at least one "nugget" we can take away with us to adapt for our own organisations.'

If you would like to find out more or join a Managers of Volunteers peer support group please contact Claire Teal, members@volunteerwellington.nz

Exciting training line-up coming up over the next few months...

Stepping up to leadership

30 March : 9.30am to 12.30pm

This practical workshop provides the opportunity to examine your leadership point of view, catch up with new thinking around leadership and reflect on the roles and tasks of the leader in a values-driven not for profit organisation. Further information and registration [here ...](#)

Managing staff performance

Porirua : 14 April: 10am to 12pm

How do you address staff performance issues and maintain the dignity of your valuable staff – paid and unpaid? In this two hour seminar 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. Further information and registration [here ...](#)

Leaders as coaches

5 May : 9.30am to 12.30pm

This practical workshop will give you the tools and skills you need to adopt a coaching mindset and develop people and performance through one to one coaching. It will help you avoid the common pitfalls when coaching and offers simple tools that enable you to take a coaching approach to the wide range of conversations you have in the course of your day, week or year. Further information and registration [here ...](#)



Setting boundaries

Hutt : 14 May : 9.30am to 12.30pm

Boundaries or healthy limits are vital when managing and leading staff, both paid and volunteers, for reasons of safety, wellbeing and to eliminate risk to the organisation. However, it can be a real challenge to set boundaries when volunteers are giving freely of their time and skills to support your organisation. Further information and registration [here ...](#)

Getting on Board – not for profit governance essentials

2 June : 9.30am to 12.30pm

This half-day, practical workshop is for those new to not for profit governance or those who want to refresh their skills and fill their governance toolbox. It will clarify the roles and responsibilities of the not for profit Board and show how to leverage the skills and expertise around the table by working better together as a team. Further information and registration [here ...](#)

Supporting Volunteer Wellington

Volunteer Wellington is a registered charitable trust and we rely on grants and donations to operate. Our regular giving programme is a great way to support our mahi. Donors give a regular monthly gift directly from their credit card or bank account. These donations make a real difference to our mahi in the community as they provide financial sustainability for our organisation.

If you are interested in becoming a regular giver you can sign up on the [Donate page on our website](#).

Alternatively, you can email Rebecca at funding@volunteerwellington.nz for more information.

→ 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, InternetNZ and Domain Name Commission, Lion Foundation, Lottery Community, Lottery COVID-19 Community Wellbeing Fund, Ministry of Social Development – Work and Income, NZ Community Trust, One Foundation, 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; Jarden Group; Massey University College of Creative Arts; Ministry for the Environment; Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment-Legal; Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment-BRM; NZ Post Group; Pynenberg & Collins Architects; Te Tumu Paeroa; Todd Corporation; The Treasury; Victoria University of Wellington; Vocus Group; Wellington Electricity Corporation; Z Energy

Who you gonna call ... ?

That potential volunteer who just contacted you about a role in your organisation, that's who! Did you know that it is good practice to follow up on any volunteer enquiry within 48 hours of receiving it? That doesn't need to be a full and comprehensive reply in the first instance – an acknowledgement and thanks for their interest and a timeframe for when they can expect to hear from you about next steps is fine at first.

Another thing to remember is that it is important to also follow up with enquiries that may have come in after you've recruited someone into

a previously vacant role. Why ...?

- You may find that this interested person has an amazing skill. You could bring them in to use in another role / part of your organisation
- Word of mouth is powerful advertising ... If someone doesn't hear from you or has to chase you, they're likely to tell other people, and that isn't going to be great for your image unfortunately...



EV programme off to a steady start in 2021!

As the year winds up we are off to a steady start to 2021. In the pipeline are several large projects with MBIE- Capability Services, one for the Ministry for the Environment and a pilot for a national strategy with ACC. This enthusiasm from the public sector is fantastic and we are also getting lots of requests from our private sector partners as well.

We are always on the look-out for projects so please get in touch if you have something in mind. Contact Heidi Quinn on ev@volunteerwellington.nz if you would like to brainstorm some possible team volunteering projects, including any that might involve specialist skills or strategic thinking.



Z Energy at Te Rito Gardens

→ FRIENDS OF VOLUNTEER WELLINGTON

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

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

→ CONTACT US



Volunteer Wellington

Level 7, 186 Willis Street, Wellington.
PO Box 24130, Wellington 6142
Tel 499 4570
Email info@volunteerwellington.nz

Porirua Office

Level 4, Pember House, 16 Hagley Street,
Porirua 5022. Tel 237 5355
Email managerporirua@volunteerwellington.nz

Hutt Office

Level 4, 21–23 Andrews Avenue,
Lower Hutt 5010. Tel 566 6786
Email managerhutt@volunteerwellington.nz

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