

# News

## VOLUNTEER WELLINGTON



### ‘Live, laugh, share: volunteer’



Each year New Zealand celebrates **National Volunteer Week** to recognise and be more aware of the vital contribution of New Zealand's approximately 1.2 million volunteers in areas as diverse as social development, the economy and the environment.

‘**Live, laugh, share – volunteer**’ is the theme this year, which helps capture the heart-felt appreciation we feel when people come together to build

stronger, more vibrant communities through volunteer service; their work is invaluable.

Volunteering comes in many forms and is as diverse as the volunteers themselves. Start thinking now of how you are going to celebrate and recognise the volunteers that have come your way this year – whether for a short term or longer period of time. What can you do that will let them

know they are valued and that their contribution is important to your organisation?

During *National Volunteer Week* **Volunteer Wellington** will hold the finale celebration of the 11th Nikau Foundation Corporate Challenge with an event at the wonderful KPMG premises on Wednesday 21 June. We are delighted to advise that the new Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, The Honourable Alfred Ngaro will be guest speaker.

Celebrations are also being held in Lower Hutt and Porirua by our branch offices. Invites and further information on the three events will be sent to our community members and also be in our June/July issue of *News*.

### United Nations Global Goals focus for VW partnerships

The focus for the Nikau Foundation Corporate Challenge this year is on the 17 United Nations global goals for a sustainable future. The last goal, *Partnership*, suits our Employee Volunteering programme down to a tee.

March has seen a flurry of activity around the Wellington region with teams from many of our business friends volunteering with several of our community partners.

In late March a huge project kicks off involving nine teams over two weeks with *EarthLink* – a remarkable organisation that recycles ‘everything’ and in the process provides employment to people with multiple needs. They are moving warehouses and an army of ANZ volunteers will help them to fulfil the task.

There are smaller projects as well, such as the volunteering Massey University's School of Creative Arts completed when they spent a day in Central Park. *Upstream* are the kai-tiaki of this urban oasis and they wanted the park looking groomed for the Art Trail they run at the beginning of March each year; a fabulous combination of art and nature for us city dwellers.

And *Z Energy* helped out *The Sustainability Curtain Bank* repurposing curtains to keep a family warm in winter.

If you have a bright idea to engage a team of enthusiastic volunteers please contact EV coordinator Lyne Pringle – [ev@volunteerwellington.nz](mailto:ev@volunteerwellington.nz) or 499 4572.



**Massey University volunteer lends a hand with Upstream: Friends of Central Park.**

**VOLUNTEER WELLINGTON | TE PUNA TAUTOKO | A CATALYST FOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY**

➤ VISIT US AT [www.volunteerwellington.nz](http://www.volunteerwellington.nz) ➤ EMAIL [info@volunteerwellington.nz](mailto:info@volunteerwellington.nz)

## CHAIR'S COLUMN



The other night, wearing my **Volunteer Wellington** governance and ambassador hat, I address-

ed the second of a new monthly Volunteer Meetup event that **Volunteer Wellington** is running in partnership with Calopia. The format is a simple one. We provide an open invitation to anyone who is considering volunteering and four community organisations each provide a five minute presentation on what their organisation does, how it makes a difference in the community and what volunteering opportunities are available.

Although the core purpose of the session is the recruitment of volunteers, there are additional benefits to be gained from these sessions through the networking opportunity it presents. For all involved, potential volunteers as well as the presenting organisations, it demonstrates the diversity of the services of the community organisations, the driving visions, the people who are making this happen, the community benefits being realised, the challenges each faces and the different operational approaches taken.

For the March 'Meet-up' session it was great to see this in action. The realisation during the presentations that one organisation had a potential solution to another's problem, the help offered to a potential volunteer who had run into a barrier when trying to gain access to a community service. These interactions are priceless. With over 380 community organisations on our books it is going to take a while for all to have an opportunity to participate in these sessions. It is a great marketing and networking platform and personally I cannot wait for the next one.

*Kia Kaha*  
**Glenn Todd**

## Having difficult conversations workshop

WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL, 9.30am TO 12.45pm, LOWER HUTT

Have you ever been in a situation where you felt that:

- you couldn't effectively get your message across?
- you couldn't say "no" to a volunteer who applied for a role that they are not suitable for, instead telling them that the role has gone
- you couldn't say what needed to be said to a staff member (paid or volunteer)
- you didn't know how to say what you wanted to say
- you ended up stretching the truth in order to stop feeling uncomfortable
- you didn't address the issue

If these or similar situations sound familiar to you, then come along to this workshop which will provide useful ideas on how to have those difficult conversations.

[Click here](#) to find out more and register

## Developing a strong foundation for volunteers

TUESDAY 2 MAY, 9am TO 12.00pm

This interactive workshop explores the key elements of supporting volunteers. Following a discussion on what's currently in place participants will develop their own operational framework that will underpin a strong and supportive foundation for successful volunteer involvement in their organisations. This workshop provides ideas that are easy to implement and promotes a best practice approach to supporting volunteers – all built on consistent processes.

For further information and registration [Click here](#).

## Volunteer recognition ideas

By *Jeanne H. Bradner*

- ✓ Learn what motivates each volunteer and make your recognition appropriate to what he or she thinks is important.
- ✓ Give volunteers tasks in which they will be successful.
- ✓ Give volunteers whatever training is necessary to perform well.
- ✓ Thank volunteers genuinely and appropriately.
- ✓ Give volunteers feedback.
- ✓ Invite volunteers to participate in decision making.
- ✓ Promote volunteers to other roles that take better advantage of their talents.
- ✓ Ask volunteers for their feedback.
- ✓ Ask volunteers to recruit others.
- ✓ Make sure the volunteers are doing work that is meaningful to them and the community.
- ✓ Let the volunteers know about the outcomes from the programme.
- ✓ Never forget the power of a simple thank you, oral or written.

Excerpt from *Leading Volunteers for Results: Building Communities Today*

Found in the Energize online library at <http://www.energizeinc.com/a-z>

## THANK YOU FOR FUNDING AND SUPPORT

Betty Campbell Trust; COGS; Department of Internal Affairs Support for Volunteering Fund; First Sovereign Trust; Four Winds Foundation; Holcim; Hutt City Council Community Development Fund; Hutt Mana Charitable Trust; Infinity Foundation; John Lott Charitable Trust; *Kapi-Mana News*; Lion Foundation; Lottery Community; Nikau Foundation; NZ Community Trust; Pelorus Trust; Porirua City Council Community Outcomes Fund and support for Volunteer Porirua training; Pub Charity; Sargood Bequest; St John's in the City Presbyterian Church; T G McCarthy Trust; The Tindall Foundation; Trust House; Upper Hutt City Council; Wellington City Council; Wellington Community Trust **PREMIER SUPPORTERS:** ANZ Bank; CCM Architects; Havana Coffee Works, Tai Shan Foundation

# First XV Campaign ... ensuring active inclusion in community life

The *First XV Campaign* started in July 2016 to find financial support to bridge the funding gap after the end of a contract with Work & Income.

For nine years, the contract had funded the in-depth and hands-on work required to support Wellingtonians with 'complex needs' to participate in the community through meaningful voluntary roles.

By volunteering, people feeling isolated and alone, for a variety of reasons, were able to connect with the community, make new friends and learn new skills. **In the words of one of the hundreds of clients receiving benefits that we have worked with during recent years: 'You made me feel included in the community. I felt worthwhile and motivated.'**

As **Volunteer Wellington** is com-

mitted to providing the same level of service to the wider community, the *First XV Campaign* is of the utmost importance.

We are grateful to the *First XV* team supporters and acknowledge the contribution they have made to date.

## Halfway

Our Campaign barometer is sitting at halfway; and now we are proactively looking for new avenues to approach people to support the Campaign. This service has a positive impact on people's lives, but resources are lean. So any suggestions or ideas of fresh ways to boost **Volunteer Wellington's First XV Campaign**, please contact Aileen Davidson

[aileen@volunteerwellington.nz](mailto:aileen@volunteerwellington.nz)



Will Caccia-Birch, Community Rugby Manager, Wellington Rugby Football Union kicking the Campaign rugby ball.

## Volunteer Meetup at the Southern Cross

In February, we kicked off our monthly 'Cause Shopping' events at the Southern Cross Bar. These events are somewhere between speed dating for volunteers and Ted Talks. Volunteers can come along and hear a three-minute pitch from a range of organisations: what their organisation does, why they are passionate about it, and what volunteer roles they are looking to fill.

Te Hopai Hospital, The Library & Information Association; Cats' Protection League and Wellington Community Rugby were the **Volunteer Wellington** community organisation members who presented at the February meetup.

The following month there were speakers from Pablos' Art Studio, WorkerBe Oasis, NZ Holocaust Centre, Dress for Success and The Creative Arts Trust. There was a real buzz at both events and presenters were thrilled with the response and connections made with potential volunteers.

The events are hosted in partnership with Calopia.org – a multi-city initiative to help people find a cause they feel passionate about and want to get involved with. The first Calopia events were held in Vancouver earlier this year, with Wellington following closely as the second city to host these.

Cause Shopping events will be held on the second Tuesday of the month, 6pm until 7.30pm. The next one will be on Tuesday 11 April.

Volunteers can sign up for the events on the Meetup.com site – via the 'Volunteer Wellington' or 'Volunteering in NZ' groups.

**If you would like to promote your organisation at these events – talk for three to five minutes – email [aileen@volunteerwellington.nz](mailto:aileen@volunteerwellington.nz). Another great way to recruit volunteers!**

Thanks to Jo Boyle from Cause Shopping who MCs these events; volunteers Claude and Chalaka who initiated the **Volunteer Wellington** Meetup group and the Southern Cross Bar for hosting us in their funky retro function room!

## ➤ FRIENDS OF VOLUNTEER WELLINGTON

**BUSINESS MEMBER FRIENDS:** ACC; ANZ National Bank; BECA Ltd; BNP Paribas; The Commerce Commission; Chorus; Contact Energy; DAC Beachcroft; IAG New Zealand; IBM New Zealand; Kiwibank; KPMG; Massey University College of Creative Arts; Mercer Ltd; Ministry of Business Innovation and Enterprise; OMD, Parliamentary Counsel Office; The Treasury, Thomson Reuters; Z Energy **INDIVIDUAL FRIENDS:** Sue Hine, Sue Hobbs, Ann Hodson, Pat Lakeman, Robert Limb, David Loveridge, Helen Middleton, Raewyn Sinclair, Chris Streatfield, Olwen Taylor, Celia Wade-Brown

## Students get into volunteering

What a diverse range of students came our way at Victoria University's recent orientation expo!

There were locals, exchange students and international students. **Volunteer Wellington's** table was constantly surrounded by young people keen to hear about volunteer opportunities and find a tangible way to engage with the wider community.

Many had volunteered while at school and want to volunteer while at university. They are now booked in for interviews. International students cover the globe. They're here for the duration of their degree.

Several exchange students only here for a few months also came our way. So if you have any roles that need one or two people for a short-term project send us the role description.

All these young people are bright, adept and keen to be involved with local causes. Make the most of their creative energy.



Volunteer Ava signing up a keen student, on the spot!

## MANAGER OF VOLUNTEERS PROFILE

**T**YLER WICKHAM's career as manager of volunteers with IHC Wellington came about as a result of his volunteer experience.

While still at university studying health science and physiology he took on a befriending role with a young man with an intellectual disability. With first-hand knowledge of the importance of 'social connectedness' he felt excited about working closely with both the volunteer team plus those who were seeking a 'friend.'

Despite 'stumbling' into the position he now says, one year later ...' some of the most interesting things in our lives happen through stumbling, one activity leading to another.'

In fact, continuously building new networks and social connections is Tyler's modis operandi. The main elements of his co-ordinating role are to match volunteers with people who have a disability, 'looking for a friend.'

The brief of Tyler's own volunteering had been to introduce Edward, his friend, to the gym and different methods of getting fit. Now he is in the game of matching, on a one-to-one basis, people's interests with people's needs.

'Having a friend adds quality to life and the independence that every person with a disability desires. It could be

catching the bus, using Eftpos, cooking, or learning to live compatibly in a flat ... more meaningful socialising is always the aim.'

Biennial surveys run by IHC indicate how 'overwhelmingly positive' it is to have a friend who *is not paid; is not mum or dad; and who does not have a disability.*

'It's all about expanding social connectivity and engaging in a number of different ways.'

IHC is an organisation with excellent processes and systems, says Tyler. After volunteers undergo an initial introductory and training procedure the key ingredients of flexibility and consistency are explained and emphasised.

'Being consistent and reliable is as essential as it is with any friendship.'

Excellent support in his role has been another plus for this 'stumbled upon' position. 'My manager really promotes and understands the creative aspect of the position of manager of volunteers. I have also been part of the **Volunteer Wellington** run peer support group for those working with teams of volunteers. Also



Tyler hosting a regular catch up with volunteers

I have a mentor – a manager of volunteers – with whom I can talk over ideas and learn other ways to think about things.'

Workshops run by **Volunteer Wellington** likewise ensure organisational connectedness with the volunteer-involving community – plus stimulus and new learning.

Tyler's aims now are to create more awareness among other support agencies about the significance of people with a disability having a friend. And from the other side, with every group or network he meets with, he mentions the personal rewards of being a volunteer.

'You never know when or where the next volunteer friend will come from. I talk about the programme all the time!'

## Thirty migrants talk about volunteering

**V**olunteer Connect – migrants volunteering in the community is a small book which tells the volunteering stories of 30 migrants and how their experiences with local community organisations made them feel they 'belonged'. All were recipients of the 2016 Volunteer Connect awards for new migrants.

The book is being launched on Thursday 11 May at the National Library from 6pm until 7.30pm.

'We have published this booklet,' said Aileen Davidson, **Volunteer Wellington** manager of programmes, 'as a lively and attractive resource to share, and celebrate how volunteering can open pathways into the new community for those who are new to New Zealand.'

### Volunteer Connect Awards 2017

Planning of the 2017 Volunteer Connect Awards that we run in partnership with Citizens Advice Bureau Wellington and English Language Partners Job Mentoring Service has begun. The awards event will be held on 10 July and soon we will be asking our members to nominate new migrants volunteering for their organisations. If you have someone in mind already, contact [aileen@volunteerwellington.nz](mailto:aileen@volunteerwellington.nz)

**Volunteer seekers representing 70 different ethnicities came through our three offices last year.**



**UPDATE: VOLUNTEER PORIRUA HAS MOVED DOWN ONE FLOOR TO LEVEL 3 IN PEMBER HOUSE.**

**CONTACT US**



#### Volunteer Wellington

Level 7, 186 Willis Street, Wellington.  
PO Box 24130, Wellington 6142  
Tel 499 4570. Fax 382 9537  
Email [info@volunteerwellington.nz](mailto:info@volunteerwellington.nz)

#### Porirua Office

Level 3, Pember House, 16 Hagley Street,  
Porirua 5022. Tel 237 5355  
Email [managerporirua@volunteerwellington.nz](mailto:managerporirua@volunteerwellington.nz)

#### Hutt Office

Level 4, 21–23 Andrews Avenue,  
Lower Hutt 5010. Tel 566 6786. Fax 568 5966  
Email [managerhutt@volunteerwellington.nz](mailto:managerhutt@volunteerwellington.nz)

Visit us at [www.volunteerwellington.nz](http://www.volunteerwellington.nz)  
and [www.volunteerwellington.wordpress.com](http://www.volunteerwellington.wordpress.com)  
REGISTERED CHARITY CC26471