

News

VOLUNTEER WELLINGTON



Together we can

The past few weeks have been challenging to say the least for many communities and organisations as they recover from the impact of the Kaikoura earthquake and flooding.

What never ceases to amaze me is the immediate and spontaneous volunteer response to these natural disasters; the coming together of communities; the power this brings to the recovery process; to community resilience.

International Volunteer Day 5 December 2016 theme 'Together we can' reflects the response we've seen to the Kaikoura earthquake and emphasises the power of community; by working together we can achieve great things.

Achieving great things

Together we can continued to be discussed at **Volunteer Wellington's** sumptuous afternoon tea celebration on International Volunteer Day 5 December.

More than 60 people were welcomed by **Volunteer Wellington** regional manager Julie Thomson. She

commented on the diverse range of roles volunteers took on, their contribution to community life – and the personal development which took place in the course of volunteering. 'The one billion volunteers in the world show through their volunteering that *together we can* make the world a better place,' she said.

Guest speaker Wellington mayor, Justin Lester, acknowledged and thanked all those volunteers present and commended the thousands who worked across the communities of Wellington every year.

Pauline Harper, a volunteer writer with **Volunteer Wellington**, spoke about volunteering as the active ingredient for social change, social integration and the cohesion that creates a healthy society.

She announced the publication of a small book to be launched in early 2017 which will tell the stories of the impact of volunteering on the lives of 30 new migrants who received Volunteer Connect awards during 2016 ... an illustration of the power of the voluntary sector to include diversity, she said.

Project organising for this book has been managed by new graduate volunteer Emma Gomaa, herself a migrant originally from Palestine. Emma talked about her need for project management experience; and the skills she developed through her volunteering.

Businesses volunteer-

Christmas/New Year Holidays

Thank you for supporting our services this year and for the valuable and essential work you and your volunteer teams do to create welcoming, vibrant and resilient communities.

The **Volunteer Wellington** team wishes you and your families a wonderful Christmas and New Year holiday that is relaxing, fun and joyful.

Volunteer Wellington will close for the Christmas/New Year holidays at 5pm on Wednesday 21 December and reopen on Wednesday 11 January. **Volunteer Hutt** and **Volunteer Porirua** close on Wednesday 21 December and reopen on Monday 16 January.

ing with community organisations through **Volunteer Wellington's** Employee Volunteer programme was discussed by coordinator Lyne Pringle. 'When these two sectors come together,' she said, 'impressive amounts of work are achieved.' She gave the example of facilitating a number of teams from ACC who were then able to work throughout several days on a major re-decoration project with Mary Potter Hospice.

Lyne also introduced volunteer Lucy Davy, part of a 'vanguard' of young students she has brought together to further the cause of corporate social responsibility.

Together we can at every turn of this vibrant 5 December afternoon tea in Wellington.

Special thanks to Fidel's Cafe, Wellington City Council and L'Affare for their contributions to a successful event.



Sue Hine, Lucy Davy and Qu Shen (Sunny) enjoy IVD celebration.



It never fails to impress me how New Zealanders respond to adversity. We are a nation

of stoic individuals, who stay calm and just get on with what needs to be done. In November Mother Nature did her best to make us miserable – the Kaikoura earthquake that sorely tested Wellington's buildings, a deluge that did its best to close all roads and rail links out of Wellington, and then for good measure threw in some gale force winds to prise loose anything exposed by the earthquake.

As to be expected out of this mayhem came examples of volunteering that make you so proud of people in this country. But it is not only emergencies that bring the best out in people.

Volunteer Wellington has nearly 400 community organisations that utilise its services. This group of organisations provides a diverse range of services. They are not there for an emergency, but rather work tirelessly filling the everyday gaps in Wellington's main-stream services. There have been some great stories about the services delivered and people who have benefited over the year.

It has also been a year of challenges – the new Health and Safety regulations introduced added responsibilities not only for management but also the governance teams, and finding funding streams is proving more difficult. Yet despite this the resolution of those involved in the sector is as strong as ever. Well done. As the year comes to a close I would like to thank the members for their support this year, and wish you well for Christmas and the New Year.

Keep safe, enjoy the festive season and we look forward to working with you in 2017.

Kia Kaha
Glenn Todd

Record numbers attend training

Numbers attending our training events during the past year have set a new record – 750 plus, with participants representing people from organisations across a wide range of community activity.

Our very successful 2016 professional development programme which took place in Wellington, Lower Hutt and Porirua, consisted of 11 workshops and 11 forums. As well as the varied and relevant topics covered, people have commented on the importance of sharing best practice and resources; and networking together in order to learn from one another.

Your feedback

Your feedback from our recent training survey along with the professional development needs we identify through our work in the sector are being used to develop our 2017 training programme. Our aim is to continue to provide relevant, inspiring and affordable training.

Coaching and managing staff was a top training topic chosen in the survey.

We are offering this workshop, delivered by highly regarded trainer and presenter Aly McNicoll, in Wellington on Tuesday 21 February. A fantastic opportunity to start 2017 feeling confident and energized as you learn to think and act like a natural coach to get the best out of the people you lead.

Coaching & managing staff – paid and volunteers – process, practice and personalities

This practical course covers: Getting things done through others – the challenges; seven habits of highly effective management – creating clear expectations; coaching for performance and potential; the art of feedback; when coaching is not enough.

You will walk away with a four-step tool for coaching conversations, a five step tool for difficult conversations and the skills and confidence to take a coaching approach to the wide range of conversations you have in the course of your day, week or year.

The workshop filled very quickly this year so make sure you don't miss out and register now ([click here](#)).

Partnerships enable affordable, quality training

Thank you to Porirua City Council, Hutt City Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Community Comms Collective, Community Law Wellington and Hutt Valley, Sargood Bequest, Holcim and St Johns in the City who have supported us to provide quality training that is accessible to the community and voluntary sector.

Together we can

Forty people representing a wide range of Hutt Valley organisations joined **Volunteer Hutt** and guest speaker Deputy Mayor David Bassett to celebrate International Volunteer Day.

The day's theme *'Together we can'* was immediately put into action as everyone pulled together to set up the room after a locked door had delayed the celebration. With attendees already warmed up the networking began earnestly over a delicious afternoon tea provided by Hutt City Council.

Pam Davis from Save the Children spoke passionately of the work the organisation does and told of the immediate response by their trained emergency volunteers to help the Kaikoura community. Jen Gibson from Kaibosh amazed the gathering with the high number of meals they provide through their services delivered by a dedicated team of volunteers.

A great overview of the vital work not-for-profit agencies provide in the Hutt Valley was given as attendees talked about their organisations and the important role that volunteers played in providing their essential services.



Hutt community celebrates IVD.

Kicking the ball for the community!

A mid-year funding cut due to the loss of a government contract of nine years, has meant that **Volunteer Wellington's** services for disadvantaged people, have been under threat for the past few months.

Our much-publicised First XV campaign has been our 'tool' to make up the loss, short-term; and enable us to continue providing these often life-saving opportunities to vulnerable people.

We are very grateful to those who have contributed to date – we're almost half way to our target of \$75,000 by early 2017. But half way is not *the whole way*. We must keep pushing the message; and how key the success of this campaign is to **Volunteer Wellington's** future.

Via our [givealittle](#) page is an easy way to contribute. Or if you know of people who would like to talk further, ring regional manager Julie Thomson on 499 4570. Be part of this community solution.

Highlights from the past few weeks have been supporters getting into the



Chris Laidlaw Wellington Regional Council Chair (and ex-All Black)

promotional act – and kicking the **Volunteer Wellington** rugby ball. These 'high kicks' (most are!) represent our hopes for more donors to come forward with \$5000 (15 and we have a First XV making a better society happen). But any contribution gratefully accepted.

As writer and volunteering advocate Sue Hine states in a recent blog referring to government cuts and dicey funding situations: *'This is a time to practise active citizenship. Stand up for the community and promote a strong civil society.'*

So thanks to those supporters who have 'kicked the ball' for **Volunteer Wellington** recently. The line-up is Wellington Mayor Justin Lester; Porirua Mayor Mike Tana; Chris Laidlaw Wellington Regional Council Chair (and ex-All Black); Geoff Marsland, coffee baron Havana Coffee; Phil Gibbons CEO Sport Wellington; Aisyah Tajudin, VUW Disability Services; and Ania Truman of CQ Hotels.

Our **Volunteer Wellington Face-book** has all the photos and other updates.

When Community meets Business

One of my favourite things over the past year, has been meeting you – the passionate people who lead our community groups. I have been deeply inspired by the work that you achieve and the immensely valuable services you provide, usually on a shoe string.

In October we held a Think Tank for community groups where we started to unpack the myriad ways that your groups can interact with business employees through their volunteering days.

In a nut-shell we have 20–25 Business Friends who generally give their employees one day off every year, to volunteer in the community. This is an amazing, ongoing resource ready to be tapped into.

At the forum Lichelle Evans from Mary Potter Hospice and Gillian Spence from ACC outlined how they came together to facilitate a highly successful volunteering project at the Hospice. It involved multiple teams over multiple days. It was ambitious; but through good planning it came off really well and under time!

This is the exciting thing about our EV programme; it can enable community groups to undertake projects – normally out of reach – by harnessing the skills and energy of corporate teams. The only limitation is our imaginations – and of course taking time out in the midst of our busy day-to-day activities, to plan.

I am hungry for juicy projects for next year and the more ambitious the better. Let's harness the power of business meeting community to achieve our goals. Please contact me any time if you are unclear about our Employee Volunteering programme or if you need help in framing up your projects.

Lyne Pringle, ev@volunteerwellington.nz or 499 4572.



ACC employees celebrate their volunteering at Mary Potter Hospice.

Thank you ... Thank you

Volunteer Wellington holds several key events during the year for the community and voluntary sector and we would like to acknowledge the sponsors who generously supported these events this year. Hells Pizza, Blue Carrot Catering, Fidel Café, KPMG, Café L'Affare, Whittaker's Chocolate, Nikau Foundation, New World Metro, Heaven Pizza, Wellington City Council, Henna Water, Sushi B, Formula café

➤ FRIENDS OF VOLUNTEER WELLINGTON

BUSINESS MEMBER FRIENDS: ACC; Allen & Clarke; ANZ National Bank; BECA Engineers; BNP Paribas; The Commerce Commission; Chorus; College of Creative Arts, Contact Energy; DAC Beachcroft; IAG New Zealand; IBM New Zealand; Kiwibank; KPMG; Massey University, Mercer; OMD, Parliamentary Counsel Office; The Treasury, Thomson Reuters; Transpower; 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

➤ 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 Ilott 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

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

A good reference – a turning point

Chris Golder likes creative writing. Poetry mainly – it's an honest way of articulating personal ideas and thoughts, he says.

When redundancy hit and unemployment started to become longer term the frustration of 'turned down' job applications led Chris to **Volunteer Wellington**. Time was passing for this qualified (Chris has a BA from Victoria University in English and statistics) job seeker; and the fact that potential employers kept asking for a 'recent, relevant reference' was not helping.

He figured that, if he could find worthwhile volunteering work, his chances of obtaining that much needed 'recent, relevant reference' would be a light at the end of his job-seeking tunnel.



The position he took on after a face-to-face interview was appropriately 'creative writing' with **Volunteer Wellington**; his brief was to re-write volunteer role descriptions, giving them pizzazz and an edge of excitement which would draw people rather than bore people.

One job, many hats!

International Volunteer Managers' Day 2016

November 4 in Wellington was a day for wearing hats, several of them, to represent the 'one job, many hats' theme of this year's IMV Day.

Those many hats signify the ability of volunteer managers to lead, motivate and organise volunteers and volunteer programmes.

An exercise based on Edward de Bono's *Six Thinking Hats* tool for group discussion and individual thinking was the 'challenge' for this year's **Volunteer Wellington** traditional IVM Day breakfast gathering.

More than 60 managers, board reps and CEOs were there at 7.30am, glad of the 'warm-up' opportunity ... delicious food, a chance to admire the 9th floor



Innovative group discussion at Volunteer Wellington's 2016 IVM Day breakfast forum.

harbour view from KPMG's boardroom, and being able to mix and mingle.

Great style

Professor Karen Smith facilitated the process in great style, walking us through what the *Six Hats* exercise was about. That was not so bad, but the issue for discussion was!

Significant funding cuts for the organisation (wry grins and a murmur of concern ran around the room) meant the position of Volunteer Manager was to be disestablished. We were seated in groups of 10 to work on the issue according to the coloured hat we had been allocated.

OK, it was a fun exercise. It wasn't for real. But from all the feedback offered there was little reference to the potential disaster in losing the Volunteer Manager, and more focus on how to manage the situation and the alternative arrangements that could be made.

That's the ever-practical and flexible Volunteer Manager for you.

Sue Hine, Independent Advocate for Managers of Volunteers

Volunteer Wellington works with approximately 400 community organisations who list their volunteering positions on the organisation's database. Around 500 are active at any one time. So Chris's weekly stint potentially had a long life and plenty of variety.

The regular 'and quite challenging' work – plus the company of a cheerful, busy office team – meant that he was active, motivated and above all, he adds, optimistic.

After a few weeks in the position, Chris asked his immediate manager, Charlie, if he would write him a reference ... something Charlie was more than happy to do. 'Chris's work had always been excellent. He was reliable, conscientious – and creative.'

That was the turning point; in poetic terms a definite pirouette! Suddenly Chris Golder had two interviews in one week; the job he has taken on is with Contact Energy as part of the Information and Data Management team. His brief includes many of the technical skills he learnt while working on the **Volunteer Wellington** database. Perfect. 'Yes,' he says looking back, 'the reference worked.'

On Wednesday evenings the **Volunteer Wellington** office stays open in order to give volunteer seekers flexible time-frames. Chris has now joined this after-work team continuing to be a weekly creative writer; and with some reception tasks thrown in. 'I owe **Volunteer Wellington** – and I like it here.'

There's a loyal streak in Chris Golder, that's for sure.

CONTACT US



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