

# neWs frOm The edgE

## EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERING

ISSUE THIRTY TWO \* DECEMBER 2018

### The Wheels of Connection

Roger Tweedy is a real talker! Put this alongside his incessant networking, often with his cycling buddies, and you get potential for things to happen.

I make sure I meet with Roger regularly, he is a great font of wisdom, being one of the founding members of Volunteer Wellington. You may have seen him in photographs, alongside others cutting the cake at our 25th birthday celebrations. We value his knowledge and insights enormously.

When I mentioned that we were looking for a new naming sponsor for the Corporate Challenge and that Victoria University could be a potential sponsor, Roger took notice and went out to his networks.

He looked up Linda Trenberth, who was his lecturer when he did post-graduate studies sev-



LINDA TRENBERTH.

eral years back. This year she has stepped into the role of Vice Provost – Academic and Equity at Victoria University of Wellington. She has a strong commitment to civic engagement which aligns with the strategic goal of the university to be recognised as a globally civic, capital city university.

They got talking and Linda could see the potential of a collaboration with Volunteer Wellington and Victoria University. After socializing the idea with the senior leadership team at Victoria, it was agreed that they would indeed become the new naming sponsor for the 2018 Corporate Challenge.

We are very excited about the potentials in this new partnership. As we go to print we are in discussion with the university



ROGER TWEEDY.



#### SIGN UP

for the inaugural 2018  
**Victoria University  
Corporate Challenge!**

For more info email  
[ev@volunteerwellington.nz](mailto:ev@volunteerwellington.nz)



about how this will manifest in a new look **Victoria University Corporate Challenge 2018**.

Let's leave the last word to Roger, as the canny instigator of this new development: "Employee Volunteer programmes provide benefits for organisations, individuals, community groups and wider society – this 'quadruple impact' gives Victoria University a really practical way of connecting with their communities across the region."



ROGER ON HIS BIKE.

**Unbelievable!** We are speeding toward the end of 2017 and the end of my second year in this role. Congratulations to all the corporate volunteers who have taken part in the EV programme this year. From my perspective it has been a great year, I appreciate the various partnerships that arise through the Employee Volunteering programme. Lately I have been thinking that this service is like a glorious midden with a multitude of relationships laid down over time. Each and every interaction accumulates to form the whole picture and each is extremely precious. I am finishing off the year by brokering a large project in Porirua for Z Energy and as a consequence forging new links in the local Porirua community with Bishop Viard College, Te Rito Gardens, Porirua Rotary and Titahi Bay Lions Club. Have restful break. See you in 2018.

**Lyne Pringle, EV Coordinator**

Another bumper year. 1000 + VOLUNTEERS; 95 PROJECTS; 24 BUSINESSES AND 50 COMMUNITY GROUPS INVOLVED. Projects broaden a team's outlook, extends thinking beyond a work desk to community need and is generally fun in the process. Business skills applied to community projects add capacity and new ideas. Try it in 2018! Business Friends recently completed these projects ...



### Trees and kiwis

\* **BNP PARIBAS** got out of the office and spent a marvelous day at **RIMUTAKA FOREST PARK** planting trees. Their efforts contribute the wider conservation goals of the park, including a burgeoning kiwi population.

### The island in the middle

\* **MATIU/SOMES ISLAND** continues to be a highly sort after volunteer destination. We have had groups from **THE TREASURY, GRANT THORNTON, NZI, MASSEY UNIVERSITY** and **WAKEFIELD LAWYERS** over recent months. They have all carried out valuable maintenance work on the island in preparation for the summer season.



### Trees that count

\* A group from **ANZ** got involved in this ambitious project by planting over 100 trees at the **MAKARA PEAK BIKE PARK**. This community group plant natives along all of their bike tracks and the Trees that Count project has planted 8.5 million trees in 2017.

### Caring for the stream

\* Staff from **STANTEC** helped out the **GUARDIANS OF WAIWHETU STREAM** by planting along the banks and releasing last year's seedlings. This beautiful waterway meanders through Lower Hutt.



### Office furniture revamp

\* Our Business Friend **CONTACT ENERGY** were rearranging their premises, so they offered unwanted office furniture to 10 community members, including **FOREST AND BIRD** and **CAPITAL CREATIVE ARTS TRUST** who were able to completely revamp their offices. We are immensely grateful for their generosity.



### Special Olympics

\* New Zealand has been hosting the Special Olympic over recent months. A group from **MERCER LTD** chose to support this sporting event by helping out with marshalling at the ASB Sports Centre.



### KCA rocks!

\* **CHORUS** have developed a special relationship with **KIWI COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE** in Tawa. They are repeat volunteers at this great community initiative, rescuing food and re-distributing goods to the community. It is satisfying when businesses and community groups form ongoing relationships.

### Inner city jewel

\* Deloitte hosted a conference for national staff in Wellington and wanted a volunteering project to offer to participants. We organized a ½ day at **UP-STREAM/CENTRAL PARK** which was within walking distance of the harbor-side conference venue.

### Decorating for Xmas

\* Volunteers from **CONTACT ENERGY** and **CHORUS** have been bringing cheer to rest homes run by **PRESBYTERIAN SUPPORT CENTRAL** at **HUNTLEIGH, Karori** and **KILMARNOCK HEIGHTS, Be-rampore**. They spent the day decorating and taking part in activities such as bowls with the residents.



CHORUS

## Baking kindness

\* **RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE** in Newtown is another of our popular volunteering choices for our Business Friends. Recently the **PARLIAMENTARY COUNSEL** spent the day cooking and baking for families staying there.

## Ruckus at the beach

\* This group of characters are from **NZI**. They wrapped up warm on a winter's day and took to the beaches on the South Coast to rid them of unwanted rubbish such as plastic. It is great to get this waste out of the oceanic food chain.



## Calling all book worms!

\* **ST VINCENT DE PAUL's** run a book fair each year in Newtown. This bunch of dedicated volunteers from **CHORUS** spent the day sorting through all the books to put them into categories so they could be displayed for sale the following day.



## Lawyers and curtains

\* Members of the legal team at **MBIE** spent the day measuring and sorting re-purposed curtains at **THE SUSTAINABILITY TRUST**. This inner city organization offers valuable assistance and advice to the Wellington region about making homes more sustainable.

# Five minutes with Karen Adams

EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR AT MASSEY



**How long have you been in your current role at Massey?**

I've been at Massey University College of Creative Arts for six years, but this is my first year coordinating Ara Tūao our new employee volunteer programme.

**Tell us a fun fact about yourself?**

I have a gift for/terrible habit of copying people's accents when I'm talking to them. Embarrassing.

**What is your background?**

Raised in Wellington, first in my family to go to university, and have now spent half my life in them – Victoria University, University of London, London University of the Arts and Massey University. I love universities!

**What is your take on the interface between Massey and the community**

I'm really proud that our students and staff are a part of and work closely with communities, community agencies and iwi. We're active citizens, artists, designers, writers, educators and researchers who through our passion, curiosity and caring, contribute to growing strong communities.

**Why do you think volunteering is important?**

We started our employee volunteer programme as part of a commitment to civic leadership in Wellington, to support our staff in giving back, to strengthen and build relationships with each other and others and offer practical support where it's needed. But at the end of a day or hour of volunteering you can't beat the feel good factor. It feels really good to be helpful, useful and part of something, and volunteering gives us all that opportunity.

**What other volunteering do you do?**

I love anything to do with supporting the environment and this year I've got to help DOC on Matiu Island, Friends of Central Park and Friends of Otaki River. I've also volunteered in a governance role with Volunteer Kapiti, which was a great experience and made me really appreciate the incredible work of the volunteer sector in NZ. Outstanding!

**THANK YOU** very much for introducing us to the amazing team from Contact Energy.

Although I had a number of activities lined up, they simply became part of our day, as if they have been friends for years. They joined in when a group of children from Porse visited, sang some old songs with us and enjoyed a game of bowls after lunch! They even consider getting a mat and bowls for their office.

It was a wonderful day filled with lots of laughter, connections, reminiscing, listening and participating.

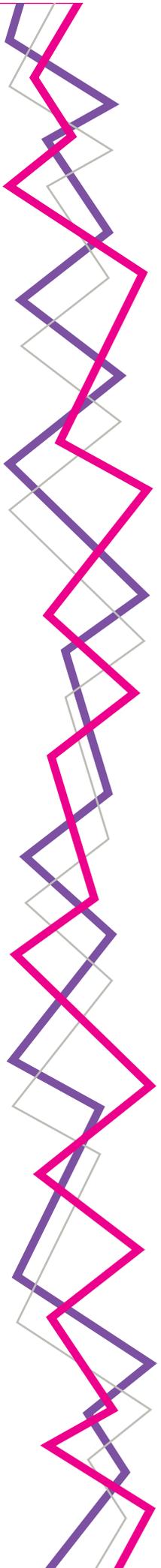
**Annelize Steryn**  
Kilmarnock Heights Rest Home

## Current Business Friends Check!

ACC; ANZ National Bank; BNP Paribas; The Commerce Commission; Chorus; Contact Energy; DAC Beachcroft; IAG New Zealand; IBM New Zealand; KPMG; Massey University College of Creative Arts; Mercer Ltd; Ministry of Business Innovation and Enterprise; NZ Post Group; Parliamentary Counsel Office; The Treasury, Thomson Reuters; Victoria University of Wellington; Z Energy.

## ONE OFF BUSINESS PARTNERS

Office of the Clerk; Texas A&T University; Wakefield Lawyers;



# Business Friend Profile

Martien Dius from the legal team at the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment explains how they got their EV programme up and running.

**How did it come about that you joined up as a Business Friend at Volunteer Wellington?**

The legal team wanted a team building exercise and thought volunteering for a community social project would be the best way to do it. There are different options for volunteering, but joining Volunteer Wellington seemed like the best way.

**Once you joined how did you go about generating enthusiasm for team volunteering?**

This was the easy bit. We introduced Volunteer Wellington to the team at one of our regular meetings. People were genuinely enthusiastic and wanted to know when they would get a chance to take part in an activity.

**How did you get the information out to people and how did you turn enthusiasm into actual teams taking action with volunteering?**

Fortnightly e-mails from Volunteer Wellington gave an

up-to-date picture of activities available, as well as being a useful reminder to keep progressing an exercise. The key was to pick suitable activities. We had a small group that picked suitable activities, which we then checked with the rest of the people in the team.

**How did you make decisions about the kinds of projects to take on?**

We looked for projects that would allow those who may not work together on a daily basis to get to know each other better. We also picked different types of activities to cater for different types of people – some people love to be doing physical work in the outdoors, while others prefer less physical indoor tasks. We wanted people to have a chance to participate in an activity that interested them.

**What feedback have you had from you colleagues about the experience?**

Those who have participated in an activity have really enjoyed it. People have appreciated the opportunity to get to know their colleagues better, and to do something worthwhile. One of the projects involved painting a fence for a primary school so that the students could add a mural to it. The fence was large, but the group still managed to get the whole thing painted, and it was great to be able to complete a discrete project that had so much benefit for the school.

**How do you think it impacts on your workplace?**

Taking part in activities through Volunteer Wellington



ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL



MATIU SOMES ISLAND

has been a success in its objective of helping to build a more engaged team. Team members have been able to interact with people they normally don't work with, which builds connections and a sense of camaraderie. It also refreshes people and gives a sense of contribution to our local community.

**Do you have any funny anecdotes from people that happened on their volunteer day?**

One group dug up a toy that had clearly been lost in the Newtown town belt some time ago. A colleague took it home, washed it, then brought it back to the person who dug it up. It now sits on a desk at MBIE as a memento of the day.

The garden team in the Newtown town belt finished their work with a waiata sitting in amongst the newly planted shrubs overlooking the Newtown community as the sun started to settle.



NEWTOWN PLANTING

**A CatAlyst for INVOLVEMENT in the COMMUNITY**

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