

News

VOLUNTEER WELLINGTON



Volunteers Act First. Here. Everywhere



Mayor Justin Lester joins Wellington Community to celebrate IVD.



Hutt community enjoying breakfast celebration.



Mayor Mike Tana celebrating IVD with Porirua community.

International volunteer day 2017' Volunteers are part of the reason that we are the 'coolest little capital in the world!' said Mayor Justin Lester speaking at Volunteer Wellington's International Volunteer Day celebration held this year at Nga Taonga Sound and Vision.

And Julie Thomson, Volunteer Wellington's regional manager went global: 'There is no other group of people that match the collective impact one billion volunteers have on the economic and social wellbeing of the world's communities. Volunteers really are in a league of their own.'

Sue Chamberlain, chair of the Wellington Area Council for the Red Cross, also spoke about the vital role volunteers play ensuring communities everywhere are resilient in the face of adversity.

More than 70 volunteers and managers of volunteers from our many community members and business friends took part in the festive party with refreshments provided thanks to the mayor's office.

By hosting such important days in the 'international volunteer calendar' **Volunteer Wellington** continues to connect people with community organisations and businesses keen to

be engaged with Wellington's 'social fabric'.

Great impact

There was a great buzz at the Dowse Art museum as 50 people gathered for a breakfast event hosted by **Volunteer Hutt** and provided by Mayor Ray Wallace, to celebrate International Volunteer Day.

Deputy mayor David Bassett spoke of the invaluable contribution volunteers make to the Hutt community. Other speakers were Lynn Russell, a volunteer with Victim Support, Christine Cook, Manager and Daniella Zhou volunteer from Hutt English Language Partners. All spoke about the impact and difference volunteers make to the lives of people living in the Hutt Valley.

In line with the IVD theme Debra Nicholas, the Emergency Management Advisor for Hutt City Council spoke of the plans they are developing and how the local community can become involved in the event of an emergency.

Positive contribution

The sun shone on International Volunteer Day in Porirua. The celebratory gathering in Porirua Library, organised by **Volunteer Porirua**, was a small gathering of local organisations, volunteers and guest speaker Mayor Mike Tana. Participants talked about the past year, how productive it had been – and the positive contribution from volunteers of time, skills and resources.

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

THANK YOU for supporting our services this year and for the valuable and essential services you provide to the many diverse communities of Wellington.

The **Volunteer Wellington** team wishes you and your families a joyful and relaxing holiday season.

Volunteer Wellington will close for the Christmas/New Year holidays on Thursday 21 December and reopen on Wednesday 10 January. **Volunteer Hutt** and **Volunteer Porirua** close on Wednesday 20 December and reopen on Monday 15 January.

CHAIR'S COLUMN



Sitting back and contemplating our achievements this year, I could not help noting the contrast to the same

time last year. Rather than the financial viability concerns that clouded 2016, 2017 has been filled with achievements.

Volunteer Wellington celebrated its silver anniversary with a number of the founding members joining us for the celebrations at the AGM. We have had great turn-outs at our key events including the 2017 Connect Awards, Corporate Challenge prize giving, and the International Volunteer Managers Day breakfast.

The monthly Volunteer meet-ups have been going from strength to strength. There has been outstanding work done in developing capacity in the volunteer sector, plus we are back providing services to Work and Income with a revitalised engagement in the community programme. Also our new website went live.

Victoria University of Wellington is to become the new named sponsor of the annual Corporate Challenge, replacing the Nikau Foundation who provided support for the event for the past 12 years. We are expecting that this new partnership with Victoria University will create opportunities for both organisations in expanding awareness of corporate social responsibility and fostering a more connected Wellington community.

So a very satisfying outcome for what has been a year of milestones and change. I would like to thank our Regional Manager Julie Thomson and her dedicated staff, the community members, business friends, volunteers and my fellow trustees, for their engagement and support during the year. I wish you well for Christmas and the New Year. Keep safe, enjoy the festive season and we look forward to jointly facing the challenges, that no doubt, 2018 will bring.

Kia Kaha

Glenn Todd

Volunteer Meetups a hit

More than 300 people have come along to our monthly volunteer meetup group this year. In the relaxed ambience of the Southern Cross Garden bar speakers from 35 of our community organisation members have talked enthusiastically about the volunteer opportunities they have to offer. Matches have been made on the spot as well as new roles created to engage the skills and interests of attendees.

It all began with a conversation two volunteers Chalaka and Claude had back in November 2016. They were looking at ways to promote volunteering and suggested **Volunteer Wellington** set up a volunteer meetup ... and as they say the rest is history!

Our first meetup group for 2018 is on Tuesday 13 February and we have four member organisations already signed up to speak! If you would like your organisation to present at one of the 2018 Volunteering meetup sessions contact Aileen Davidson aileen@volunteerwellington.nz

Positive feedback for 2017 training programme

Our 2017 training programme has been in high demand with an enthusiastic response from our community members to the workshops and forums we have held in the Wellington region.

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive about the skills and knowledge gained, the calibre of the presenters, the diverse range of relevant topics and the valuable new connections made.

'Wonderful, excellent, inspiring. So much rich information. Best thing I've ever done in relation to fundraising'; 'Dynamic, thought provoking and would definitely recommend; 'Really stimulating. Encouraged me to think in different ways.'

Top topic

We are off to a flying start in February 2018 with the top training topic chosen from our recent training survey – *Coaching and managing staff – paid and volunteers*. We are offering this workshop, delivered by highly regarded trainer Aly McNicoll, in Wellington on **Friday 23 February**. A fantastic opportunity to start 2018 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 volunteer

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 [here](#).

Congratulations!

JILL WESTENRA from Thumbs up Charitable Trust won the free Volunteer Wellington 2018/19 membership for completing our training survey. *Well done Jill.*



Sharing best practice and resources.

➤ FRIENDS OF VOLUNTEER WELLINGTON

BUSINESS MEMBER FRIENDS: 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; Office of the Clerk; Parliamentary Counsel Office; The Treasury, Thomson Reuters; Victoria University Wellington; Wakefield Lawyers; Z Energy **INDIVIDUAL FRIENDS:** Sue Hine, Sue Hobbs, Ann Hodson, Pat Lakeman; David Loveridge, Helen Middleton, Raewyn Sinclair, Chris Streatfield, Olwen Taylor, Celia Wade-Brown

Exciting new sponsorship!

Victoria University of Wellington has become the new sponsor for the **Volunteer Wellington** Corporate Challenge.

Victoria University is a global-civic university that values close involvement with the social, cultural and economic life of the city and region and aims to foster civic-minded graduates. A perfect fit for **Volunteer Wellington**. Read all about it here

<https://www.volunteerwellington.nz/index.php/news>

New look Victoria University Corporate Challenge

It is with excitement and refreshed vigour that we head into the 2018 January to June corporate challenge with new naming sponsor Victoria University.

Every project that happens during this time is eligible to win the challenge award. Watch this space for what the criteria for an award will be next year. We are anticipating an upsurge in interest from businesses throughout Wellington keen to connect with you, our community members.

So here we go – speeding towards the end of the year and business queries for projects in 2018 are already rolling in. We are on the lookout for projects



Espirosa Fuimaon, President of the Titahi Bay Lions Clu, presents a donation to EV Coordinator Lyne Pringle which will support a community project currently being organised by Volunteer Wellington at Viard College.

that teams of volunteers can undertake. **If you have a big move coming up or a project that you have been putting off for a while, because you don't have the people power, then give me a call and we can talk it through.**

Brokering is at the heart of my job. I enjoy building relationships with both businesses and communities, and then finding creative and exciting ways for them to join together to achieve goals that benefit the community; and also the team of volunteers.

To contact Lyne Pringle, EV coordinator, ring 499 4572 or email ev@volunteerwellington.nz

Summer time volunteering

Summer is on the way! It's a time of holidays and catching up with family. It is also a time when Wellington has an influx of visitors and international students keen to volunteer.

If volunteers working in your organisation are not available over summer this is a great opportunity to engage enthusiastic volunteer seekers as short-term relievers. We are developing a 'Summer volunteering' list so contact Aileen Davidson on 04 499 4572 or aileen@volunteerwellington.nz to talk through your volunteering requests over the summer holiday season.



THANK YOU FOR FUNDING AND SUPPORT

Betty Campbell Trust; COGS; CQ/Hotels Wellington; Department of Internal Affairs Support for Volunteering Fund; First Sovereign Trust; Four Winds Foundation; Holcim New Zealand Ltd; Hutt City Council Community Development Fund; Hutt Mana Charitable Trust; Infinity Foundation; John Ilott Charitable Trust; *Kapi-Mana News*; Lion Foundation; Lottery Community; Ministry of Social Development – Work and Income; Nikau Foundation; NZ Community Trust; Pelorus Trust; Porirua City Council Community Outcomes Fund; Pub Charity; St John's in the City Presbyterian Church; T G McCarthy Trust; The Tindall Foundation; Trust House; Upper Hutt City Council; Victoria University Wellington; Wellington City Council; Wellington Community Trust

PREMIER SUPPORTERS: CCM Architects; Tai Shan Foundation

Quick response

Responding quickly to potential volunteers is a must. We recommend this initial contact is made within 48 hours of their enquiry. If that first spark of 'volunteer enthusiasm' is not ignited fast it can fade away – never to be heard from again.

Volunteer Wellington regularly have between 400 and 500 active voluntary roles available on our database for volunteer seekers at any one time. So they can get pretty excited when their search begins. It's the next step that is so important ... when they have found a role that appeals and it is with your organisation. **Don't let them down by not getting back to them.**

Then make sure you have the systems in place for your process of engagement. And if you feel that in 2018 you want to enhance your volunteer programme and make things more streamlined, do contact one of our managers for advice and support.

Email aileen@volunteerwellington.nz for our Wellington members, [Katie](mailto:katie@volunteerwellington.nz) for our Hutt members managerhutt@volunteerwellington.nz and [Julia](mailto:julia@volunteerwellington.nz) for our Porirua members managerporirua@volunteerwellington.nz

Or visit our website www.volunteerwellington.nz and look up our many resources available.

New look, New website!

Volunteer Wellington is excited to announce the launch of our new website. As well as a clean, catchy design the new site provides improved interaction with the services we provide.

We will continue to develop the site, and are keen for you to be part of the process to ensure that its functionality meets your needs. So any feedback would be appreciated. Check it out at: <https://www.volunteerwellington.nz/>

Thank you to the 'resilient' volunteer IT team of Glenn Todd, Chris Streatfield and Shu Wei Tan who have spent many a late hour developing this website!

PLACARDS AND PLEDGES

International Volunteer Managers Day 2017

Placards were created and pledges made as more than 50 managers of volunteers celebrated International Volunteer Managers day at a breakfast event held at KPMG. This year's theme **Be the Voice** inspired the activists in us to speak out and advocate strongly for the role of managers of volunteers and volunteering.

Dynamic MC Professor Karen Smith set the scene for lively discussions on ways to respond to common myths about the role of managers of volunteers and volunteering. A delicious breakfast, superb venue and inspiring discussions fueled our creative juices.

Thank you to business friend KPMG who once again hosted our event at their beautiful premises overlooking the harbour. Thank you to Whittakers for donating chocolate and to CQ Hotels for donating a meal voucher – won by Christian from Trade Aid.



EVA KAPRINAY

Group discussion fuels the creative juices at Volunteer Wellington's 2017 IVMD event.

These extracts from a message a leader of volunteers sent to her manager demonstrates her 'pledge' coming to life.

'I believe it is paramount that we include questions related to volunteer management in the CE selection process seeing as volunteers make up the largest part of our staff/workforce. The recruitment agency and Board may have already thought of this but in case they want/need some guidance I've put together some key points for you to pass on to them.'

Among her key points were:

'We need someone who understands and supports, or is willing to learn about and support, the implementation of a contemporary volunteer management approach.'

- *Volunteers need the same investment as paid staff if they are to be an asset not a liability*
- *People who coordinate and lead volunteers should be given capacity to do this; it shouldn't be an add-on to an already busy role*
- *Managing volunteers is no easier than managing paid staff, in fact it can be much more complex – they're not being paid so more attention needs to be given to each individual's motivations – and expectations*
- *Performance issues should be addressed, not ignored*
- *Volunteers should be considered, and referred to, in the same way as paid staff e.g. in emails, policies, and so on.'*



SIMON HOYLE, SOUTHLIGHT

Rebecca Reed, a public relations practitioner of Arribapr, gave the Hutt Managers' Peer Support group some insight and ideas about how best to communicate the essential messages from their agencies to the community.

The leader of volunteers is also adamant about thoughts, attitudes and beliefs that need to be avoided. Included in her list of thinking that has to be changed are: *'Volunteer don't need to be managed; There are never issues with volunteers so we don't need to invest in their management; We're not going to review volunteers' performance, it's unnecessary; Volunteer Services should do everything in relation to volunteers and absolve the other teams of responsibility for their unpaid workforce; Teams and managers should only consider the learning and development needs of their paid staff, not their volunteers.'*

The final paragraph in her proactive 'be the voice' message, says it all. *'The ideal candidate will have the leadership skills, strength and ability to drive and mandate the best practice approach described above. This will achieve the best outcomes overall for clients, their whanau and staff, and reduce our business risk.'*



Wellington College boys get amongst it!

Volunteering was boosted by a mass of energetic Y10 students in a Wellington school's effort to get young people interested in the community.

The trial saw 350 Wellington College students spread out across more than a dozen community networks on Wednesday 22 November as an alternative to traditional work experience.

Volunteer Wellington and Wellington City Council worked with the school to find appropriate organisations for the students to support.

Projects and organisations the boys helped with included **wrapping** Christmas presents for Birthright, **cleaning and baking** at Ronald McDonald House, **delivering** community information for the Wellington City Council, **joining and singing** with the Everybody's Choir in Newtown, **moving soil and planting grass** at the Wellington Hockey Stadium, **cleaning** inner city beaches and streets, **clearing** conservation areas in Central Park, the Zoo and the Town Belt, **painting** the fence in an inner city park, and **being strawberries** – a big part of the Mary Potter Strawberry Festival.



Volunteer Wellington

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Visit us at www.volunteerwellington.nz and
<https://www.facebook.com/volunteer.wellington>

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