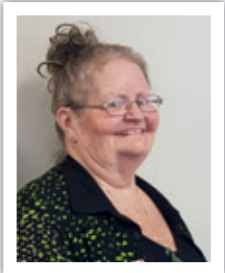


WOLLY Vibes

"We support, promote, value and encourage volunteering"



Greetings everyone

Greetings everyone, Tēnā tatou katoa.

On June 15th, 2024 we celebrated our

Annual Volunteer Recognition Awards.

This is always a fantastic opportunity to appreciate and thank those Awardees who do awesome mahi within our community.

It is thanks also to those people who take the time to nominate their volunteers who are also to be appreciated and praised. If it weren't for them spending the time putting the nomination together, we would not have any Awards to celebrate. I know the amount of time that this takes to put together a worthy nomination.

You will see in this newsletter the many different types of volunteering that happen and the range of ages of the people who volunteer. It has been reported in the media that the young ones are not volunteering – that is certainly not the case in our experience here at VNP. Our Award examples are the Youth Team Awardees a group of boys who have their own life and health challenges, who do not let that stop them from supporting Gabby's Starlit HOPE - Random Acts of Kindness legacy and help put together the boxes to gift; also our Youth Individual Awardees two of whom have raised thousands of dollars for their chosen causes and the another who is a double cancer survivor and he chooses to give back to our community by way of assisting with recycling and being involved in other worthy projects. Then there is the lovely Madeline who chose zero waste and has changed her and her family's way of recycling and willingly given many, many hours to educating others to the correct options of zero waste. Congratulations to these great young people who are leading examples to others together with all of our awardees here, they are doing amazing



work in our community and we are all very grateful.

The categories for the Awards and the Awardee are as follows and the stairs photo of everyone is above.

Volunteering New Plymouth work involves many aspects of Volunteering from recruiting volunteers to supporting Community groups / Organisations to do their work. We offer training and look to offer Support to all volunteers whether a Board member or a volunteer driver or a sewer or knitter. We celebrate volunteers and volunteering by holding a Volunteer Recognition Awards Annually and forward some of our amazing volunteers to the New Zealander of the Year – Local Heroes or Community Group or Senior categories. Engaging with Corporates to encourage their staff to volunteer either as a group activity or individually and support our community.

There are many Organisations that are often looking for volunteers and those roles can range from Handy Person, or Caring Volunteer, Volunteer Coordinator or Volunteer Community Educator or Community Patrol

or setting up helper / play area assistant to helping with zero waste at an event or protecting our environment from pests to checking on kiwi in the wild. Then there are roles that you can do at home like knitting tiny teddies or beanies and slippers and cardigans and sewing bags or pepi pod covers. Or something to support those who are lonely with the caring Callers – a phone call to someone in another area of the country to check on them and have a chat for those who are perhaps house bound. There are opportunities for everyone to enjoy giving back / paying forward to our community.

VNP also arranges coffee meetings for Managers of Volunteers to learn about what each other does and gain insight into ways of dealing with challenges they may face or celebrate successes.

Board member coffee mornings have also been another success, where Board members of different organisations can meet and learn more about what is on offer to support them.

Continued next page

Awards

Youth	Nominators
Natalya Manton	NZ Police Dog Charitable Trust
Madeline O'Connor	Sustainable Taranaki
Kaden Rowe	William Pike Challenge
Rory Gardiner	WISE – The Junction
Youth Team	Nominators
FDMC Benilde Room Boys	Gabby's Starlit HOPE
Couple	Nominators
Grahame & Nola Hill	Alzheimers Taranaki
Long Service	Nominators
Jean Hastie	NP Stroke Support
Judith Heeley	NP Riding for the Disabled
Margaret Roylance	St Vincent de Paul
Weaving Together	Nominators
Joyce Downes	Volunteering New Plymouth
Individuals	Nominators
Allison Hickford	Swimming Taranaki
Debbie Eden	Stratford Community Foodbank
Kim Pennington	Pukekura park Tennis Club
Lynley Stringer	Bellyful
Mike Walmsley	Taranaki Cancer Society
Rochelle Worthington	Tarata Community Hall
Suzanne Wallworth	Taranaki Women's Refuge
Teams	Nominators
Brooklands Mainly Music Volunteers	Brooklands Mainly Music
Ironside Vehicle Drivers	Ironside Vehicle Society
NP Community Foodbank Team	NP Community Foodbank
Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trustee	Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust
The Good Café Volunteers	Taranaki Cathedral
To yet be presented (due being unavailable)	Nominators
Rae Hannah & Wietz Hoogeveen	Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust
Chris Herlihy – Weaving Together	Arts Taranaki
Barry Schimanski	WISE Charitable Trust

As Volunteering New Plymouth is one of 18 centres from North cape to the Bluff –with 21 offices we have the accumulated wealth of knowledge of all these centres – many of the Managers / CEO have been in their roles for close to 30 years and are very innovative and are amazing at sharing of resources. We meet online monthly and have done so since the start of COVID with initially meeting twice weekly to support each other and share ideas on how each area was doing.

Together with our own centre having a 23-year history within our New Plymouth district and surrounding communities and a total of 100 years' experience within the 4 Board and 2 Staff members in the Volunteering Sector.

We are excited to have many new things in the planning stages for 2024/25. If you are keen to learn more don't hesitate to contact us, or if you have an idea that you would like to suggest – feel free to give us a call.

If you are in the Not for Profit (For Purpose) Sector, please contact us if you are interested in learning how we can support and offer resources to you and your Organisation.

Kindest regards

Nga mihi nui

Marie R



Natalya Manton - NZ Police Dog Charitable Trust

Natalya is a young lady who is passionate about animals, and when she heard that her favourite police dog off Dog Squad had been injured in a callout, she knew she wanted to do something to help.

Because she couldn't physically do anything she decided that she wanted to raise awareness and fundraise for the New Zealand Police Dog Charitable Trust

She contacted the local police dog squad speaking with Max and asked for their support, which they have been happy to provide over the last two and a half years. She is in regular contact and always lets him know what event she is undertaking and once completed how each went.

Natalya has done this by making homemade dog treats to sell, running raffles, holding quiz nights and doing the Inglewood car boot sale.

So far she has donated \$9000 to the Trust. Which helps towards - Acquisition of dogs

– Training of dogs and handlers

– The improvement of bloodlines in Police Dogs

– Promoting any forms of study, research and educational programmes relevant to the above purposes and objects.

Natalya also volunteers at the SPCA and loves telling Max about the days she spends there.

Natalya has her own ongoing health issues; however Max has not once ever heard her complain or even mention any complications she may be having. She is, truly selfless. This has also helped Natalya become a very independent young lady who will now talk to people outside of family and friends.



Madeline O'Connor - Sustainable Taranaki

Sustainable Taranaki supports People and businesses to Value the environment by prioritizing sustainability

One of their focuses being Zero

Waste and Zero Waste Events volunteering as well as supporting Community gardens, Taranaki Nature Clean ups, partnering with WISE at the Junction Zero Waste Hub, Sustainable Backyards Trail's composting & gardening showcases and Education & community events like Earth day and Plastic Free July as well as World Cleanup Day

Maddie joined our organisation last year along with a friend and her parents.

She is a reliable volunteer who always turns up for her shifts with enthusiasm. Maddie has helped out at a range of events on waste stations interacting with the public helping them put their waste into the correct bin.

She also helps out on our education table, educating the public about sustainability and using interactive activities to educate the young. She has great communication skills, a lovely smile and patience.

Volunteering for Zero Waste Events has opened Maddie's and her family's eyes to our waste problem, resulting in them making changes to their waste at home, and sharing the word with others.



Kaden Rowe - William Pike Challenge

William Pike Challenge (a programme that helps prepare years 6 - 9 students for the Challenges that they will face tomorrow – today – helping to enhance their self worth & self

esteem that requires students to undertake some community service) Kaden started this for selfcare and he was stripping electronics for recycling voluntarily.

He then moved onto his wood craft, where he has constructed a variety of items to raise money for charity, dropping a few small items to local SPCA Shop.

Then he started building bird feeders and selling them to support SPCA New Plymouth.

He built a bird mansion that could house up to 11 small birds that (after a conversation with Mike King - Mental health campaigner) led to it being auctioned and raised \$18,000 for I Am Hope charity.

He then started his charity workshop in 2022 and has gone onto raise money with a raffle raising \$2,260. In total raising almost \$21,000 for I Am Hope.

He worked on another raffle for his school raising \$1,272.

Over 1000 selfless community service hours in 2022 were completed for the William Pike Challenge.

Kaden is a bit of a greenie and nothing goes to waste – his neighbours are offered his off cuts and also he offers them free on facebook for winter firewood.



Rory Gardiner - WISE – The Junction

The Junction – Zero Waste Hub is a community space to collaborate and give life to fresh ideas to reduce waste creation and divert waste from landfill.

Through a partnership between New Plymouth District Council,

WISE Charitable Trust, and Sustainable Taranaki, The Junction offers educational tours, workshops, and online resources, and the reuse shop enables donated items to be repurposed and resold.

Rory has been volunteering with The Junction Reuse Shop since February 2022.

A double cancer survivor, our whole team is familiar with the challenges Rory has faced through his youth and it inspires everyone to see his commitment to coming to The Junction twice a week to support the diversion of electrical waste from our landfills and getting the materials recycled.

He comes in with a smile and gets straight on the tools, he's diligent in his work and asks for guidance where needed, he quickly familiarised himself with the processes required and loves a cheeky chat while at work!

WISE Charitable Trust aims to create a supportive and inclusive environment for our community at the Reuse Shop and are thankful that Rory is part of this



FDMC Benilde Room Boys - Gabby's Starlit HOPE

The Francis Douglas College Benilde Room, are a group of eight boys that have varying health needs and a special unit at Francis Douglas with teacher aides and support persons.

Lauren Khare, Team Leader of

the Unit reached out to Gabby's Starlit HOPE early 2023 to say that her students would love to volunteer on a weekly basis.

The students volunteer with any work that Gabby's Starlit HOPE needed support with and this has been an amazing support to our charity. Last year the students were in charge of packaging our Teen Mental Health Boxes and also our Baby and Mum Boxes. Over the year they would have packed over 1000 boxes

This team are amazing as they always put their hand up to help and they and their support staff come in the minivan and collect the items to be packed the smiles on their faces as they deliver the completed boxes back to me and stack them up in our storage room is just so wonderful and the joy they get from volunteering is just so special.

Because of their support we have been able to introduce the new Gabby's Starlit HOPE project - providing Teen Mental Health Packs to teen mental health inpatients and outpatients at Taranaki Base Hospital. These packs are making such a positive impact on these teens that are going through mental health struggles. Due to their ongoing support, we were able to extend this project to reach Hawera Hospital also.

The Baby and Mum Packs have been another major success due to their support. These packs are such a popular item for Mum on the Neonatal and Children's Wards with their babies. The feedback we get from the Mum's that receive one is that it really brightens their day and they felt so cared for.

We couldn't do these projects without the support of these amazing students and we love that even though they are going through their own health struggles they are giving back and helping others.



Grahame & Nola Hill - Alzheimer's Taranaki

Grahame first joined Alzheimers Taranaki as a Volunteer Treasurer on our Executive Board in April 2015. Some 9 years later, Grahame is still going above and

beyond in his role. Not only does he prepare the monthly accounts for Board Meetings, he also attends the office on a weekly basis, giving up 3-4 hours of his time to attend to daily accounting and finance tasks. This is on top of the usual 4 hours monthly for prep and Board meetings. Despite his advancing years (sorry Grahame!) he rarely misses a week and has been an invaluable support to me as manager. When I came into this role nearly 5 years ago, I had a nursing, not a business background and Grahame was and continues to be, a patient and knowledgeable mentor.

Nola has been working in the background busily knitting dishcloths for our e-pack fundraising project. Nola is an expert knitter and has completed some 600 dishcloths! She has also adopted the extra roles of quality controller and coordinator. She orders the cotton, shares patterns and recruits new knitters. Under her leadership the group has evolved and now call themselves "The Knitwits". Nola also seeks out new sales opportunities, persuading locals to support our cause.



Jean Hastie – NP Stroke Support

New Plymouth Stroke Support Trust is a Rehabilitation and Support group to families who dealt with a stroke. Their focus is

- Social support group morning tea meet once a month, lunch and entertainment and free transport provided.
- A Carers morning is organised 1st Tue of every month at a private home.
- Other outings like bus trips and Christmas function are organised.

Jean joined NP Stroke Support Trust in 2005. Joined Committee 2008, Secretary, Treasurer, Activities Coordinator.

She has filled these roles completely. Organising entertainment for the stroke days, where she has the knowledge to find them, no one could do this on our committee to her extent,

Outings to lunch every 3 months she organises buses, restaurants, menus for everyone to choose and also interesting places to visit. She makes sure she knows who is going on the bus, who needs Driving Miss Daisy and Ironside.

The Sandwich Ladies are organised through Jean also for our lunches for the Stroke Survivors meeting. Everything runs like clockwork. She cares about them all having a good time. Mid-year Xmas dinner and Xmas dinners.

She also runs the Stroke Support Carers meetings.

She attends meetings at Health & Disabilities to keep up to date with everything. She attends many meetings she is invited to. We are a committee and help but she is amazing in what she does.

She also is a volunteer usher for Friends of the Opera House – New Plymouth Showplace since 2006 where she demonstrates her friendly outgoing and caring personality.



Judith Heeley – RDA

New Plymouth RDA is a voluntary, non-profit organisation providing goal-based riding activities that increase the ability, independence and confidence of people with physical,

intellectual, emotional, and social challenges.

To the human body, riding a horse simulates the act of walking. The rhythmic manner in which the horse moves stimulates the riders body and can improve flexibility, balance, and muscle strength. For others the relationship formed between the rider and the horse can lead to increased confidence, patience, and self-esteem.

Judith is a Life Member of NP Riding for the Disabled. Judith joined NPRDA in 2003 when she moved to NZ from the UK and has volunteered ever since, at least 2 days per week. She came with wealth of equestrian knowledge and experience having represented Great Britain at the first World Equestrian Games held in Sweden in 1990 and holds her British Horse Society Assistant Instructor certificate.

As well as so generously giving her time and horse expertise to NPRDA for 21 years, Judith was also the groups President from 2015 to 2018 and remained as a Committee Member until 2022. In her time at NPRDA, Judith would have partaken in every role from coaching riders, leading and sidewalking in classes, schooling horses, preparing horses for classes, managing the horses and their grazing, funding applications, fundraising, governance, management of staff and facilities, training volunteers, picking up horse poo – you name it she's done it!

Judith is still actively involved in volunteering 2 days per week preparing horses for classes, doing all the odd jobs and is an inspiration to other volunteers and staff with her fun and hard working nature and love for horses and RDA.



Margaret Roylance – St Vincent de Paul

St Vincent de Paul here in New Plymouth, has a shop in Fitzroy. Which is there to provide backup to the amazing work they do in the community to support those in need – including providing

clothing and furniture assistance, offering weekly community meals

as well as providing care for individuals and families experiencing hardship.

Margaret has been nominated for her 20 plus years of service to St Vincent de Paul New Plymouth Conference and people experiencing hardship

In this time Margaret has been chairperson, and overseen the amalgamation of the 2 New Plymouth conferences, also been manager of the Fitzroy Opportunity Shop for 8 years looking after over 30 volunteers. With her positive, friendly, happy disposition, a lot of the volunteers have been happy to work in the SVdP shop for many years.

In Margaret's capacity as Conference chairman for over 10 years she has expanded St Vincent de Paul's working relationship with the different social agencies in New Plymouth. St Vincent de Paul continues to work alongside the agencies, supporting people in need who have been referred by one of these agencies to give people in need a hand up, not a hand out.



Joyce Downs – VNP

We are nominating Joyce our wonderful sewer of incredible bags. Joyce has her carshed set up as her workstation. Joyce has saved thousands of metres of material from landfill. Those receiving Award today will receive one

of her bags, many are patchworked bags and lined. These bags are famous throughout Aotearoa New Zealand as we gifted 31 to Volunteer Centre colleagues. They are gifted to Taranaki Women's Refuge, Waitara Foodbanks, Age Concern and Women's Centre too. A total of 489 bags sewn and gifted in the two years since June 2022,

Joyce also knits for Hospice Knitters (who sell items outside Countdown) and she supplies beautiful unique jumpers, often using left over wool and putting stripes in to utilize smaller amounts of wool. She has been involved with this since 2008.

More recently special designed bags sown for patients in hospital to carry their drainage bags, this is a project of the Scouting & Guiding Trefoil group, Joyce is part of this because she has been involved for over 30 years in Guiding as a Guide Leader in Rahotu then District Commissioner.

Then there is Rural Women – formerly Women's Division of Federated Farmers and they have special projects for the community as well that Joyce completes.

All the above and more she has involved herself with while bringing up 4 children and working with her late husband Tom on the farm. She also supports her family with knitting for the grandchildren and great grandchildren as well as being on call to care for her grandson while his dad works. Such a special lady We appreciate you so much. Thank you.



Allison (Ali) Hickford – Swimming Taranaki

Ali is an extraordinary swimming advocate, team manager, swimming fundraiser, Club President, family person and mother. Over the past 8 years Ali

has given an incredible amount of her time supporting both local and regional swimming in Taranaki.

Swimming requires a lot of parental help to officiate, coordinate and run local events and Ali is at the very core. She has been the Club President of Aquablaz Swimming Club for the past 2 years and is the Club President of Waitara, regularly attending meets (both local and national), club nights and club meetings. She rallies parents to be timekeepers at the competitions and gets them actively involved in fundraising initiatives.

At a national swim meet Ali is the glue that holds everyone together, giving encouragement and praise, providing admin support, handing out suggestions, advice, as well as bananas and fuel to keep everyone going!

Being born and bred in Waitara, Ali has been a huge advocate for the Waitara swimming pool and the Summer Series. Ali is passionate about encouraging children to learn to swim and assists with coaching.

Carol Powell, Head Development Coach of Aquabladz said "It's people like Alison Hickford we have to be so grateful for, because if swimming in Taranaki did not have people such as Ali, our sport would not benefit from the great success it enjoys."

Ali is so well respected, she succeeds in creating a welcoming swimming environment for young swimmers in Taranaki.



Debbie Eden – Stratford Community Foodbank

Debbie is a great communicator and organiser. She always steps in to help when others can't be there on their rostered volunteer day.

She has developed and

strengthened relationships with food donors such as Meat the Need, NZ Food Network and On the House.

She also has been influential in bringing the three South Taranaki Foodbanks together and sharing information to further enhance Client relationships.

With her personal funds she purchases small but necessary items for Clients who don't have even the most basic items such as cutlery, electric jugs, or blankets.

Debbie uses her own vehicle and garage to collect and store bulk food items and replenishes the shelves at Foodbank up to twice a week and doesn't seek or accept any reimbursements.

During her two-year tenure as Chairperson, she has reorganised the shelving and storage systems, acquired a new freezer, purchased a new trolley that doubles as a mobile workbench and delivery cart so that volunteer packers don't have to bend over to pack Client food parcels or break down bulk products into Client servings.

She has huge amounts of empathy and cares very deeply about Clients, some of whom are rough sleepers in their vehicles.



Kim Pennington – Pukekura Tennis Club

Pukekura Park Tennis Club committee nominate Kim Pennington, however we are aware she has volunteered in many different capacities as an extraordinary volunteer

across a number of sporting and school organisations;

For the past 10 years, Kim has held the role of Junior Coordinator at our club and been involved as a North Taranaki Tennis committee member on the Taranaki Tennis Association since 2016 to the present day. This involved her organising up to ten junior teams each season as well as Taranaki Junior Team liaison for rep tennis teams from 2019-2022, a key logistical role in tournaments also she has helped organise Pukekura

club's A and B grade interclub teams since 2019

As a member of the North Taranaki committee of the Taranaki Tennis Association, Kim has helped organise draws for multiple years, attended meetings, and provided a voice for North Taranaki clubs.

Kim's skills are in communication, coordination, and interpersonal relationships. Her role has been critical in sustaining a strong junior player programme, with Pukekura Club boasting approximately up to 160 each year, in recent years (about half of our club's membership).

Kim contributes to our club's family-focused ethos by encouraging young players, supporting their development, and communicating well with them and their families. She's one of our strongest advocates, she works incredibly hard, is super reliable, organised, and welcoming, putting in 100% to everything that she does. All this is balanced with her job as a dietitian!

For 8 years Kim has been on the Mangorei School Board of Trustees - 4 years as Presiding Member. Together with the school board, she fought fiercely for the development of a turf space for the school and community and because of this Mangorei has experienced growth in sports teams, as a result

Kim has held various roles as volunteer parent manager for school and regional hockey teams. She manages Taranaki representative hockey teams, supporting them at nationals

As Kim is stepping down as our Junior Coordinator we wanted to publicly thank her.



Lynley Stringer – Bellyful

Bellyful nourishes and connects communities by cooking and delivering free meals to whānau with babies or young children, who need support.

At Bellyful, we know

how hard those early years can be – and that's before adding other children or career demands to the mix!

Since 2009, Bellyful volunteers have nourished and connected communities by cooking and delivering meals to whānau, with babies or young children, who need support. Having a few meals delivered by a friendly face can be a real sanity-saver.

Bellyful is now supporting whānau in 25 communities across New Zealand

Lynley started the NP Branch Bellyful in 2021 after seeing a need in the region for support to new families and the NICU.

Lynley has built this branch from the ground up from the cookathons to delivering the meals.

Over the last 3 years, Lynley has been the coordinator for the whole branch, including:

- Receiving referrals and sending our volunteer drivers out
- Managing and coordinating where meals are stored and sent out
- Organise, manage, and run a cookathon every 6 weeks with volunteer's support
- Gain funding and support from businesses in the area to help with running costs.

And so much more.

Lynley has supported the branch while supporting her family as well.

Event Funding & Sponsors:

New Plymouth District Council

TOI Foundation

Stuff

Te Tari Taiwhenua - The Department of Internal Affairs

Marbles Buffet

Starbucks

DeliStar Catering

In the last couple of months, she has stepped back to focus on her job and family. Because of how much work is put into the role, 3 people now work together to keep it running.

Lynley is still a big part of the Bellyful organisation and still offers her help when needed.



Mike Walmsley – Cancer Society

Mike is one of Taranaki Cancer Society's go to volunteers and is always ready to lend a hand whenever and wherever needed.

Mike has been a client driver for the cancer society for over 3 years – This is a vital service that we provide, giving Taranaki people the peace of mind of being able to get to local appointments when they don't have their own transport.

Mike has done over ninety hours of driving in this time and provides a supportive, friendly, and reliable journey for our clients.

Mike has been part of the Stratford Daffodil Day for the last 5 years – helping to set up the very popular community lunch, delivering daffodils, business orders and lunches around the Stratford area.

Involved in the Relay for Life Committee for the last 3 years sharing his expertise in marketing and publicity, soliciting spot prizes and monetary donations, ensuring Relay for Life is an amazing successful fundraising community event

Mike is always ready to help with the little volunteer jobs such as dropping posters off, selling raffle tickets and supporting the Cape Egmont Half Marathon.

While giving so much time to the Taranaki Cancer Society he's also a member of the Stratford Lions for 18 years including the last 3 as Project Director, he founded the Stratford Grief Support Group in 2007, and volunteers for Age Concern Taranaki visiting service and Waitara Railway Preservation Society.

Mike is an inspiration to us all. We appreciate his precious hours of volunteering, which in turn helps Taranaki Cancer Society support Taranaki people and their families during their cancer journey.



Rochelle (Shelley) Worthington – Tarata Hall

Shelley has been project managing a comprehensive long-term renovation of Tarata Hall since 2016. Her role as the project manager has been instrumental in the

success so far. With her organisational skills, Shelley has managed the diverse stages of the renovation project, ensuring smooth coordination between contractors, suppliers, and volunteers. Her ability to gather and assess numerous quotes has helped the committee make cost-effective decisions and also ensured value for money. Shelley also has great talent for fundraising event planning and coordination as demonstrated by the Tarata Horse Trek (event over 3 days) and Tarata Trail Half Marathon events which involved over 120 event participants, over 50 volunteers equating to hundreds of volunteer hours at each event.

Shelley recognises the role the Tarata Hall plays as a community hub for our rural community and has worked tirelessly to ensure its renovation aligns with the community's aspirations and the character of the building.

As well as Committee secretary she is the public face and main contact for all things Tarata Hall. She takes the bookings, handles queries, organises events, is the key holder who greets bookers, ensures the hall is adequately equipped, coordinates working bees and voluntary input

from committee and community members – and we can't say no to Shelley.

She had been instrumental in establishing Tarata Hall, in partnership with the Community Church and a local homestay business, as a wedding destination which generates income for the Hall and Church.

Shelley is incredibly organised, proactive and a natural relationship builder with key stakeholders, partners, sponsors, hall users, committee, volunteers and community members. Her genuine passion for the Hall and everything Tarata is evident to all. She is an absolute asset for our community who consistently goes above and beyond.



Suzanne Wallworth – Taranaki Women's Refuge

Suzanne has been involved with Taranaki Women's Refuge for the past 8 years. She has used her considerable knowledge and skills to successfully run and grow Taranaki Women's

Refuge Pop Up Shop fundraiser four times. She has volunteered for our Art Auctions, Runway for Refuge and Deck the Rooms for Refuge every year, including entering her own home in the latter event in 2023.

Suzanne always keeps Refuge clients in her mind, whether it is seeing a need to fill, offering useful donations or donating herself, whenever asked Suzanne helps.

In recent years she volunteered every week at St Vincent de Paul's shop in Fitzroy ahead of being appointed manager of the Store. She actively seeks ways to improve systems and create initiatives to help areas of greatest need in the community from care packs to linen, clothing and food,

Suzanne is someone who wants to help make life a little bit better for the vulnerable in our community. She is driven by helping fill the needs of those who truly need it, it is often the children in our community at the forefront. Suzanne has a desire to provide an opportunity for our children to be cared for, to have their basic needs met and to support them to have happy healthy lives.

Suzanne has a genuine care and concern for all around her, often the nurturer within family and friends, it is no surprise that this nature extends to her community.

We could not count the number of times she has volunteered for Taranaki Women's Refuge. She has contributed significantly to the funds and awareness raised, which has allowed us to continue to provide our full range of services for women and their children in Taranaki who face Domestic Violence. We are thrilled to nominate her.



Brooklands Mainly Music

Brooklands Mainly Music host a Friday morning session for preschool children and their carers, creating a vibrant, welcoming environment with interactive music, rhymes and dancing,

allowing dedicated time for the adult and child relationship. This is followed by a delicious morning tea with home baking and a half hour play time for the children.

A team of 12 ladies work together to prepare, plan and run the sessions, putting in huge amounts of time, energy and effort, attending training, meeting up to make props, creating gifts, along with cleaning instruments and toys.

Over time they continue to wow with their efforts to go over and beyond, regularly hosting themed sessions with costumes and thought into the song selection and skits.

There is a high level of attention to detail, with each session carefully

planned and organised, with each volunteer working in a different role, such as welcoming at the door, name tags, stamps, sign in, songs, technology and morning tea.

They always offer open arms, valuable words, encouragement and listening ears for everyone. Together they create a happy environment that is a peaceful and restful place for many busy parents, offering a haven once a week.

Brooklands Mainly Music is amazing for young families, it has created a community for parents and children and is greatly appreciated by all those attending and missed by those that have moved on.



Dennis Tylee; Ian Latham & Brian Cottam - Ironside Drivers

Ironside Vehicle Society Inc – known as Ironside, provide transport for people with any kind of disability, including elderly with mobility issues.

Participants of Total Mobility

Scheme, but you do not have to be a Total Mobility user to use Ironside's service. They have a wheelchair hoist available. This is a pre planned and pre booked service

Dennis, Ian & Brian have been vital volunteers for our organisation for over 10 years.

They are available whenever asked and commit 100% to the clients we transport.

The skills they bring are being able to understand and have compassion for people with disabilities and Alzheimer's.

They have been willing to take on any training that has been required of them.

This team enables us to commit to supporting on-going transport for the wider community without them we would not be able to continue.

Dennis always brings a fresh approach and a can-do attitude.

Ian is a retired policeman; this has been a major advantage for us with his experience in dealing with all types of people and situations.

Brian is not only a Driver for Ironside Vehicle Society, he is also one of our committee members. He is always on hand for any maintenance or problems that arise.



NP Community Foodbank Volunteer Team

New Plymouth Community Foodbank is here to help, they cover the greater New Plymouth and Bell Block areas.

Anyone can request assistance — you do not need

to be getting a benefit.

The NP Community Foodbank volunteer team are vital to the operation of the organisation supporting the manager and coordinator to deliver the kaupapa of the foodbank by ensuring shelves are stocked, parcels are packed, donations are collected and received with a smile and genuine gratitude.

As a group, the team of 30 volunteers average 90 hours a week of time given to the foodbank over the three days, we are open. The volunteers' range in age from late teens to mid-80's and come from a wide range of backgrounds, with many volunteers calling in family members and friends to help during busy times.

The team works effectively to deliver a much-needed service to the community as the demand for services grows each year, having packed 3246 in 2022 and 3816 kai parcels in 2023

The volunteer team work hard, often under difficult conditions due to

lack of space, limited resources and sometimes flooding! They stay committed to providing a service to the community and to the people experiencing food insecurity, fueled only by cups of tea and coffee and well-timed banter!



Trustees – Rotokare Scenic Reserve

Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust was established in 2004 after community meetings regarding the state of neglect at Rotokare Scenic Reserve. Founding Trustees and still current are

Joe Menzies, Murray Pranker, and Mike Weren. The long term goal at that time was to establish and promote the Reserve as a Mainland Island provided also that there be due regard held for the various recreational users of the Rotokare Scenic Reserve including the lake.

Significant achievements include:

- *Inspiring the community to become involved in ecological restoration and negotiated with neighbouring landowners to donate small land parcels to establish what is now the Rotokare Sanctuary, operating inside the Rotokare Scenic Reserve.*
- *Funding and installing an 8.2km pest-proof fence around the ridge line. Completed 2009.*
- *Eradicating 12 mammalian species, including mice, within the 230ha reserve.*
- *Cutting kilometers of tracking lines through the reserve to create a 50m x 50m monitoring network.*
- *Reintroduction of rare and vulnerable native species including toutouwai (robin) 2017, pōpokatea (whitehead) 2014, tieke (saddleback) 2014, hihī (stitch bird) 2017, pāteke (brown teal) 2019, titipounamu (rifleman) 2019.*
- *Establishing a 4500ha halo zone of pest-traps surrounding the reserve in conjunction with 19 landowners.*
- *Creating an award-winning education program accessed by 2000+ students each year since 2009.*
- *Built offices, operation facilities, sheds and a residence on donated land.*
- *In collaboration with partners Taranaki Kiwi Trust established Taranaki Kohanga Kiwi at Rotokare. From a foundation population of 40 genetically different kiwi the population has grown successfully to enable annual 'harvest' kiwi. (approx 170 since 2020).*
- *Awarded numerous local and regional awards*
- *Trustees are involved at every level of the grassroots, community-led organisation. In any one week they can be making governance decisions, chatting with landowners, collaborating with conservation partners, setting rat traps, providing sugar-water for hihī, talking to community groups, negotiating with funders, sponsors and strategic partners, schmoozing officials, supporting staff or inspiring visitors to the reserve.*

Trustees are aspirational in their thinking, with a 'kick-arse' mentality.



The Good Cafe – Taranaki Cathedral Community Café

The Good café runs each Tuesday 7.30am to 10am. Hot freshly cooked food for a koha or free. Open to anyone and everyone. Been running for 10 years this November.

Run by approximately 12 volunteers, some oncall. Some food is donated, some comes from On the House and the rest is purchased. Each month we run a themed fundraiser, eg Motor Neurological

Foundation, Foodbank, Pride Week, Pink Ribbon, etc.

Most volunteers come from St Marys or other Churches, some come to participate or for work experience. From school age up! Different roles, serving tables, clearing tables, cooking, dishes, setting up, etc.

We support one another with fun, enjoyment and interaction. Some have been volunteering from almost day one and have become firm friends

Our customers range from babies to their 90s. Some come for good food, companionship, some because they couldn't afford to eat out. All are treated with respect and much aroha, whoever they are.

Our team of wonderful volunteers come out in the early morning each week with a smile, lots of banter but mainly to share in kai and aroha and show Gods love for everybody. It's a warm welcoming safe space.



**Rae Hannah & Wietze
Hoogeveen – Rotokare Scenic
Reserve**

Rae and Wietze are an integral and valued part of the Rotokare Sanctuary Project. Wietze has a technical background and likes nothing

more than applying his knowledge and skills to tackle problems by designing and installing solutions. Rae is the second half of the dynamic duo, attending to detail and providing hard graft.

This couple really come into their own when there is a project to be completed. Recent projects include.

- Assisting in the installation of the wetland boardwalk and pontoon.
- Assisting in the construction of the bush classroom, completed in 2023. Consisting of over 200m raised boardwalk and handrails, incorporating five learning stations and took hundreds of hours to complete. Rae and Wietze installed most of the interpretation panels on each of the learning stations.
- Designing and constructing a 'bug motel' at the Insect Learning Station.
- When patchy radio reception became a problem for volunteers working in difficult terrain at the reserve, Wietze was part of a small team that designed and installed a radio repeater aerial and solar panel. This involved many hours in the bush triangulating radio signals to determine the best location and then constructing and hauling a 5m aerial through rugged bush and erecting it safely.
- Designing, constructing at home, and then transporting to site a brand-new lizard enclosure for 'Peppa' a Duvaucel's Gecko. Peppa has become more social and visibly happier in her new home.
- Constructing a 'Boots on Toilet' behind the Operations room

Rae and Wietze live in Waiwhakaiho and a round trip to Rotokare is over 120km. Fortunately for us this is not a deterrent and they have contributed hundreds of volunteer hours to the project since 2020.

Together they have made a huge contribution to the Rotokare project. If there was any construction to be done in the past few years, Rae and Wietze were part of it.



Chris Herlihy – Arts Taranaki

Chris has made an immense contribution to New Plymouth over a very long period of time; he has been especially active in the arts, tourism and support for the LGBTQI community.

With regard to the arts, he has been a committee member of the Friends of the Govett

Brewster Art Gallery since 2000, and from 2006 to 2009 he served as Chairman. During his nearly 25 years with the committee, he helped to

organise exhibitions, openings, events, and concerts, and he assisted with fundraising for both events and acquisitions to the Gallery's permanent collection.

In addition to his volunteer work with the gallery he has also been involved in a number of other organisations that actively promote and support the arts, most notably serving on the committees of Taranaki Arts Trail, the Arthouse Cinema and the Bowl of Brooklands Trust.

Chris has been an active advocate for community arts projects including the Len Lye Centre, the Wind Wand, Art in Public Places and Puke Ariki.

His other volunteer interests include tourism, and he served as Vice Chair of the Rhododendron Festival Trust. A committee member of the Taranaki branch of the NZ Historic Places Trust. He has also been a board member of Tourism Taranaki.

Chris has also been a prime mover in the establishment of Pride Taranaki, an organisation that recognises our diverse community made up of people with different sexual orientation, gender identities expressions.

Pride Taranaki stands for inclusivity, equality and acceptance. Chris has been instrumental in organising Taranaki's first Pride Week. This was held 8th to 14th April this year, provided a wide range of events to celebrate LGBTQI community.



**Barry Schimanski – WISE
Charitable Trust 2024
Nomination**

WISE Charitable Trust is proud to nominate Barry (Shimmie) for his outstanding dedication as a volunteer in our community garden. Shimmie has been our head volunteer for quite some time now doing

incredibly hard mahi demonstrating unwavering commitment to better the Waitara community. He is a humble man willing to lend a hand and offer advice/share knowledge with our other volunteers.

WISE was lucky to obtain funding for a glasshouse to enhance our community garden. Shimmie spent countless hours overseeing the construction. His efforts extended beyond construction as he established garden beds within the glasshouse and initiated a seedling growing program to grow and nurture them until they were ready to be planted in the main gardens.

WISE were recently gifted a rotary hoe from NPDC. This allowed Shimmie to prepare larger areas in quicker turnaround times for faster planting of seedlings and settling them for growth. Shimmie has ensured proper care and usage for the rotary hoe. Shimmie puts in so much time and energy into the garden, from weeding, planting, and nurturing seedlings and ensuring proper care watering plants in the early morning and late nights of summer.

Shimmie has significantly increased the size of the gardens during COVID-19 as there became an increased demand for food at our local Waitara Foodbank Pataka Kai. During this time, Shimmie was able to provide essential support to those in need and continues to do so. The Waitara Foodbank roughly supplies 90-100 parcels per week and every parcel gets veges that Shimmie has dropped off from the garden.

Quote from Amy, "Summer has been abundant from Shimmie so our vege bill halved."

In light of his exceptional contributions, Barry truly deserves recognition for his selfless service to our community garden and the wider Waitara community. Through his efforts, he has made a profound impact, ensuring access to fresh vegetables/fruit for the Waitara Foodbank.

