



*"We support, promote, value and encourage volunteering"*

Kia ora all

This month we focus on Community Leaders in the Sector and information from: **Rob Jackson** our Contributor from UK with the theme of Wellbeing. **Jo Weise** The Wheelhouse Manager on Incorporated Society Changes and workshops available. **Volunteering New Zealand** – State of Volunteering findings and link. Also Access Radio Taranaki 104.4fm info from **Michelle Bent**.



Some of you may remember back in 2017 we had Rob Jackson here and we had him present two workshops. He has always written for us since before I started.

Rob Jackson is Director of Rob Jackson Consulting Ltd, a consultancy and training company that helps engage and inspire people to bring about change. Rob has 30 years' experience working in the voluntary and community sector, holding a variety of strategic development and senior management roles that have focused on leading and engaging volunteers.

## **Leading for wellbeing**

We know that volunteering can have a positive impact on people's health and wellbeing, but did you know that research has shown how significant the behaviour of organisational leaders is in creating a positive impact on their staff's mental health?

Last year there was an article in Forbes magazine which stated that:

*"New data suggests that for almost 70% of people, their manager has more impact on their mental health than their therapist or their doctor—and it's equal to the impact of their partner. If you're a leader, you're right to find this data sobering."*

*"The stakes for leadership have always been high, but knowing you're affecting people that much, is cause for leaders to take stock and ensure they're doing all they can to be their best and have their most positive impacts on people."*

Around the same time I came across an article from my American colleague, Jayne Cravens, which explained that [volunteering can be bad for mental health](#).

As I reflected on these two articles, I saw a connection in what we can do to deliver a volunteering experience that is positive for people's wellbeing.

Here are three reflections from me:

### **1 — Be accessible and responsive to volunteers**

Make yourself available and accessible to volunteers. Make it clear how and when you can be contacted. Respond to them promptly when they do reach out. This can be a challenge for us as we might fear that we will be inundated with requests from volunteers. Yet making time to engage with volunteers is an important part of our role.

We must find the time to be available and accessible to volunteers, ideally directly but, if that isn't possible, perhaps through others. For example, a team of volunteers we might recruit to work alongside us whose specific role is to engage with other volunteers to answer questions, provide support, troubleshoot, gather feedback etc.

### **2 — Understand motivations**

What we hear in the recruitment stage of working with volunteers isn't always the whole motivation picture for that person. And, just when we've grasped what truly drives someone to volunteer for us, those motivations can change, often due to life events that affect people. We have to remain attentive and flexible, adapting the role and the commitment to meet both our needs and the motivations of the volunteer.

### **3 — Emphasise empathy**

Making the effort to get to know people, to understand them and care about them is often overlooked in favour of the more systems and process-driven thinking that still dominates so much of volunteer management.

Effective volunteer engagement is foremost about people. As the Forbes article noted, aside from being the 'right' thing to do, it has positive impacts on innovation, engagement, and retention.

I have been inspired by both Jayne's article, and the one in Forbes Magazine, to think about how we can connect looking after our wellbeing as Volunteer Engagement Professionals with delivering a positive experience for volunteers.

## **What actions do you need to take to make this connection?**

Jo Weise Manager of The Wheelhouse



Jo is a seasoned coach and facilitator who is passionate about helping people in leadership roles to strengthen and develop their skills. She has worked across sectors in coaching and facilitation for many years, alongside her role as director of a small company in the construction industry.

Jo has a science degree, a graduate diploma in teaching, is an accredited coach, and has studied at master's level in conflict resolution: restorative practice. She is also continuing her journey in Te Ara Reo Māori which began several years ago at Te Wānanga O Aotearoa here in Taranaki.

Jo shares this insight about Incorporated Society changes and dates of information sessions as well as other informative sessions

## **The Wheelhouse - A partnership of like minds.**

The Wheelhouse is a partnership of eight Taranaki capacity building organisations. Representatives from each of these organisations make up The Wheelhouse Capacity Building Group meet on a quarterly basis. BAF acts as the backbone organisation and employs The Wheelhouse Manager on behalf of the Capacity Building Group. If you would like to find out more about this unique partnership, please contact The Wheelhouse Manager [manager@wheelhouse.org.nz](mailto:manager@wheelhouse.org.nz)

Currently the Wheelhouse are offering several workshops (Which are attached – how ever one is especially essential if you are involved with an Incorporated Society- see below info. There are also amazing Governance training sessions – info below.

## **Urgent Call to Action: Community Groups Must Comply with New Incorporated Societies Act!**

Attention all Incorporated Societies! The clock is ticking, and the deadline to comply with the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022 is fast approaching. This is your chance to get ahead of the curve and ensure your organisation is fully compliant with the latest legislative changes.

In a bid to help community groups navigate these new requirements, The Wheelhouse, in collaboration with Taranaki Community Law, is offering monthly training sessions. These sessions have been a hit, providing clear, practical advice that makes the transition smooth and straightforward.

Sign up here for all sessions:

<https://wheelhouse.org.nz/training> or contact [manager@wheelhouse.org.nz](mailto:manager@wheelhouse.org.nz) to find out more.



## **FUNDING 101**

### ***A Fully subsidised seminar for Non-Profits, Trusts, Clubs, Societies & Community Organisations***

*Presented by Valerie Barraclough.*

#### **What will you learn?**

At the end of the session, you will have:

- > a better understanding of grant funding available.
- > knowledge about how funders think, and decisions are made.
- > gained practical tools for your next application.
- > increased confidence to apply for funding.

#### **Valerie Barraclough**

Valerie is a Taranaki-based freelance Funding and Impact Consultant who works with a diverse range of charities to help them raise funds to deliver their community impact. Her clients include WISE Charitable Trust, The Head Office, Most FM, MS Taranaki, and Barrett Homes Trust. She is also a board member of Autism Connex and the Riding for the Disabled Association New Plymouth. Valerie has an MA in Cultural Policy and has 15 years of experience in the funding sector, including working in the grants team at the National Foundation of Youth Music in London for many years. By supporting funded partners and assessing hundreds of funding applications over the years, she has solid insight into how funders think and how to write funding applications and measure and report on the grant's impact.

#### **Feedback** from previous Funding workshops

*'I have been successful with some funding but felt like I gained a lot of new information which was really useful.'*

*'It was a great night. Valerie was brilliant, smart and so generous with her knowledge. Very engaging presentation.'*

#### **Workshop: Plan your communications with purpose**

Have something to say but don't know how to get people to listen?

Want to reach a specific audience but don't know where to find them?

*It all starts with a good communications plan.*

A plan puts down on paper your purpose for communicating, who you want to reach and how you're going to do it. Simply put, it's the why, who, what, how, when and where to next?!

You can create a communications plan for an event, fundraising or volunteer campaign, or as a programme for the year ahead.

A good communications plan will help you and your organisation - no matter what your 'why' is.

This practical workshop will step you through the process of creating a communications plan that's clear, easy to deliver and gets results.

## Course Agenda

You'll leave the workshop with a better understanding of why it's important to plan communications and feel confident to:

- define your purpose and objectives
- analyse your audiences
- refine your messages
- choose the right method/channels
- identify any risks and work out how to manage them
- evaluate your communications plan.

Armed with easy-to-follow templates, attendees will go home with everything they need to plan and deliver impactful communications to help reach their organisation's goals.



## Volunteering New Zealand

### State of Volunteering in Aotearoa New Zealand 2024

Published in September 2024, the State of Volunteering report marks the sixth edition in Volunteering New Zealand's ongoing series.

For those in the Not for Profit Sector this can make interesting reading – Yes I have read it and have been part of a zoom call where Johann Go, VNZ's Director of Research, gave insights into the key findings.

Interesting to read that Taranaki has some interesting stats included here – check out the link <https://www.volunteeringnz.org.nz/state-of-volunteering/>



Access Radio Taranaki is your community station. We deliver radio shows and podcasts by, for, and about the people of Taranaki.

There are 12 Access stations across the motu, each with their own slightly different flavour, reflecting their respective communities.

ART is passionate about connecting communities. We do this by providing a platform for people to share their language, experience, passion, knowledge, culture or beliefs. Show makers can be individuals, groups, or for-purpose organisations, with a message to share. Shows can be in any language. All ART shows become podcasts and are shared on our website, on the accessmedia.nz site, and other platforms such as Spotify and Apple Podcasts. This ensures that even the non-radio listeners can access quality local content in their own time and space. The process of making radio/podcasts enables communities to build their media skills, improve confidence, and feel good about asserting their place in the world.

We also offer free community notices, to promote either your community group, a specific event, or both. Many of our shows invite guests to come in and discuss their mahi, or an upcoming event – another great way to get free exposure. ART provides the resources, equipment, training and support to enable real people to shine.

I hope that you have found this informative and helpful.

Please don't hesitate to contact me, Marie, either by email [manager@vnp.nz](mailto:manager@vnp.nz) or phone / text 027 541 0577 or the landline 06 758 8986.

Till next time

*Marie R*

## THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS AND SPONSORS



STARBUCKS®

