

VOLLY Vibes

"We support, promote, value and encourage volunteering"

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY - TAUTOKO TE IWI WHĀNUI

Here at the office life is full-on every day and I am guessing it is the same for you all as well. We are delighted to say that our new website (yes we are still getting our head around all the aspects of our new system) is a great success and we have seen a huge increase in the number of people registering to volunteer. In the first three months of the website going live the registrations have increased 300% on the same time last year.

This has created a wee challenge around how we meet with potential new volunteers and that has led to looking at ways of being more effective with the time and resources available. I have been trialing skype, messenger or facetime meetings. It is different and certainly time efficient, it is not right for everyone, however some of the young ones have embraced it with enthusiasm. I have also trialed group meetings, as well as meetings of people with the same interests and or age – this has had mixed results. One of these resulted in a couple of young guys coming in separately and after our meeting left having found several common interests in their volunteering options and views on life. I am currently giving people the option of a face to face or one of the new alternative.

The option in the website to add roles has also been successful and we are looking for more Organisations to send us their volunteer role vacancies, so that we can add those under the Roles Tab. When we input the role it automatically adds a link to that Organisation's Website Home page under our Links Tab. – please contact us to learn more.

Our new training session Advocacy Rights & Responsibilities had a small attendee list but it was very very interesting and we are looking to offer this again next year. Thanks to Angela Solomon from Taranaki Community Law for her great presentation (photo)

We have been out and about and included are a couple of photos of our outings – 1) Visit to Access Radio104.4FM Original Studio for Girl Friday – Wendy's first on radio experience and she is a natural. 2) The Mayoral Welcome to New Plymouth we had an information stand – it was great meeting so many new residents to New Plymouth. We were next to the Electoral Commission stand and Colleen who just happens to be one of my Board members. A snap shot of some attendees included. Since this event we have had several register to volunteer – such a great way to become local and find out more about our community and make new friends

What is coming up?

- 1) This time every year the Seventeen (17) Volunteer Centres from throughout New Zealand gather for a Hui to strategize best practice methods and look at ways that volunteering is evolving & how we as a group need to be prepared for change. This is a time that we get to meet and support each other face to face, which in turn benefits the Not for Profit sector we are here to assist. This is timed around the Volunteering New Zealand Conference and is held at the same venue, ensuring economy of time and resources. So my Chair Eileen and I will be in Wellington from October 14th – 16th. If it is anything like the last two hui we will come back with increased knowledge and ideas and excited about the future of our Volunteer sector.
- 2) November 5th, 2019 is International Volunteer Managers Day and as usual we will be holding our Network meeting at Starbucks from 9.15 am – booking essential – see flyer for details.
- 3) November 13th 2019 we have just had confirmation that our Stuff Editor Matt Rilkoff is going to give us an insight into News Worthiness in the fast paced world of Media – this will have limited numbers so if you are interested you will need to get in quick – venue and time to be confirmed
- 4) December 8th, 2019 our annual celebration of International Volunteers Day (which officially is December 5th – we hold our lunch as close to this date as possible). See flyer for details

We still have furniture to re home, so if you are looking for any office furniture please check our website under News and Updates Tab for photos of what is still waiting for a new home. We have more available – so before you go and purchase furniture send an email to manager@volunteeringnewplymouth.nz with your wish list and I will check with the business that we are working with to see if they have those items in storage.

I have recently been researching the DIA and Volunteering NZ websites among others and found Governance Info for new officers, Volunteers monthly info, and a template for recording volunteer hours. I thought could be articles of interest to some Organisations, so I have included them in this newsletter. If you would like the original document I am happy to email them to you.

Looking forward to catching up again soon

Kindest regards

Marie R. [Marie Riordan, Manager]

Photos



Bridging the gap between long-term and short-term volunteering



At the start of 2019, Britain saw the launch of *Time Well Spent*, the first major study into volunteering across the country in over decade. The report is essential reading for any organisation that involves volunteers, whether in the UK or not. The insights into what makes for a great volunteering experience provide a rich source of ideas for how you can improve volunteer engagement today.

Amongst the challenges *Time Well Spent* presents is the reliance we sometimes have on a small cohort of dedicated volunteers. According to the research, only 7% of British volunteers are consistently and heavily involved throughout their lives - the vast majority of people move in and out of volunteering over time. I've seen the same issue amongst many organisations I have worked with in New Zealand as well.

We often think of long-term, committed and shorter-term, episodic volunteers as two separate groups. The former are going to give you a huge, open-ended time commitment, the latter will volunteer for five minutes before moving on to something else. This leads to thinking that different approaches are needed if we want to recruit and retain these different kinds of volunteers.

I don't think this is always correct.

In their 2018 study into super-volunteers (defined as individuals who volunteer ten or more hours per week with a single organisation), Einolf and Yung found that when an organisation relies heavily on a small

cohort of committed volunteers there is often a willingness to create the conditions that allow those people to keep volunteering rather than lose them. Conditions like flexibility and co-producing volunteer roles tailored to the individual and their skills, experience and talents.

Interestingly, these are the same conditions that will work to engage shorter-term volunteers. As the *Time Well Spent* report notes that:

- 16% of volunteers said they have skills and experience that they would like to use in their volunteering that they are not currently using
- This is especially true for those aged 25-34
- Organisations need to support volunteers to give time in ways that are meaningful to them and provide the flexibility for people to volunteer on their own terms

In other words, if we are currently adaptable and successful in engaging and retaining long-term, committed (super) volunteers then it's not a massive leap for us to apply some of those same practices to involving volunteers who want short-term, more flexible roles.

Instead of looking at these two groups as completely separate, perhaps we should explore what is common between them and adapt our approaches to volunteer engagement accordingly?

If it delivers a better volunteer experience and great impact for our beneficiaries, then it's a change to the way we think and work that is worth making.

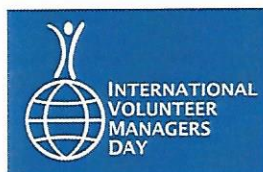
Rob Jackson



**Volunteering
New Plymouth**
Te Tuari o Ngamotu

VOLUNTEERING NEW PLYMOUTH IS CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER MANAGERS DAY

The theme for 2019 is **Whiria Te Tangata, weaving the people together**. Reflecting Managers who support our communities' volunteers everyday of the year.



We invite you come and spend time with other Managers to celebrate the wonderful difference Volunteers make in our community and to hear a brief talk on the following topics:

Volunteering New Plymouth's Website Overview of Roles and Organisations

Stroke Awareness Presentation

Join us at **STARBUCKS**, Currie Street, New Plymouth

Tuesday 5th November 2019 - 9.15am to 10.30am

Where the first coffee is on Volunteering New Plymouth

Registrations close Friday 1st November 2019 and are essential
Contact Marie or Wendy on 06 758-8986 or email:
coordinator@volunteeringnewplymouth.nz

Come and join us!!



**Volunteering
New Plymouth**
Te Tuari o Ngamotu



A warm invitation is extended to
ALL Volunteers
To attend our

2019 Volunteers Lunch



*Merry
Christmas*



When: Sunday 8th December 2019

Arrive from 11.30am (**NOT** before)

Food Service 12 noon

Entertainment, Santa and Mrs Claus visit
followed by cutting the cake & Coffee /Tea

Where: New Plymouth Club Auditorium
55 Gill Street, New Plymouth

RSVP: By 4pm Wednesday 20th November 2019

**This is essential as we do have a maximum number of seats
- so get in early to secure your seat for a free lunch:**

Wendy or Marie, Volunteering New Plymouth

Ph: 06-758 8986 / Ph or Text: 027-541 0577

E: coordinator@volunteeringnewplymouth.nz

