

# TEAM TALK



**Volunteering Auckland**  
Where Volunteering Begins

Volume 1, Issue 3

April 2013



Welcome to the third edition of Team Talk, Volunteering Auckland's employee and team volunteering newsletter. We have had a busy six months working to place teams with our community members. Teams are always keen to make the most of the fine weather and we have certainly had a lot of that this year. We have had a few new Corporate Members join VA and we would like to welcome Kiwi Property Management, OMD and GlaxoSmithKline. Our fundraising event at Sylvia Park went well last year, raising money to assist us with the programmes we run. We also held a small Christmas gathering for corporate members at the end of last year. Those present agreed that networking was important and VA is currently looking at opportunities to host another networking event.

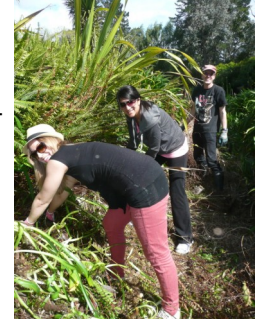
Employee and Team Volunteering Coordinator

Kym Burke

## ANZ Mucking in at RNZFB



ANZ staff are working with the Royal New Zealand Foundation for the Blind to bring back to life a garden located next to the Foundations guide dog facilities. The transformation has been obvious and teams have enjoyed seeing the garden develop. Volunteering Auckland also assisted the RNZBF in finding a landscape gardener to volunteer to guide the project.



## AMP winners of Xmas Wrap Challenge



Thanks to all those teams that volunteered as gift wrappers at Volunteering Auckland's fundraising event in December. We raised a total of \$23,637 which significantly contributes to what we can achieve as an organisation. A big congratulations also goes out to AMP staff who won the Xmas Wrap Corporate Challenge. The team very much enjoyed their morning tea of Champagne and Miss Melicious cupcakes. Thanks again to all those who assist us in our fundraising activities.

## IAG on Waiheke

An enthusiastic team from IAG spent the day on Waiheke Island clearing agapanthus from Newton Reserve. The team had a tour of the reserve to see all the great work that had been done to date. They split into two teams, one given the task of clearing the agapanthus from a section of reserve, the other pulling the dead pampas out of the ground and spreading it on the ground as mulch. The community organisation put on a hearty afternoon tea. The team was tired at the end of a very rewarding day.



## BNZ and House of Dreams

A project to raise funds for Plunket was supported by BNZ staff in February. The team had a big task ahead and rose to the challenge clearing away a ton of bush and weeds to make way for a brand new garden. The house will be auctioned off by Ray White in a few months time and the funds will go toward a much needed upgrade of the Plunket facilities in the Beachhaven area.



## “Head projects”

### Head Project include

capacity building projects e.g. IT projects; business analysis; project management; development of profiles for organizations to better market themselves including identifying and designing specific marketing tools and content development of risk management evaluation tools; also funding planning, policy development etc.

## “Heart” projects

### Heart Projects include:

social activities with elderly e.g. having a ‘cuppa and a chat’, assisting with exercises, art & craft activities; collecting on appeal days and awareness weeks; assisting with games days with people with disabilities or elderly, etc.

## “Hand” projects

### Hand Projects include:

spring and autumn planting; weeding and garden maintenance; painting – internal and external; animals; beach clean-ups; rubbish clean ups and spring cleaning; walking track maintenance; garage sale preparation; furniture bank – sorting and boxing household items; building houses, environmental restoration projects; etc.

## PwC Transforms Warehouse

Staff from PricewaterhouseCoopers had a great day transforming a warehouse in west Auckland from an empty space into a shop to sell second hand goods. The team said that the most positive thing about the day was “*seeing a massive transformation of the warehouse*”. They were all tired at the end of the day and enjoyed working as a team and helping those less fortunate.



## E&Y Assist with Abilities

Ernst and Young staff helped out at an organisation on Auckland’s North Shore employing people with intellectual challenges who would otherwise not have gainfull employment. The team worked alongside staff constructing display boxes and placing stickers on books and cans. The team felt that the most important outcome for them was becoming aware of the “*real challenges that other people experience*”.

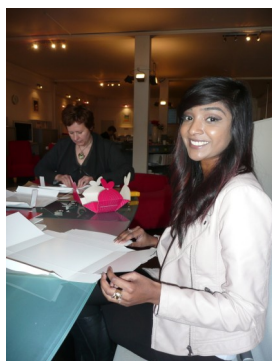
## IAG Help Local Kids

A local community organisation that supports low income families and their children has had a big helping hand from IAG teams. Two teams built a playground for children with special needs who attend the programme. Another IAG team ran a fun day with the children, showing them how to make Oragami. The teams were great with the children and thought that the most positive aspects of the project were “*spending time with the children and making them happy*”.



## GT Volunteering for Vision

A team from Grant Thornton spent the day quietly folding boxes, cards and sticking labels for an organisation that raises funds for Kids Can and the SPCA. The team were treated to a home made morning tea and enjoyed volunteering. They also thought that working as a team and having time to communicate outside of the office were important outcomes.



## KPM staff on Motuihe

Kiwi Property Management staff were keen to get straight into volunteering when the company became members of Volunteering Auckland. One team of nine volunteers took a boat out to Motuihe Island for the day. The team divided its efforts spending some time re-potting native seedlings and others headed out into the bush to collect seed pods ready for germination back at the nursery. Despite the hot work the team said it was “*a truckload of fun and the highlight of the day for the team was a fleeting glimpse of an elusive tuatara*”. The team finished the day with a barbeque on the beach under pohutukawa.



## BNZ Assist at Special Event

A group of BNZ staff went, at very short notice, to an event aimed at raising the confidence and providing opportunity for children with special needs to compete in a swimming event. Some of the staff had many years experience in aspects of sports event assistance having volunteered at their own children's athletic events. Everyone was in good spirits and the enthusiasm of the children was a highlight for the volunteers.



## Cornerstone Helps Nursery



Cornerstone Ondemand wanted to spend a day in the community to celebrate the 13th anniversary of their company. They volunteered at a local Marae — all hands on deck to assist with potting seedlings, moving mulch, watering and other tasks. The team enjoyed learning about the local history of the area and about Maori culture. At the end of the day they felt like they had made a contribution back to the community and had the opportunity to do some team building.

## ANZ Team Collect Pinecones



ANZ staff took a day out of their work schedule to collect pinecones for primates. This is the second year that the team have done this project—so they must have had a great time first time around! The team went out to Woolhill Forest and spent the day collecting pinecones to contribute to this programme.

## Volunteering Auckland Volunteering



Once a year Volunteering Auckland staff take up the opportunity to volunteer with one of our member organisations. This year we went to the North Shore to assist a not for profit who assists people with intellectual limitations. Not only this, but the organisation is focused on recycling—everything from repackaging products to taking apart computers and other electrical equipment and sorting into reusable items such as copper, screws etc. The atmosphere was fun and friendly.

Volunteering Auckland is a charitable trust with over 20 years experience in the voluntary sector. We have 2.5 paid staff and a team of around 20 volunteers. We have over 400 community groups on our database. We assist many of these organisation with the placement of individual and team volunteers, as well as providing training opportunities in the management of volunteers. We also assist both our not for profit and corporate members with the development of their volunteer programmes. Our Employee and Team Volunteering Programme places our corporate member staff in community projects throughout the year.



## Team Leader Pointers

### Choosing a Project

1. Talk as a team about the sort of organisation you want to support or tasks you want to do and what, as a team, you want to get out of your volunteer day.
2. Contact Volunteering Auckland EV Programme Coordinator to register your team and get some project options for consideration.
3. Select a project that suits your teams objectives and schedules

### Getting Ready to Go

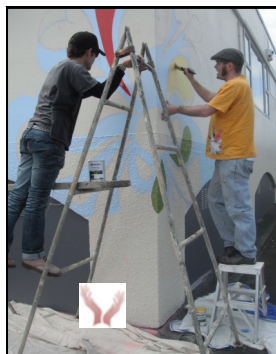
1. Once the EV Coordinator has sent you the Project Match Up and Checklist contact the project coordinator to introduce yourself and confirm details.
2. Make sure your team members have all the information about the day, including where to meet and what to bring.

### On the Day

1. If you have company shirts with logos this helps to identify teams at an event.
2. Remind your team that when volunteering their behaviour should be appropriate
3. Be aware of any Health and Safety responsibilities and requirements.
4. Remember to take a camera to document the day.
5. Have fun!

## Artists Volunteering

A community organisation in Avondale that assists and advocates on behalf of older people had an artistic make over. A team from Media Design School designed and painted a mural on the corner of the building. The project coordinator said that this will brighten up the location and help people find their offices.



## AUT Students Goodies

A team of students from AUT spent a day assisting Canteen with their Crank event in November. The team worked tirelessly and felt like they had achieved their goals at the end of the day. They especially liked *“working in a team environment and getting to know other people for a good cause”*.



## ANZ on Motutapu



ANZ staff spent a day on Motutapu in January. The team were searching for Moth plant and Woolly Nightshade—removing any they found. The team said the project coordinators were, *“really positive- they made it fun and we all learnt a bit; they are clearly very passionate about their work.”*

## PwC Mulch and Mulch

It was a day of mulching for PricewaterhouseCoopers staff who spent their volunteer day at a centrally located community garden in Auckland. The team were eager to scoop mulch, rake mulch, sweep mulch and spread it on the gardens.



The team said that *“it was good to see immediate results”* and that the most important outcomes for the team were *“building team spirit and working together with people from different levels within our own teams”*.



## Corporate Members

**ANZ**

**BNZ**

**Ernst and Young**

**GlaxoSmithKline**

**Grant Thornton**

**IAG**

**IBM**

**Kiwi Property Management**

**Lego**

**Microsoft**

**PwC**

**OMD**



**Volunteering Auckland**  
Where Volunteering Begins

**Phone: 377 7887**  
**Fax: 377 9915**

**70 Khyber Pass Road**  
**Grafton**  
**Auckland**

**PO Box 8814**  
**Symonds Street**  
**Auckland 1150**

[www.volunteeringauckland.org.nz](http://www.volunteeringauckland.org.nz)  
[services@volunteeringauckland.org.nz](mailto:services@volunteeringauckland.org.nz)