

TEAM TALK



Volunteering Auckland
Where Volunteering Begins

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2012



From the Team and Employee Volunteering Coordinator

Happy New Year and welcome to the first Volunteering Auckland Team and Employee Volunteering Newsletter, Team Talk.

In the seven months I have been coordinating the programme, I have been impressed by both the willingness of the team and employee volunteers and the dedication of our not for profit members to their causes. We continue to grow our corporate and academic membership as well as work with our not for profit members to identify and develop projects.

In the first half of the 2011—12 financial year, the programme placed 48 teams, a total of 476 people in voluntary activities. We will continue to provide the best possible volunteering broker service in the Auckland region to our members.

Look forward to continuing to work with you in 2012.

Kym Burke

VA Team Enjoying A Rare Day Together

Volunteering Auckland staff and volunteers had a wonderful day volunteering at Orakei Marae for Volunteer Awareness Week 2011.

We arrived at the Marae and were made to feel very welcome. We were introduced to our supervisors for the day, Piripi and Harriet. Both grew up on the Marae and were able to tell us about not only the plants and their medicinal uses, but also a bit about the history of the area.

We helped to shift saplings for the Matariki Festival being held that following weekend. Matariki celebrates the Maori New Year.

It was great for staff, board members and volunteers to work alongside each other and to talk about ourselves, what we do and where we are from.

The shared lunch was fabulous, thanks to Cheryl, our General Manager. 🙌



IAG at Children with Autism Foundation

A team from IAG gave their time to assist the Children's Autism Foundation in August with their stock take.

The Foundation had a large collection of books and toys that they wanted to make more easily accessible to families of children with autism.

Their offices had also recently been flooded so the IAG team worked alongside volunteers from the organisation to move furniture and do a stock take of the books, toys and puzzles. The team had a fun day working together while giving back to the community. 🙌



“Head projects”

e.g. – capacity building projects e.g. IT projects; business analysis; project management; measurement tools to measure impacts and quality of projects; development of profiles for organizations to better market themselves including identifying and designing specific marketing tools and content development of risk management evaluation tools; evaluating risks across community organizations e.g. funding, environmental, volunteers, services, etc; policy development etc;

“Heart” projects

e.g. – social activities with elderly e.g. having a ‘cuppa and a chat’, reading the newspaper, 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

e.g. – 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, conservation and environmental restoration projects; etc.

BNZ Collecting Pinecones for Primates

BNZ staff have been assisting keepers at Auckland Zoo to provide life enrichment tools for Orangutans.

A team took to a local forested area in the morning to collect open pinecones for the Zoo’s primate enrichment programme. Once collected the team took these to the Zoo where keepers stuffed them with treats and hid them in the enclosure.



The team had the opportunity to watch the Orangutans find the pinecones and said *“It was very rewarding to watch our work in progress by being able to see the feeding and how the zoo uses the pinecones”*. 🙌

State Call Centre Staff - A Change of Pace

A call centre team from State Insurance had the opportunity to swap their phones for a post hole digger and spades in November.

The team offered to volunteer their time to the Masada Family Centre.



The Centre needed a large box built to house a children’s playground. The team got stuck in and the frame was almost completed on the day.

Masada are grateful for the assistance and had their playground in by the start of the school holidays. 🙌

ANZ Gives Enclosure a Spring Clean

Zoo Keepers needed a team to help clean and freshen the Baboon enclosure at the Auckland Zoo.

A team from ANZ jumped at the opportunity and really put some elbow grease to the task.

The team raked up leaves, weeded and replaced bark chip.

They commented that they could really see the progress they had made by the end of the day.

This work is always greatly appreciated by the Zoo. 🙌

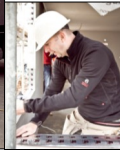


IBM Building a Better Future

In June, IBM staff were given the day off to volunteer. They chose to help Habitat for Humanity and work alongside a family to build their home in South Auckland.



The staff left behind their desks and took up hammer and nails to contribute to the build. The team were very enthusiastic and proud of the work they were doing.



They enjoyed being able to contribute while doing something very different for the day. 🙌



IBM Staff Partnering with Age Concern

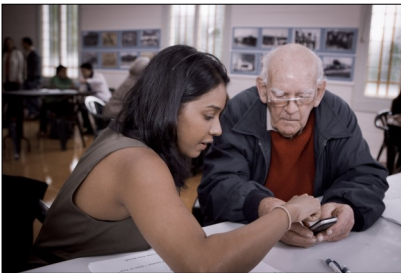
Teams from IBM have been partnering one on one with older people to help them improve their cell phone skills.

The workshops, organized by Age Concern, have proven extremely popular with seniors.



Participants have commented on how much they learnt in two hours with their 'buddy'.

IBM staff have stepped up on a number of occasions to help with the 'Mobile Madness' and 'Texting for Seniors' workshops. 🙌



Motuihe Island Restoration

Motuihe Island is one of the islands in the Hauraki Gulf. The Motuihe Restoration Project was established in 2000 by members of the community in conjunction with the Department of Conservation.



Recently staff at Medtronic spent the day planting and weeding. The team enjoyed hearing how their part contributed to the wider vision for the project. 🙌

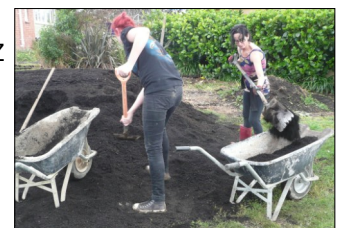


ANZ in an Octopus Garden

A team from ANZ lent a helping hand at Te Atatu Peninsula Primary School to build a collaborative garden.

The Octopus Garden design was created by the students. The ANZ team worked along side the Unitec students to build the garden for the school.

The primary school students made lunch for the team and a great day was had by all. 🙌



Current Projects

1. **A Brush with Kindness**
Home renovation and essential repair project for families.
2. **Pine Cones for Primates**
Collect pine cones for primate enrichment programme.
3. **Make a Stake – Bamboo Control**
Planting along the Whau River with bamboo stakes.
4. **Motutapu Preservation**
Tree planting, nursery work and historic site preservation.
5. **Forest Trails**
Maintenance of Woodhill Forrest Equestrian Park .
6. **Team Mail Drop**
Assist in the distribution of flyers announcing a new community facility.
7. **Ko Te Pukaki**
Ecological restoration of an important historical area in the Auckland isthmus.
8. **Kaipatiki Project**
Assisting with weeding, propagating and planting.
9. **Project Fence It**
Help build a fence around school garden.
10. **Microsoft Office Up skilling**
Provide one on one training to staff to further develop their skills in MS software.

CMA Helped by Students

Centre of Mutual Aid is a non-profit organisation offering social contact, companionship and activities for older people.

They encourage and provide opportunities for older people to make new friends and enjoy social opportunities.

At this year's Seniors Fun Day they had students from AUT volunteer to assist with activities.



CMA were very grateful for the help and the students commented that they were not sure who had more fun, the volunteers or the seniors. ❤️

Corporate and Academic Members

ANZ

Fonterra

IAG

IBM

Lifeway College

Next NZ

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Provisional Members

Medtronic

Henkel New Zealand

Spotless

Kiwiplan

Cotton On

Youthline Gets a Helping Hand from Henkel



Youthline Manukau has been hard at work over the last year rebuilding an old fire station and turning it into a funky cafe attached to a modern youth facility in Papatoetoe.

A team from Henkel NZ, located in Manukau, had the opportunity to add their contribution to improving facilities for young people in the area.



The team wore coveralls and took up rollers to paint the new café.

They had a fun time and the Café is now open for business. 🙌



YMCA Improve Riding with Kiwiplan's Help

YMCA is working with Auckland Woodhill Endurance Club to manage the designated horse riding area in Woodhill Forest.

This year a team from Kiwiplan volunteered their time to help prune and trim pine trees and other plants along the track.

The YMCA coordinator commented *"it is a never ending process of trail marking in the forest and the volunteers are greatly appreciated"*.

The team found the experience very satisfying and *"feel proud that we are giving something back to our community"*. 🙌



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