



Volunteering Auckland
Where Volunteering Begins

Promoting and Supporting Volunteering

Volunteer Trends

Summer Edition

2010—Issue 1

Let's Talk ...



Volunteering Auckland has been working hard over the last six months in promoting volunteerism and making submissions on the Super City [lets not call it that for it is far from super – it is a new city structure – people make a city not structures.] While politicians, councillors and officials have listened to us there is still not enough recognition of volunteers within the structures of the new council and local government.

In forming the New City the existing councils are preparing a register of “in kind” contributions made, however we have yet to see a standardized in depth approach to this. This is good progress in recognising that volunteers and the charitable sector make significant contributions to the economy as well as to the social fabric of the country. At present there is no specific high level process to integrate the volunteer contribution with the corporate asset based system being developed for the New City.

There is much criticism of the loss of democracy in the formation of the New City of Auckland however being able to volunteer is part of the democratic process. To protect volunteering I encourage you to become more active and write today to your Member of Parliament and the Prime Minister. Ask that in the legislation for the New City the following be included: *“That Volunteers are part of the staffing structure of the new City and the Council, Boards and Community Controlled Organizations be required to consider volunteers in their structures and operations.”*

Volunteering is a personal contribution to the community – it is your right and responsibility to take democratic action.

Yours in Volunteering,
Cheryll Martin, General Manager

Community Groups and Local Government Relationships—a future?

Message to community organisations with current relationships with their local councils from the Auckland Transitional Authority.

“Community groups are interested – and in some cases concerned – about the impact the new Auckland Council could have on their current relationships with local government, as well as their funding.

The relationship the new council has with community groups and the interests they represent will be pivotal to the success of the new council, and its ability to contribute to the vibrant communities that make up Auckland.

Until the new Council is formed on 1 November 2010, there will be no change to existing relationships that are mandated by your local council.

Councils are currently preparing to transition existing organisational relationships and resources through to the new council. While current councils can't provide guarantees, there is no reason to believe that existing relationships won't be maintained by the new council, but possibly in a different shape and form.

Councils will be considering the community and not-for-profit groups that have met the terms and conditions of their relationship and will be recommending that both regular non-contestable funding and contracts for service are extended to 30 June 2012. For annual contestable funding rounds, we expect that funding schemes will continue to be available, although there may be changes to application and disbursement dates to ensure a smooth transition to the Auckland Council. After the new council is formed on 1 November 2010 there could be changes to decision making bodies, boundaries, timetables and dates for future funding rounds.”

-Auckland Transitional Authority-

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What's On:

Volunteer Awareness Week
20th – 26th June 2010

Theme: “Volunteering Across the Generations.”

We are looking for projects or services to highlight during this week via the Media. We are looking for stories to showcase, for example, texting for seniors, families volunteering together, etc.. Please contact Cheryll Martin before Friday 23rd April 2010 to discuss further.

Volunteering Auckland

PO Box 8814
Symonds St
Auckland 1150

Phone: 09-377-7887
Fax: 09-377-9915

www.volunteeringauckland.org.nz

Reintroduction of Membership Fees from 1 July 2010

As some of you will know several years ago the VA Board of Trustees decided to discontinue our membership fees but to review this decision regularly in consultation with our members. Several focus groups were held in 2009 to discuss this and other issues related to volunteering. Due to our own restrictions in available funding the Board of Trustees has voted to reintroduce a fee structure to accommodate the various size organisations registered with us. The annual fee will be based on the organisation's income. In this time of reduced funding we realize that there will be those organisations facing hardship so rather than cancelling your membership please contact us to discuss this further. Further information will be available in our next newsletter.

Member's Corner

Volunteers for You

We've had a busy start to the year with a steady stream of phone and email enquiries from potential volunteers, January appointments were already booked out in December and we are currently booking 5 weeks ahead! This means we are looking for updated voluntary roles and new projects for these volunteers looking to help out in the community. We have enclosed our Request for Volunteers form but if you would like to have a chat about roles you may want to list or need further information please phone Marja, our Internal Services Coordinator on 09 377 7887 or email admin@volunteeringauckland.org.nz

Membership Updates

At the beginning of the year there are often staff changes or a change in contact detail, if you have had a change of volunteer coordinator, have moved premises or changed your organisation's name please drop our Internal Services Coordinator an email to

admin@volunteeringauckland.org.nz so we can keep your details up to date for information on upcoming workshops or events and are able to contact the right person for when we have a volunteer for you.

Volunteer Awareness Week 2010

We know this is still a while off however we are planning advertising on the radio at that time promoting volunteering. This will result in increased enquiries so think about roles you have available and send us your requests for volunteers by mid May so we can have them all online before VAW in June.

Theme: Volunteering Across the Generations

VA Celebration Calendars

As a member of Volunteering Auckland you should have received your complimentary copy of the calendar and we hope you have it up in your office celebrating volunteering! We are very proud of the work that has gone into this, the team has done a fabulous job! Remember if you want further copies of the calendar please contact us.

International Events

2010 Australian National Conference on Volunteering

27 - 29 October 2010 Sebel Albert Park, Victoria
The conference aims to provide a national forum to:

- Initiate discussion, debate and analyse issues affecting volunteering.
- Discover new technologies that can affect or support volunteering.
- Examine initiatives that will grow volunteering and promote best practice in volunteering.

The programme aims to draw together papers, workshops and ideas that explore the following streams:

- Innovate - sessions that address different or innovative volunteer programmes or approaches to volunteering.
- Adapt - sessions that address the changing environment and how the sector has had to adapt or is adapting to change.
- Act - sessions that look at the systems, policies and procedures in volunteering and volunteering management in a practical way that provides delegates with solutions, tools and tips.

For more information keep an eye on :
www.volunteeringaustralia.org

Resources for NFPs

The non-profit section of the Inland Revenue website has recently been updated, after listening to customer concerns in recent research.

Please take the time to look at the new website: www.ird.govt.nz/non-profit

TechSoup is IT software at discounted prices available from www.nzfwo.org.nz

Magic Moments at VA

We just had to tell you... Be careful where you park! Someone attending one of our recent forums found a handy spot in a parking building nearby. Turned out it was private and they were locked in the dark with no phone coverage for 2 hrs until the next person entered the building. This sounds funny but could have had a serious outcome, do please read the parking instructions at the bottom of our email when attending one of our forums at our VA office.

Welcome to our newest NFP members:

Barnardos Parent Helpline
Media Matters
Refugees as Survivors NZ
SPELD NZ
Warrengeat Residential Care

And Welcome back to:

Special Olympics Waitakere
Trade Aid - Takapuna

yMedia Workshop Series organised by Media Design School

Brand Communications – 14th April
External Communications – 28th April
Internal Communications – 12th May
Community/Student Collaborative Networking – 26th May

For more information please visit
<http://www.ymediachallenge.co.nz/>

Volunteering NZ News

Update on Volunteering and Visitors to NZ

In the last issue of Volunteer Trends we mentioned the confusion around volunteering on a Visitor's Visa – this has now been clarified.

Late December we had word from Volunteering New Zealand that the Immigration Service website had been updated – check out:

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/>
- go to 'Online Help' then search by topic or keyword.
Thank you to VNZ!

Team Volunteering Programme

We started off 2010 with a team of 25 California State Uni students (via AUT) helping out at Papatoetoe Residential Care with crafts and morning tea. This was followed by a variety of projects, two of which we feature on this page.

Our Sylvia Park Gift Wrapping event during December 2009 was a great success and all made possible with the help of over 300 volunteers which included 8 enthusiastic volunteer teams. Teams that participated were from AIC, ANZ, Blind and Low Vision Network NZ (BLENNZ), the Department of Internal Affairs, BNZ, Special Olympics and the Goodman Centre. Thank you for your wonderful contribution and we hope you'll join us again for Christmas Gift Wrapping in December 2010!

We need your projects!

Please send us details of any new one-day projects you have coming up. We need as many and as big a variety as we can get!

We need at least 6 weeks' notice of upcoming projects...this allows us time to run it on our blog www.volunteeringauckland.blogspot.com where prospective volunteer teams can view your project. It also allows you enough time as the host organisation to plan your volunteer day and coordinate volunteer teams more effectively.

FRIENDS OF Volunteering Auckland

ANZ/National Banks [Including UDC Finance and Eftpos]
Cummins NZ Ltd
HSBC
IAG / State Insurance
IBM New Zealand Ltd
Invacare NZ
Microsoft New Zealand Ltd
PriceWaterhouse Coopers
SAP New Zealand Ltd
Sovereign Ltd
Contact: vaservices@volunteeringauckland.org.nz

Team Volunteering Projects February 2010

"Water-related" Project



Recently we matched a team from **NZI Marine** with **Sailability** as they wanted a "water-related" project.

Due to the weather, the team couldn't polish the boats as intended, however they helped pick up rubbish, swept the yard and washed down the inflatables. The team also had the opportunity to go for a trip around the harbour after completing their project.

Sailability have sailing programmes suitable for almost anyone regardless of the level of their disability or sailing skills. The yachts they use for their programmes have many safety features including weighted centre boards/keels ensuring that the boats are virtually impossible to capsize.

Sailability's mission statement:
"Our aim is to provide people with disabili-

ties the opportunity to sail in safety and to experience adventure and freedom - building mobility, self confidence and pride through achievement"

Here's what **NZI Marine** said about their volunteer day: "**Sailability** is a fantastic operation and we were very lucky to be a part of it for our volunteer day."

A Twist on Team Building



Traditional team building activities have been given a new spin.

This year **Telecom Group Legal and Corporate Services** team thought they'd try something different at their annual off-site event by trying their hand at volunteer work, and it seems to have been a hit.

More than thirty members of the team signed up to help the two local DOC rangers

on Waiheke Island clean up the **Whakane-hwa Regional Park** campsite. The crew were responsible for clearing away plant debris and rubbish, helping to reduce the risk of fire, provide more shade areas for campers and make way for winter planting.

"What we were able to achieve in the space of a few hours would have taken the rangers weeks to complete; they were thrilled to have us there," says Angela Dutton, who organised the team.

"On the face of it, cleaning up litter can sound like one of the less appealing types of volunteering, but it was at a gorgeous location and everyone really enjoyed it and felt satisfied by the end of it.

It was a good alternative to traditional team building; we were able to give something back to the community, save money and still be able to do something together.'

Michele Bremser was one of the keen team members to get amongst it.

"It was really fun to be out of the office and doing something different. It was amazing how much we were able to achieve while we were there, I'd be keen to do it again," she says.

Unsung Heroes

The New Zealand Herald and P&O Cruises are again seeking out New Zealand's Unsung Heroes.

It is the third year of the programme which gives much-deserved recognition to people who selflessly give of themselves to make a difference in their local communities.

Some of those nominated will be chosen to feature in a series of stories published in The New Zealand Herald over the coming weeks and five will be selected, along with a partner, to join a P&O Cruise on the Pacific Pearl.

Go to

www.unsungheroes.org.nz

to nominate your unsung hero or to download a poster for your community group. Nominations close on 31 May 2010.

Back Page Trainer

Upcoming Training Workshops:

COVAK Forums:

18 May 2010

Strategic Role of the Manager/Coordinator of Volunteers

Venue: Glenfield Community Centre

24 June 2010

Volunteering across the generations

Venue: Pt. Chevalier Community Centre

August—TBC

October—TBC

November – Training Needs Survey

Other Workshops:

19 July 2010

by Andy Fryar, OzVPM, Australia

"Positioning your volunteer program to prevail" - *Working title*

Further details to follow

Venue: VA Premises

Any enquiries about training workshops are always welcome!

Contact: Angela Radosits

vasupport@volunteeringauckland.org.nz

Welcome to our newest staff member :

Angela Radosits

Angela has been with Volunteering Auckland since November 2008. She started as a volunteer helping with logistics for our training workshops. She coordinated and supervised the Christmas Gift Wrapping Project in December 2009 and joined the VA Team in January 2010 as Logistics & Communication Support.

Welcome on board Angela!



Board Message—A Week of Volunteering



Introducing: Kit Howden

I am fortunate to be able to volunteer and use my skills in park management to help the volunteer sector which needs more support.

On average I put aside approx 2 days a week volunteering on Tuesday mornings. Every Tuesday I am out on the slopes of Maungawhau Mt Eden with 4 to 6 other volunteers undertaking ecological restoration [a fancy name for weeding, cutting privet and other pest plants]. This is the International Year of Biodiversity and our small project is focused on the belief that our care for nature starts in the cities and urban areas where most people now live.

See <http://www.maungawhau.co.nz>

Later in the morning I helped a masters student with her thesis on eco tourism and then had a discussion with the Volunteer Coordinator for Auckland City – he is one of

those rare – not yet extinct—on the ground park rangers!

The next day I spent a few hours writing submissions and preparing myself for the Amnesty International AGM – I am a member of a small group advocating greater attention in linking human rights and environment.

See <http://www.amnesty.org.nz>

On Thursday evening I attended a meeting at Waitakere City to see their new Community Park Ranger Scheme which has great potential across the whole New City of Auckland.

I ended the week with a 2 hour early morning meeting as a board member of Volunteering Auckland and enjoy this for its great to be with so many talented people contributing towards our common good.

Kit Howden is a Trustee of Volunteering Auckland and Chairman of Friends of Maungawhau .

Contact Details

Chairperson
Dianne Denny

Vice Chair
Robert Limb

Treasurer
Pete Yates

Trustees
Kit Howden, Paul Hutchinson, Kate Ashcroft, Catherine Mitchell, Denis Orme, Nick Scott

General Manager

Cheryll Martin
gm@volunteeringauckland.org.nz

Internal Services Coordinator

Marja van Straaten
admin@volunteeringauckland.org.nz

External Services Coordinator

Giselle Fasher
vaservices@volunteeringauckland.org.nz

Logistics & Communication Support
Angela Radosits
vasupport@volunteeringauckland.org.nz

Quote:

"Be the change you want to see in the world."
Ghandi