

# Volunteering CANTERBURY

## Annual Report 2024

Knit  
purpo

GOVERNANCE BITES  
Workshop Series



Roto  
Foundation

Fair  
Volunteer  
Day  
2023



COFFEE & CHATS  
Let's Talk Volunteering



Casual drop-in sessions  
1st Thurs of each month  
9:00am onwards  
Chick Community House  
213 Lichfield Street

Volunteering  
CANTERBURY

BE BOLD TO HELP



Celebrating  
**35**  
years  
Volunteering  
CANTERBURY

Life Without Barriers



Supporting those with a disability  
to volunteer

NOW  
Te Wāhi Tūānā & Heiā  
National Volunteer Week

He wā pīataata  
Time to shine  
NOW

Volunteering  
CANTERBURY  
THE BIG  
SHOUT  
OUT

Thurs, 22 June 2023  
6:30 - 7:30pm  
Te Ara Atea

#NVW2023

Volunteering  
CANTERBURY

NEWCO  
VOLUN  
EX



Make  
Your  
Mahi  
Have  
Meaning

Volunteering  
CANTERBURY



Christmas Greet  
from the VolCa

Volunteer  
Recognition  
Awards  
2023

SOCIAL WORK | RUBBING | COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | GOVERNMENT  
TEACHING | SPORTS ADMINISTRATION | FLIGHT OPERATIONS | EVENTS  
ANTHROPOLOGY | RECEPTION | MANAGEMENT | HUMAN RESOURCES  
MARKETING | COUNSELLING | INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY | TRAINING  
THE UNDERMOVEMENT | ARTS | PUBLIC RELATIONS | ADMINISTRATION  
VIRTUAL WORK | EDUCATION | REHABILITATION | PROGRAMMING | COACHING  
ACCOUNTANCY | COMMUNICATIONS | PSYCHOLOGY | FAMILY SUPPORT  
WORK WITH BARRELS | ENGINEERING | OCEANOGRAPHY | SALES | FACILITIES  
ANALYST  
TRADES  
RETAIL  
PHYSICS

Many Backgrounds - One Profession  
- Stronger Together





**Make Your Mahi Have Meaning**

## **Our Vision**

People and communities prospering through volunteering

## **Our Mission**

To enable the successful engagement of volunteers by charities, and promote the benefits of volunteering to people and communities

## **Our Values**

Integrity, Respect, Inclusiveness and Service, with a commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Address: Christchurch Community House  
Te Whakaruruhau ki Otautahi  
213 Lichfield Street  
Christchurch 8011

Email: [office@volcan.org.nz](mailto:office@volcan.org.nz)

Phone: 03 366 2442

Website: [www.volcan.org.nz](http://www.volcan.org.nz)



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# About Us

# 03

Volunteering Canterbury began in September 1988, with a vision to see people and communities prospering through volunteering. Our purpose on a day to day basis is to enable the successful engagement of volunteers by not-for-profit organisations, and promote the benefits of volunteering to people and communities.

Our office is staffed by Glenda Martin (Outreach Manager), Alison Marshall (Administration & Finance Coordinator), Tammy Dodgshun (Social Media & Project Coordinator), Lizzie Daly (Selwyn Outreach) and aided by our long-standing volunteer, Mary Ellen Wilson.



*A Volunteering Canterbury public display*

Our Chairperson, Lynette Ensor, was supported by our 2023 Board: Molly Sialeipata (Pacific Peoples' Forum representative), Ngaio Stuart (e Runaka ki Otautahi o Kai Tahu representative), Charlotte Ferrier (Youth Representative), Peter Madden, Nicole Hay, Betty Orr-McFaull and Madeleine Tutty (Minute-taker).



*From top left: Lynette Ensor, Molly Sialeipata, Ngaio Stuart, Peter Madden, Charlotte Ferrier, Nicole Hay, Betty Orr-McFaull, Glenda Martin, Alison Marshall, Tammy Dodgshun, Lizzie Daly and Mary Ellen Wilson.*



# 04

## Letter from our Chair

Kia ora koutou katoa,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the 2024 Annual Report from Volunteering Canterbury. As we reflect on the past year, I am both proud and humbled by the accomplishments and resilience demonstrated by our team, volunteers, and community. This past year has been marked by significant achievements, from expanding our community outreach programs to launching innovative volunteer initiatives across our region.



My personal highlights over this past year include:

- Celebrating Volunteering Canterbury's 35th anniversary 1988-2023;
- Presenting a record 38 Awards at our Volunteer Recognition Awards; the gratitude of the Awardees, being acknowledged for volunteering they don't seek recognition for, is what makes this event so special to be a part of;
- Receiving ongoing positive feedback about the videos made for us by NZ Broadcasting School;
- Our continued presence and growth in the Selwyn District;
- Increased growth of our Group Volunteering programme, with 63 groups participating in a variety of community projects;
- Our first Knit for Purpose micro-volunteering project, involving many volunteers who had not volunteered previously;
- The continuation of multi-year funding from the Christchurch City Council in support of our mahi.

Recently I was reminded of the incredible connections that volunteering can foster when Volunteering Canterbury had the privilege of reuniting two long-lost friends. Karin, visiting from the Netherlands, reached out to our office during her holiday in New Zealand, hoping to find her former neighbour, Marianne. Karin fondly remembered Marianne's stories about her volunteering days in Christchurch—the joy she found in her work and the amazing people she met along the way. Our team tapped into their extensive community networks, and against all odds, we managed to bring these two friends back together! This experience truly highlights how the power of connection lies at the very heart of volunteering and community.

This year, we bid farewell to three of our board members, to whom I express my sincere thanks for their commitment and support of Volunteering Canterbury's vision. Your dedication and the energy you brought to our shared mission have made a lasting impact.

Thanks to our very own online recruitment platform, we received an overwhelming response to the vacant positions. And now I am thrilled to welcome four new board members to our team, each bringing fresh perspectives and enthusiasm. I'm excited for the journey ahead and look forward to what we'll accomplish together.

I remain extremely proud of our hardworking and dedicated staff team, comprising of Glenda, Alison, Tammy, Lizzie and Mary-Ellen. Without their focus, passion, creativity and sheer hard mahi, Volunteering Canterbury wouldn't be the incredibly respected organisation it is in our community.

To our valued members and superb volunteers, you are what drives and inspires us. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment - we value you. To our funders, your ongoing support enables us to employ our amazing team, and provide support for both volunteers and organisations with volunteers - thank you.

Finally, I would like to leave you with this inspiring quote: "Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." - Dr Syed Muhammad Zeeshan Hussain Almashhadi

Ngā mihi nui



*Lynette Ensor*  
*Chairperson, Volunteering Canterbury*

*August 2024*

# 06

## A Year of Impact

**35**

years serving  
our community



**274**

Member  
Organisations  
Supported



**38**

Volunteer  
Recognition  
Awards

**157,011**



Cantabrians  
Helped

**674,834**

Volunteer Hours  
gifted across  
Canterbury



**4,257**

Volunteer  
Referrals

**9**

Peer Support  
Sessions



**19**

Training  
Workshops



**63**

Group  
Volunteering  
Projects



**\$15.3m**

value of time  
contributed to  
our local economy

# Office Report 07

The year under review has seen a 'settling' after the tumultuous years resulting from the global pandemic and, despite a constrained economic environment, people have remained generous with their gifting of mahi aroha to community organisations across Waitaha Canterbury. Membership by community organisations has sat within the range of 267 – 272 through the year (compared to 260-268 in the previous year) although there has been a steady increase in the utilisation of services, such as training and information programmes, by non-member organisations.



*Volunteer Centre Network Aotearoa (VCNA) Hui*

“ We are finding these sessions invaluable and cannot thank you enough for making this possible.

- Governance Bites Workshop attendee



*Diana, a volunteer with Off the Wall Graffiti Removal Programme*

Our 2023 Volunteer Survey found that 10% of those who volunteered noted a motivation of improving employment opportunities, as a tangible benefit from volunteering. The benefits of volunteering to volunteers themselves continues to be a story which needs to be told better; results from the survey confirmed that volunteering enables 'The Five Ways of Wellbeing' - a real benefit to the individual as well as the community - with 'making a difference' by giving back continuing to be the number one reason to volunteer.



# 08

“ *Volunteering has been an amazing experience and one I have found to be hugely rewarding.*

- Jordan, Volunteer

Across the year, 4257 referrals were made to over 450 roles utilising the volunteer recruitment platform integrated into the Volunteering Canterbury website. Those referrals were requested by a wide cross-section of the community, with 788 from those in the age group 20-29 years, and over 550 identifying as 'students'. With research

suggesting those who volunteer early in life will continue to volunteer throughout their life, these figures bode well for volunteering into the future.

Highlighting that 'people like you volunteer' by sharing volunteers stories continues to be an important waka for engaging the wider community. We utilised Social Media to share 15 volunteer stories across the year and seven 'Volunteer of the Month' posts, a new initiative supported by nominations from community organisations. Additionally, monthly shout-outs have begun to business, faith-based, sports, youth and special interest groups who together contributed 3,500 hours of mahi aroha during the year via our Group Volunteering Programme.



*Delta Community Trust Volunteer Colin - Volunteer of the Month, February 2024*



*Volunteering Canterbury stall, CultureFest Lincoln*

Within our region, we attended 15 community events/expos during the year, and made 29 presentations to nearly 800 people. The Tautoko Network: Supporting the Community Sector and the Governance Bites series (supported by The Rata Foundation) attracted over 220 participants who support their organisations in either governance or volunteer management roles.

A particular highlight during the year under review was the successful 'Knit for Purpose' campaign which was launched on Micro Volunteering Day in April and ran through until World Wide Knit in Public Day in June. Collaborating with the Volunteering Mid-South Canterbury team, people were invited to contribute to knitting peggy squares, whether through providing materials, knitting or sewing the completed squares into blankets. In Otautahi Christchurch, people knitted at home or got together in schools, libraries, prisons and workplaces to contribute to this project, which resulted in the handing over to community groups of 14 handknitted blankets for passing on to their clients.



*Volunteer Knitters, Knit for Purpose 2023*

*“ I was ‘hooked’ as I discovered how rewarding it felt to make a positive difference in the lives of others.*

*- Glenys, Volunteer*



*Student team from NZ Broadcasting School*

Another highlight was the opportunity to work alongside an amazing group of young people studying at NZ Broadcasting School. In a period of six weeks the students put together a remarkable range of collateral (including 16 short videos which can be viewed on You Tube) in a campaign entitled 'Make Your Mahi Have Meaning' which was launched to mark Volunteering Canterbury's 35th anniversary. This material has been well-received, a delight to share and completely met the project brief: to celebrate the diversity of volunteering happening across Waitaha Canterbury every day.

# 10

## Selwyn Report

Another busy year has drawn to a close in Selwyn, with many activities and events taking place. Our drop in sessions at Selwyn Libraries continue to be popular, with Te Ara Ātea and Lincoln Libraries having the highest attendance rates over the 12 months.

In June we recognised The Big Shout Out with a special volunteer appreciation event, where Selwyn District Council Mayor, Sam Broughton, spoke on the importance of volunteering in our community. A catered supper then provided the opportunity for many community groups and organisations in the district to socialise and continue strengthening their connections. It was also encouraging to see a number of Selwyn nominations for our Volunteer Recognition Awards, held during National Volunteer Week in June, acknowledging and celebrating a wide range of volunteers.



*Selwyn Big Shout Out, June 2023*



*Selwyn Knit for Purpose participants, June 2023*

Knit for Purpose was a popular project in Selwyn, with a local retirement village leading the charge, creating many squares, which were then sewn together at a group event in June. The new Selwyn Primary Birthing Unit “Oromairaki” was the beneficiary of the blankets made within the Selwyn district. It was wonderful to see the William Pike Challenge students, and local high school students also contributing enthusiastically to this project.



# 11



*Selwyn Newcomers Expo, September 2023*

Embracing new beginnings in the Selwyn District, we held our first ever Newcomer's Volunteer Expo, with twenty local not-for-profit organisations in attendance. The focus was on showcasing the ways in which volunteering can help newcomers to meet people, make connections and gain valuable skills to help them settle in. Approximately 80 newcomers joined us to talk with organisations and take up local volunteering opportunities.

“ Thank you so much for arranging the Christ's College students to volunteer at CultureFest on Sunday – they were a great help!

-Maria Flower, Selwyn District Council

In support of volunteering in the wider Selwyn District we attended a number of locally-run events alongside other local community organisations. At the Swell Expo, we engaged with over 80 individuals as we promoted volunteering as a means of improving wellbeing and decreasing social isolation in the over 65s population. At the Selwyn CultureFest we promoted 'Bags of Hope' for the Selwyn Cancer Centre, resulting in 94 bags beautifully decorated for their cause.



*Selwyn Swell Expo, October 2023*

# Volunteer Spotlight

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## Volunteers Making their Mahi have Meaning in Canterbury



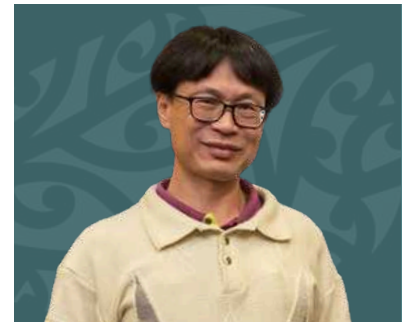
**Adam**

"I've been a Volunteer Fire Fighter for over 10 years. Initially, I joined because I had moved into the Rolleston area and being a shift worker gave me the opportunity to help the brigade and community during my down time. As a Senior Fire Fighter, my role is no different to any other SFF in NZ's volunteer brigades. The community expects us to be trained and ready to respond. We have a great team at Rolleston VFB. Not every incident ends with a happy result, or a feeling of pride, but there is a small few that do. Whilst it is never a mother's choice to have a fire truck arrive while she is in the middle of a premature delivery, being able to assist 3 babies (not my own) make their way into the world are comfortably my proudest moments."



**Lani**

"I began volunteering at Pregnancy Choice when I came back to NZ after being abroad. Friends of mine were involved and put the word out that help was needed, so I jumped on board! Pregnancy Choice supports those facing unplanned pregnancy, and is so important to me - I see it as a great benefit to the local community, allowing women a safe space to wrestle with big life decisions. We hope to make it easier to parent in a culture which makes it increasingly hard. I love being at pregnancy choice, seeing women encouraged and excited about motherhood, and I love being able to be the one to encourage and enable them!"



**Jason**

"I have been volunteering with Hagley Adult Literacy Centre for 2 years. The main reason I started volunteering was I want to work in New Zealand. I am a helper in ESOL community classes. What I do is helping the learners to study English in the class, and making sure that both tutor and learners can understand with each other. The best part of volunteering there is I can fully use both English and Mandarin to help people. I do learn things as well. I would say to someone else considering volunteering, while there is no income, you may earn everything you want, particularly in the people experience and skills."



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## Our Services

### How we help you Make your Mahi have Meaning



#### Recruit - Individuals

We encourage individuals to apply for volunteering roles posted by our member not-for-profit organisations, across all areas of the community. These volunteers support those who need it most in many different ways: helping vulnerable people, educating and mentoring, supporting charities administratively, counselling and befriending, to name a few.



#### Recruit - Groups

We arrange groups of people from businesses, schools, faith-based groups, clubs and other organisations, to volunteer together, helping not-for-profit organisations achieve larger scale projects.



#### Support

We support our member organisations by organising relevant workshops, training and network opportunities, as well as individual meetings to support our members' management of volunteers and related issues.



#### Promote

We present the benefits of volunteering to schools, businesses and the general public, and share volunteer stories via traditional and social media. We host annual Volunteer Recognition Awards, Student Volunteer Expos, and events to celebrate International Volunteer Week, International Volunteer Manager's Day and International Volunteer Day.



#### Collaborate

In order to increase the scope of volunteering in Canterbury, we actively collaborate with various non-member partners, including the Volunteer Centre Network Aotearoa (VCNA), University of Canterbury, including its PACE (Professional and Community Engagement) team, and Volunteering New Zealand. We encourage inclusiveness within volunteering and are actively trying to reach everyone in our communities.

# Thank You

# 14

## Thank you to our valued supporters

We would like to thank all our stakeholders, including Volunteers, Member Organisations, Funders, and Corporate Volunteers.

We would not succeed without the support of our Members, and the part they play in helping us to address the trends and issues that affect us all.

And without volunteers to apply for roles individually, or as a group, be it as part of a corporate organisation, a school, or another

not-for-profit, we would not be able to exist, and neither would the community sector and all those people served by them.

To everyone who volunteers, thank you.

We would also like to thank the generosity of our partners and funders who allow us to operate the way we do, and enable our volunteers to be such a pillar of the community sector.

*Thank You  
from the VolCan Team*



# GOVERNANCE BITES Workshop Series



Rātā  
Foundation

Volunteering  
CANTERBURY



## Family Volunteering Day 2023

@THESTYK.ORG.NZ

@VOLCAN.ORG.NZ



Volunteering  
CANTERBURY



## NEWCOMERS VOLUNTEER EXPO



Volunteering

## COFFEE & CHATS

*Let's Talk Volunteering*

Casual drop-in sessions  
1st Thurs of each month  
9:00am onwards  
ChCh Community House  
213 Lichfield Street



## Knit with purpose

Volunteering  
Mid & South Canterbury



Volunteering  
CANTERBURY

# Celebrating 35 years

Volunteering  
CANTERBURY

## Life Without Barriers

Supporting those with a disability  
to volunteer

Te Wiki Tūao ā-Motu  
national volunteer week

## THE BIG SHOUT OUT

Thurs, 22 June 2023  
6:30 - 7:30pm  
Te Ara Ātea

He wā piataata  
Time to shine

#NVW2023



## Make Your Mahi Have Meaning

Volunteering  
CANTERBURY

## Christmas Greetings from the VolCan Team!

# Volunteer Recognition Awards 2023

## Turn your compassion into action & volunteer in 2023

SOCIAL WORK NURSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GOVERNMENT  
TEACHING SPORTS ADMINISTRATION FLIGHT OPERATIONS EVENTS  
ANTHROPOLOGY RECEPTION MANAGEMENT HUMAN RESOURCES  
MARKETING COUNSELLING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TRAINING  
THE UNION MOVEMENT ARTS PUBLIC RELATIONS ADMINISTRATION  
YOUTH WORK EDUCATION RECREATION PROGRAMMING COACHING  
ACCOUNTANCY COMMUNICATIONS PSYCHOLOGY FAMILY SUPPORT  
WORK WITH ANIMALS ENGINEERING DISABILITIES SALES FACILITIES  
ANALYST BUSINESS  
TRADES DESIGN  
RETAIL HEALTH  
PHYSICS CARERS

Many Backgrounds - One Profession  
- Stronger Together



