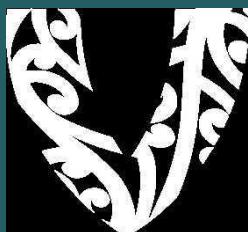


Volunteering CANTERBURY

Annual Report 2024





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

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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.

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).



A Volunteering Canterbury public display



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.

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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.



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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



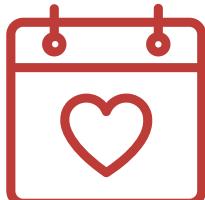
Lynette Ensor
Chairperson, Volunteering Canterbury

August 2024

06

A Year of Impact

35
years serving
our community



157,011
Cantabrians
Helped



274
Member
Organisations
Supported



38
Volunteer
Recognition
Awards



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

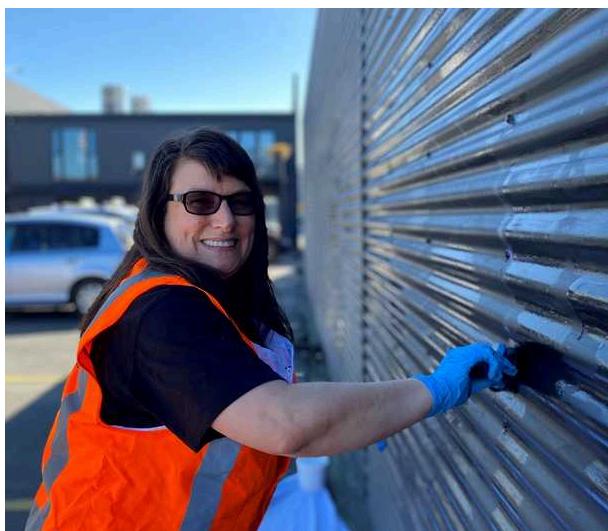
The year under review has seen a 'settling' after the tumultuous years resulting from the global pandemic and, despite a constrained economic environment, people have remained generous with their gifting of mahi aroha to community organisations across Waitaha Canterbury. Membership by community organisations 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
the utilisation of services, such as training and

“ 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

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.



Volunteering Canterbury stall, CultureFest Lincoln

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



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

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.

09

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.

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

- Glenys, Volunteer



Volunteer Knitters, Knit for Purpose 2023



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.

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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 Vulcan Team*





Volunteering
CANTERBURY



NEWCOMERS VOLUNTEER EXPO



Volunteering
Mid & South Canterbury



Volunteering
CANTERBURY



Life Without Barriers



Te Wiki Tūao ā-Motu
national volunteer week

THE BIG SHOUT OUT

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

#NVW2023



Make
Your
Mahi
Have
Meaning

Volunteering
CANTERBURY



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 TRADES BUSINESS
TRADES DESIGN
RETAIL HEALTH
PHYSICS CAREERS

Volunteer Recognition Awards 2023



Many Backgrounds - One Profession
- Stronger Together

