

Volunteering Northland

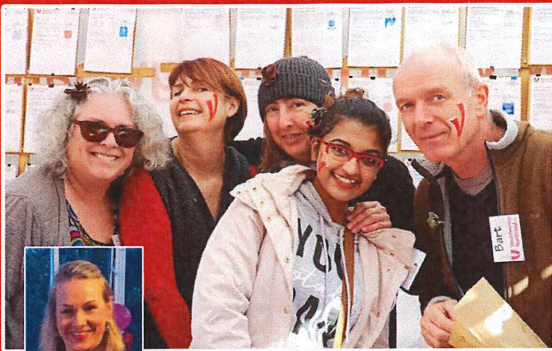


WINTER EDITION 2018 | ISSUE 4

Who Are We?

Volunteering Northland is an organisation that connects people with opportunities at non-profit organisations all over Northland.

We support volunteer coordinators and provide advice, advocacy, and recognition for volunteers.



MEET THE TEAM!

Vai, Trish, Lucy, Shashi and Bart. Vai and Shashi are our super talented volunteer facepainters. This pic from our Stall at the Matariki Whanau Festival in Whangarei. (Inset; Vaida - Admin Support. Not Pictured: Diana and Cathy, Reporters)

Don't forget we have new volunteer opportunities listed regularly. Check them out - you might be surprised.

Contact us

Online

www.volunteeringnorthland.nz

On Foot

Suite 11, 71 Bank St. Whangarei

By Phone

09 945 4984 or 0800 865 268

By E-mail

info@volunteeringnorthland.nz



Find Us On Facebook
Volunteering Northland

Pop-Up Volunteering Plug in / Plug out

High impact, quick rewards, great exposure

No "planning" meetings, simply turn up and do "the thing". A Pop-Up volunteer project is a high impact, lower commitment opportunity to get involved in local initiative or charity that makes a noticeable difference within a few hours.

Are you still willing to toil unpaid for the public benefit? Plenty of volunteers do, but some no longer want time-consuming, long-term involvement. Much to grief and concern of some organisations that involve volunteers, they are now learning to adapt.

More and more people are looking for flexible, one-off opportunities, in a team, for a few hours only. No induction/training days, no forms to fill out. Some want the physical exercise, others want to see a quick result. Maybe they want to check out an existing group before they commit long-term, while others simply want to be out of the house for a few hours, meeting like-minded people. Also, the flexibility of Pop-Up projects with no rostered shifts, suits many volunteers who may be committed to full-time work or study, shift-work, child-care, eldercare, travelling and sporting commitments.

We see more Pop-Up initiatives in the community that fit this trend and with social media, a group can rally an army quite quickly if needed. There are many organisations that have flexible team opportunities where volunteers Pop-Up once a month, eight weeks in a row or on a more casual basis with the family.

Often the smaller scale of these events means they can target specific needs within the communities we work with, and leave a real and positive impact.

We also see Pop-Up volunteers "stick" somewhere simply because they found a cause and environment that fits by trying it out first.

Are you a "Pop-Up-Person?" Options available now. Contact us to find out more. DOC, Quarry Gardens, Clean Up groups and more.



Board's Column

Megan Wills is a Director of Wills Westenra Limited, a boutique law firm based in Whangarei. Megan has been a trustee of Volunteering Northland since 2015 although has been involved in volunteering roles since arriving in Whangarei almost 17 years ago with her family.



Megan Wills

Volunteering Northland amongst other things connects people with organisations who require support and assistance. The CEO of Volunteering NZ Scott Miller, attended a recent BA5 event hosted by Volunteering Northland with Refining NZ Limited being the major sponsor. Scott Miller told the gathered audience that New Zealanders were the second highest rate of volunteers per capita which is great news for our community.

Last year for national volunteer week Volunteering Northland connected 26 corporates with 21 not for profit organisations with various projects. This was a win-win situation for all.

Corporate volunteering is on the rise and the benefits are becoming more well known, not just for the organisations requiring volunteers, who benefit from the support, assistance, skills and resources of volunteers, but also for the corporates themselves. This results in positive social and environmental impacts on our community. Corporate volunteering benefits the corporates in the following ways:

1. It improves employee engagement as it is shown to increase employee satisfaction and higher staff morale.
2. It improves corporate visibility as it also raises the company's profile in the community which can improve their reputation in the public eye.
3. Corporate volunteering increases employee recruitment which is particularly true of the younger generation who are more than ever committed to changing the world for the better and therefore attracting the best talent to the companies involved.
4. Volunteering also helps employees develop their skills both in regards to developing leadership, communication and problem solving skills while learning to be a team player.
5. Another reason corporate volunteering is of benefit for the companies is in regards to employee retention, studies show a large reduction in the number of resignations when they increase their employee engagement through, amongst other things, corporate volunteering programmes.

Volunteering Northland undertakes a huge role in matching volunteers with organisations and needs in our community and I feel privileged to be involved.

Scheduled Workshops All over Northland

Governance that Adds Value (For anyone on a Board)

Whangarei - 23 August

Mid North - 3 October

Kaitaia - 14 November

FIRST AID & Refreshers

Whangarei - 27+28 Sept (Full First Aid)

Whangarei - 25 Oct (Refresher only)

Mid North - 1+2 Nov (Full First Aid Course)

Governance - Leading Organisations (For Chairs & Managers together)

Whangarei - 11 October

Governance - Leading a Board (For Chairs & Chairs-to-Be)

Whangarei, date TBA

Information and bookings available on our website. Young adult participation at governance workshops is encouraged, bring a participant (under 30) free of charge. Read our article page 3 to learn more.

Good News from Parihaka Community Landcare, but now more Volunteers needed

"The WDC Parks Department are going to continue to fund our project after the Community Grant runs out in July and until at least 2019 - this is awesome as it covers the critical bird breeding season when predators have their greatest impact on our feathered friends".

"WDC have also agreed to fund the setup and running of an additional 30 ha of Parihaka over this time. Therefore, **we will need a few more people** to help with this extra bit of bush. Please get in touch or inform a friend that may be keen to help out. We need to start putting in the bait stations and possum traps Aug/Sept. The work is not too onerous (monthly fills or trap checks in between) and everything is all finished by lunchtime on most outings"

DAI MORGAN - Parihaka Community Landcare



Governance Workshops for Community Organisations

CATHY ROBINSON

"We really appreciate and value these opportunities to up-skill and strengthen our organisations at a price not-for-profits can afford" was one of many participant comments Volunteering Northland received at their May "Governance that Adds Value" workshop.

As a new volunteer trust board member I was one of 56 attendees from 24 organisations at the Whangarei workshop. It provided me with a great grounding in governance, and I saw more experienced trustees find value in it as well. We enjoyed a well-paced day of information presentations interspersed with practical exercises and discussion. Participant feedback found the workshop "well presented with good structure and examples and appropriate exercises" and a "great mixture of theory and practical discussions." Plus the workshop work was supported by the vitally important and regular provision of simple and tasty food to maintain energy and allow breaks to digest new knowledge and network.

This workshop covers the basics of governance for non-profit organisations: what governance is, why it is needed, and the different forms it may take, including what good governance looks like and how a board can be effective at adding value to the organisation. In short: governance what, why and how is explained, so those volunteering their time on a board can ensure they guide their community organisation to optimum success and make our communities the thriving places we want them to be.

I agreed with the participants who praised facilitator Sandy Thompson, Director of LEAD: Centre for Non Profit Leadership. Feedback said "I enjoyed the presenter; her approach was on point, entertaining and interesting" and "I found the content interesting and relevant, especially the 'how to' tips and tools." Sandy knew her subject and many helpful tips came out of questions and discussions throughout the day. She provided handouts on the discussions, including tools for governance self-assessment and guides on key responsibilities and functions of boards. Some of my favourite tips were about what makes a good meeting and a productive agenda structure.

Whether a newcomer to the work, or an old hand, anyone on the board of a community organisation could learn from Volunteering Northland's series of governance workshops.

Participants contribute only about 10% of the workshop costs due to group discounts and funding. Young adult participation is also encouraged with organisations able to bring another participant (under 30) free of charge if they are also involved in their organisation. Funding has been provided for the first three workshops by Oxford Trust and further workshops including First Aid are scheduled all over Northland funded by Foundation North.

Watch out for Clean Up Week September 2018

All over New Zealand thousands of Kiwis are set to do the right thing and take part in New Zealand's largest clean up event in September. Keep New Zealand Beautiful have now partnered with G.J. Gardner Homes, to bring a bigger and better annual Clean Up Week. 10-16 Sept 2018



30 Volunteers from Love Whangarei Clean Up collected 700kg of rubbish in 2 hours from the Hatea riverside 22 July (Image Northern Advocate)

Already groups around Northland are getting stuck in and cleaning up parts of the district. *Love Whangarei Monthly Clean up Group* and *Plogging and Palking, Bay Beach Clean and SeaCleaners* are just some of the initiatives making the streets, rivers and harbours a bit cleaner in Northland.

Whangarei District Council are also coming on-board with providing skip bins in various locations around the district. Gather your team; family, friends and community groups to make 2018 the biggest Northland Clean Up ever.

Contact us for more info.

Love Whangarei Monthly Clean Up Group, next event 11th August.



Kaipara News Bites

Fantastic turnout from the Kaipara Community at our latest governance workshop at the Dargaville Museum with 40 participants. Also a full house for our First Aid Course, also held in Dargaville. Great to see some new and familiar faces.

- Volunteer Opportunities Kaipara**
- PINK RIBBON Street Collection**
- Victim Support Workers**
- Fire & Emergency Volunteers**
- Mangawhai Walking Tracks**
- Literacy and Numeracy Tutors required - Dargaville**
- DOC Kauri Coast - Volunteer Days**
- Driving Mentors - Dargaville**
- Op Shops - Dargaville**
- Mangawhai Plunket & Museum + many more**

Volunteering is Good Business

Volunteering Northland's BA5 (Chamber of Commerce Networking Event), supported by Refining NZ. (Above image)

A great turnout at our inaugural Northland Chamber of Commerce BA5. Scott Miller, CEO of Volunteering NZ addressed the business community as highlighted in Megan's column on page 2.



But, you don't have to be a business to benefit from our team challenges. We have groups from non-profits, youth groups, school teams, training centres, migrant teams and social groups all coming together to make a real and positive impact. Anywhere across the North and Kaipara areas we can connect you with a variety of team projects.

In June, as part of National Volunteering Week, the team at Volunteering Northland galvanised the tenants of the Old Municipal Building for a few hours. Water-blasters, rakes, gloves and a team of 6 made short work of the rear carpark and made a noticeable difference also creating a sense of pride in our surroundings.

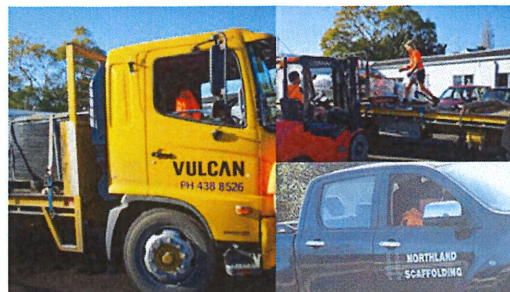
Clean Team

Bart (Volunteering Northland), Moea (Citizen's Advice Bureau) & Jessie (Multicultural Whangarei) were a couple of the team members involved with the carpark cleanup.



Team Work

Teams from Vulcan Steel, Northland Scaffolding & Northtec rallied together to stack bricks on pallets and move them across town to CCS Disability Action. What a group effort supporting a local non-profit.



Our Supporters

Thanks to our funders, to NDSL RICOH for printing the Newsletter, to the non-profits we work with and the thousands of volunteers who put their hands up.

