



**Volunteering
Northland**

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026



Entity Type: Charitable Trust
Charity Registration Number: CC48740

Accountant: Villa Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors

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Annual Report
1 August 2025 - 31 July 2026

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About Us

Volunteering Northland, established in 2012 as a charitable trust, is an independent volunteer centre dedicated to supporting and promoting volunteering across Te Tai Tokerau. Working collaboratively with Volunteering New Zealand and other centres around Aotearoa, we stay connected to the latest trends and best practices in volunteering.

We believe volunteers are the heart of our communities. By working closely with local not-for-profits, community groups, businesses, and individuals, we create opportunities for people to connect and make a difference. We support community groups through training, workshops, and mentoring programs, and we host events that bring together the community sector and those eager to volunteer.

Our Values



Welcoming



Respect



Diversity



Flexibility



Integrity

Our Vision

Engage communities connected through volunteering

Our Purpose

Koha mai, koha atu -
To receive and to give

Volunteering Northland is a connection point for Northland's diverse volunteering communities; building capabilities and promoting opportunities for volunteering organisations and people.

Our Team

Staff

- Bev Giles**
Manager
- Verena Pschorn**
Community Connections Coordinator
- Tara Lewis**
Community Ambassador, Far North
- Astrid Kelly**
Creative Media Designer
- Nataly Cardoso**
Administrator

Board of Trustees

- Nicholas Connop**
Chairperson
- Jane Scripps**
- Liesl Musto**
- Rebecca Rowsell**
- Shirley Peterson**

Our impact across Te Tai Tokerau

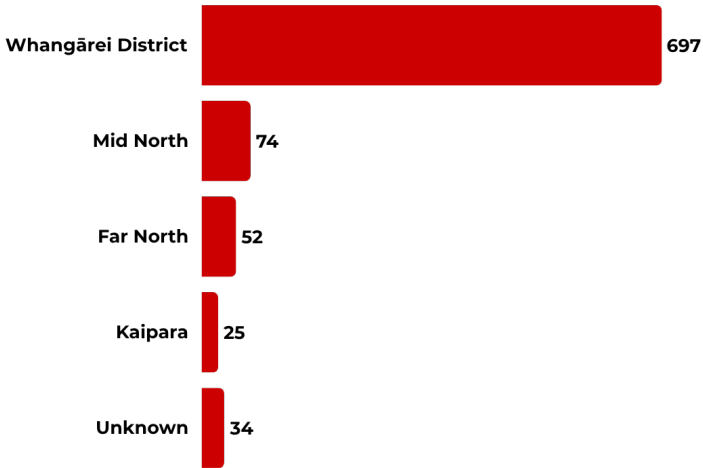
Each year, Volunteering Northland connects hundreds of people and organisations across Te Tai Tokerau. The figures below highlight the growing reach and impact of our mahi from expanding volunteer opportunities to strengthening partnerships with community groups.



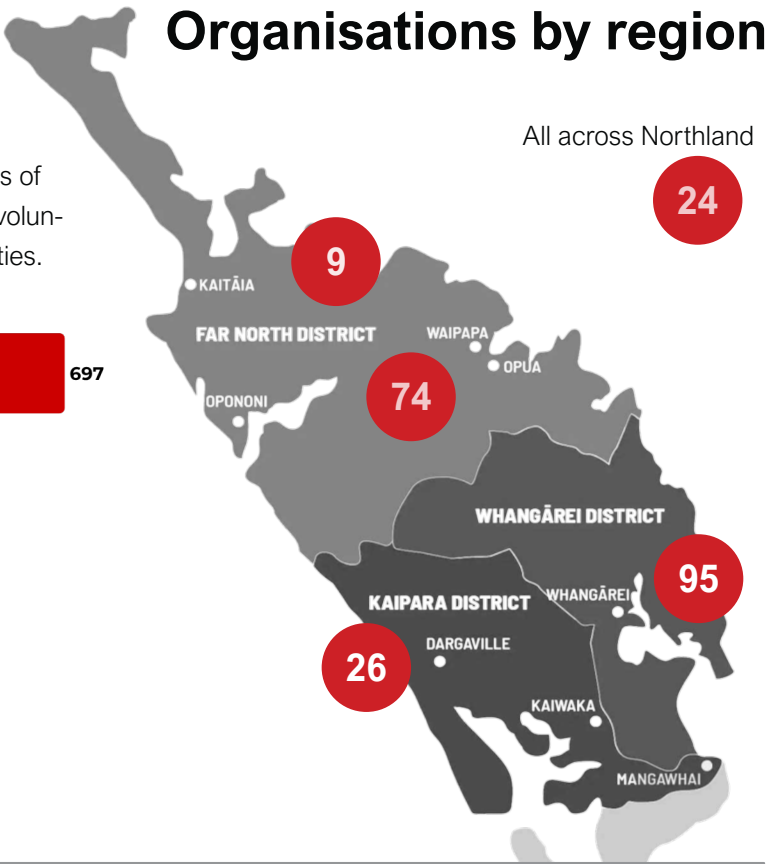
WHERE OUR IMPACT REACHES

Referrals by region

We support people and organisations across all parts of Northland, from Te Hiku o te Ika to Kaipara, helping volunteers find meaningful opportunities in their communities.



Organisations by region

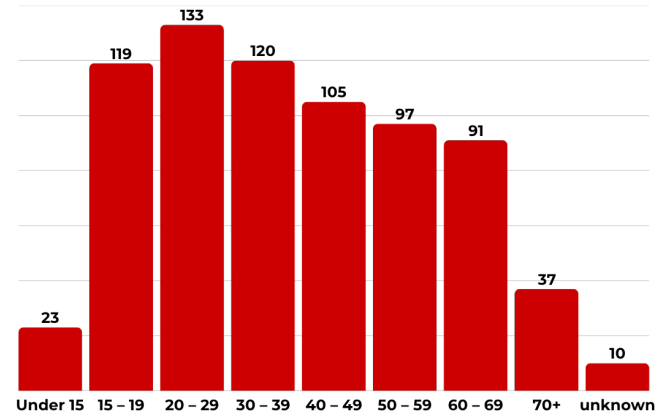


WHO WE CONNECT

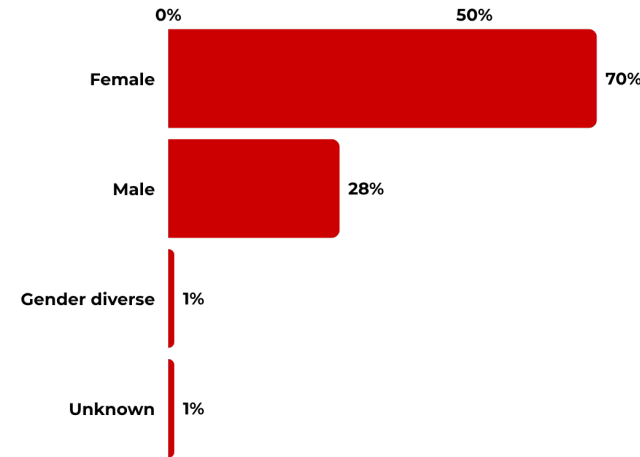
Our volunteers

People of all ages, background and walks of life are making a difference across Te Tai Tokerau through volunteering.

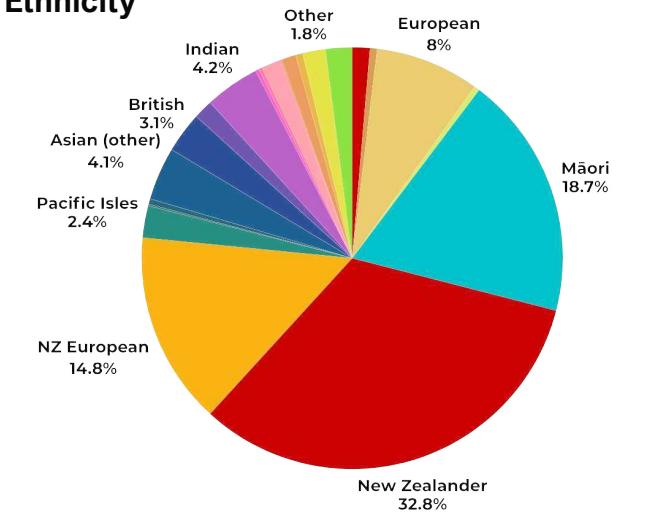
Age group



Gender



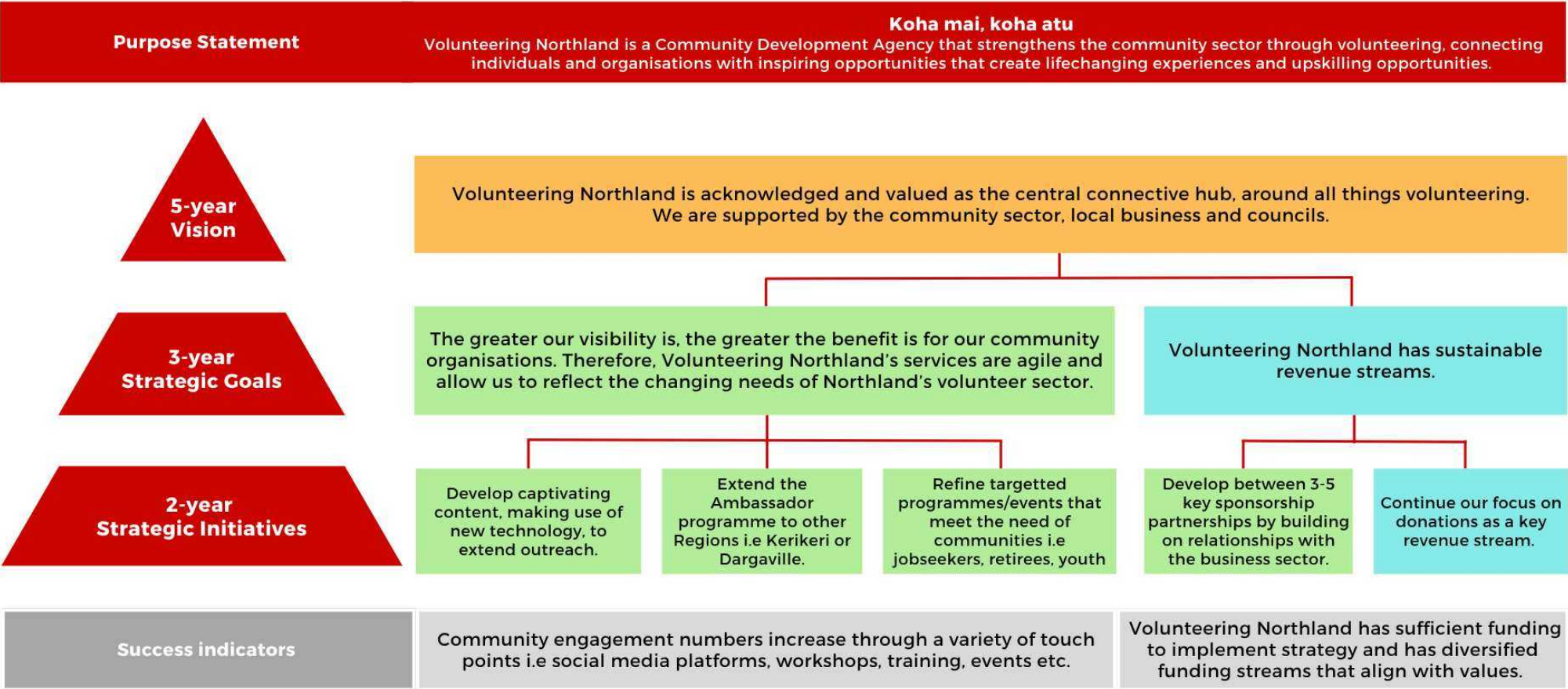
Ethnicity



Strategic Plan



STRATEGIC PLAN 2026 - 2028



In their words

‘The Volunteering Northland team is very responsive to emails, organises lovely celebrations for our volunteers, and offers good opportunities for upskilling. The website is great for advertising our volunteering roles, and you guys are a lovely bunch of people.’

‘Great service, lovely warm team! They are super helpful, offer many volunteering opportunities and connections to volunteer for events and other places. I love the emails that keep me up to date and provide important information.’

‘The team is awesome and work extremely hard. They are pleasant people to deal with, and they provide training at subsidised prices for us. Loved their morning tea to celebrate volunteers.’

Future Outlook

As we look ahead to the New Year, despite the challenging times facing our communities, we remain steadfast in our determination to support the organisations that we serve. At Volunteering Northland we continually seek feedback from our organisations and volunteers and we listen to their needs, so that we can grow, improve and innovate. We will continue to collaborate with others and form new and valuable connections in the community.

We have some exciting events, programmes and workshops coming up and we look forward to continuing to be a vital resource for Northland.

Message from the Chair



Nicholas Connop
Chair, Volunteering Northland

Tēnā koutou katoa

As Chair, I am proud to look back on a year of meaningful achievements and continued momentum for Volunteering Northland. Throughout the period from August 2025 to July 2026, we remained focused on fostering connections between individuals, organisations, and communities across Te Tai Tokerau, championing the positive impact of volunteer engagement.

We welcomed 3 new members to our Board during this time and as a team, wrote a new Strategic plan to carry us through to 2028. This plan addresses the changing needs of the communities that we support and puts measures in place to ensure we are delivering on our key objectives and taking advantage of future opportunities.

Our events and workshops over this past year have been well attended and received and we are proud of what we have been able to achieve, despite the challenging funding environment. It is always heartwarming to see people coming together to be inspired, make new connections and share stories.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to every volunteer, funder, and partner who stands alongside us in this kaupapa. Your generosity, trust, and commitment make our work possible and help create a stronger, more connected Northland.

Our focus for the future is to strengthen governance, diversify partnerships, and build on Volunteering Northland's reputation as a leader in volunteer engagement and capability building.

Ngā mihi nui.

Message from the Manager



Bev Giles
Manager, Volunteering Northland

Kia ora koutou

As I reflect on my past year, I feel very fortunate and privileged to lead Volunteering Northland. I am filled with overwhelming gratitude for the resilience, generosity and spirit that define our volunteer community in Te Tai Tokerau. In times of significant change and challenge, volunteers remain at the heart of our region - turning up day after day to offer a helping hand and share their skills.

My own team also inspire me with their hard work and dedication to the communities they serve. They give so much of themselves every day and are often seen volunteering in their own time. I feel that working in the community space is more of a calling than a job and we are more whānau than work colleagues, which is precious.

The past year has been a challenging one from a financial perspective with funding being more difficult to secure and so much need in our community. My team have remained steadfast in our work and have delivered excellent events, workshops, collaborations and training that have been well attended and received. Often these have been pulled together on a shoestring budget! When times are tough, the need arises for innovation and the willingness to adopt new ideas, and we have certainly championed that.

My personal highlights over the past 12 months were The Big Shout Out Volunteer Teas during National Volunteer week. We hosted over 110 volunteers at these events, and it was wonderful to hear the volunteers' stories as well as witness new friendships being formed over coffee and kai. We truly appreciated the support from Volunteering NZ, to enable these events to take place. Another highlight has been the success of our Far North Ambassador role in Kaitia. Tara joined our team in March and has made a real impact in the Far North communities, connecting volunteers with roles and raising awareness for our mahi.

On behalf of the team at Volunteering Northland - I would like to thank our volunteers, our generous funders, supporters and partner organisations. We look forward to working with you all over the next 12 months and achieving many things to look back on with a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Ngā mihi nui.

Achievements

Reflections from the Community Connections

The past year brought a lot of challenges and changes to the community sector and our organisation – but it also brought out a keener sense of kotahitanga | togetherness and focus on the here and now. Seeing so much compassion and energy in the community is what keeps me going.

The volunteers I have encountered over the last year have been nothing short of amazing. Each person brings their own story, skills, and experiences, and it continues to be a pleasure helping them find the volunteer roles that are right for them. Supporting and advising community organisations with their volunteer programmes makes me proud to play a small part in ensuring volunteering is recognised and valued for the vital role it plays in our society. Organising events and professional development opportunities for them is both challenging and immensely rewarding.

I am especially excited to see the Whangārei Youth Action Group continue to grow and evolve. While I am always a little sad to see some of our older members head off to university, I feel incredibly privileged to witness their growth in confidence and the development of their skills. They will change the world for the better; in fact, they already are. As I reflect on the year gone by, I am deeply thankful to work in such a wonderful and multifaceted role. No two days are ever the same.

Verena Pschorn

Community Connections Coordinator



" They will change the world for the better; in fact, they already are. "



Tara Lewis

Community Ambassador, Far North

My role as the newly appointed Far North Volunteer Ambassador has been enlightening. Reflecting back on what I've learnt it is how important volunteering is for our people. It's everywhere you look from fundraising for health services, assisting others to live their best life or working on community projects that beautify Aotearoa to name a few. Volunteering is something to be proud of; it is a true display of manaaki and whanaungatanga.

Working alongside Far North Hospice has been wonderful. They have helped my family and friends significantly. Any opportunity to help support them is well received. Hosting the National Volunteer Week Big Shout in Kaitiāia was really heartwarming. The stories told that day were really special: so much aroha and respect for the mahi they do. Those stories gave motivation to advocate for what they do and get more helping hands on board.

This role has been challenging at times - public speaking is not my strong suit, but words of encouragement from Bev and Verena got me through it. Meeting the VN Te Tai Tokerau team has been lovely. They are always there to support and keep me up to date with any happenings. I would like to thank Bev, Verena, Astrid and Nataly for welcoming me into the fold and making me a part of such a wonderful team.

Engaging with Community

Volunteering Northland on the road

As the connector for Te Tai Tokerau's diverse volunteering communities, we are committed to promoting volunteer opportunities for organisations and people. We facilitate volunteering projects by offering targeted advice and programs around pathways to employment, youth volunteering, supported volunteering and newcomer volunteering.

48

Networking meetings

Connecting with organisations to share ideas and strengthen community partnerships.

35

Organisation capacity building meetings

Supporting organisations to strengthen their skills and volunteer programmes.

20

Presentations

Sharing the value of volunteering and opportunities to get involved.

12

Stalls

Meeting our communities and helping people discover volunteering opportunities.



Connecting across Northland

We're often on the road to make sure we connect with local communities.

Community stalls

We run volunteer stalls at community events to connect volunteers with our local organisation's roles, to promote volunteering in the regions and find great volunteers for the right volunteer roles.

Presentations

We give presentations on the benefits on volunteering for schools, universities, at jobseeker agencies, and other places where community meets, including advertising for local volunteer roles.

Organisation support

We visit organisations to support them with professional development and offering consultancy services around volunteering and all related topics. We help with capacity building and refining processes around volunteer management by offering advice on anything volunteer-related, like volunteer databases, retention, onboarding, templates, health & safety, policies, and much more.

Networking

We run networking meetings for volunteer managers and coordinators to network, as well as visiting local community networking events to network around volunteering. By centring discussion around lived experiences and sector needs, we foster deeper collaboration, mutual support, and positive momentum across our volunteering communities.



Volunteer Fair

Volunteering Northland's third annual fair a great success



Whangārei Central Library was buzzing with activity on the morning of Saturday the 20th of September, as community organisations and the general public gathered for Volunteering Northland's annual Volunteer Fair.

Following the success of the inaugural event in 2023, the fair has become an annual fixture on Volunteering Northland's calendar. It is designed to build connections, raise public awareness of the diversity and number of community organisations in Northland. It offers an opportunity for aspiring volunteers to find a role that aligns with their values, skills and interests.

Opening with a welcoming speech from former Mayor Vince Cocurullo, the public were then free to browse any one of the 25 stalls representing organisations from a variety of sectors. Approximately 300-400 people were in attendance, many spot prizes for completing micro volunteering activities were awarded, and the treasure hunt proved very popular.



Finding a place to give back

The Volunteer Fair brought people and possible together, showcasing the many ways to contribute to a stronger, more connected Northland. Whether it was discovering a new interest or having a conversation with an organisation, attendees left with fresh ideas about how they can make a difference.



25

community stalls

300 - 400

attendees



The Big Shout Out

National Volunteer Week 2026

4

town visited

42

organisations

120

volunteers connected

Taking time to recognise and appreciate volunteers is at the heart of National Volunteer Week and our Big Shout Out campaign. It doesn't need to be complicated or costly, just meaningful.

Our Northland team hit the road for another tiki tour across Te Tai Tokerau, armed with fresh baking and a deep commitment to honouring the incredible volunteers in our region. We loved celebrating over 120 volunteers we got to meet all across Te Tai Tokerau during National Volunteer Week! Thank you for sharing your stories of volunteering, finding meaning and community and making a difference!

Thank you, Kaitia, Dargaville, Kerikeri, and Whangārei for the amazing turnout - we are so humbled by the mahi you

do! From running museums to protecting endangered species, to teaching swimming, feeding whānau and making sure that every child has the best start to life, we are honoured to be able to hear from you and share the immeasurable impact you make!

The celebrations reminded us how volunteering breaks down barriers and builds bridges. It's a powerful force for inclusion, nurturing wellbeing, strengthening relationships, growing skills, and uplifting mana.

A big Thank You to Volunteering New Zealand for supporting us to make the teas possible- and a huge mihi to JustServe for providing additional baking and lovely thank you cards.



International Volunteer Year

UN Partnership

Volunteering Connects People – Worldwide! For 2026, we planned something very special: our partnership initiative for International Volunteer Year 2026 (IVY)!

We are partnering with our German sister organisations 'Wir tun 'was. RLP' and 'MEM, Mainzer Ehrenamtsbuero'! This ongoing partnership presents a fantastic opportunity to exchange knowledge, learn about each other's cultures and forge cross-country friendships with some amazing German volunteers – broadening our perspective on volunteering around the world.

MEM ('Mein Engagement in Mainz' | My Involvement in Mainz) is the volunteer centre for Mainz, capital of the German state Rhineland-Palatinate in the middle of Germany. Like us, they connect and strengthen the community through volunteer engagement and professional development. They promote a 'culture of participation' by



supporting volunteer organisations, as well as helping individuals to find the right volunteer role.

'Wir tun 'was. RLP' (roughly translated to 'We Get Things Done in Rhineland-Palatinate') focuses on strengthening and growing volunteer recognition and structural support on a regional and national level. They run campaigns like the RLP Volunteer Day and the Volunteer Card and advocate for volunteering on a wider political level to strengthen a lively and active civic community'.

We're celebrating with regular collaboration updates on our website and social media, to encourage a year of fruitful and engaging conversations and events.



Whangārei Youth Action Group

Young people making a difference in Whangārei

15 youth members

The Whangārei Youth Action Group consists of 15 youth wanting to do good and volunteer in the Whangārei community. Together, they organise events and projects for young people.

The biggest project this year was the Civics Education project – a project that teaches students more about how voting works and how they can make a difference in our community. Their short educational reels reached thousands online.

They also ran this year's School Strike for Climate for Whangārei, connecting to MPs, organising health & safety plans, marching routes and more - giving youth a voice and showcasing climate action and environmental awareness nationally.

The youth group meets once a month to plan and then run events that help their community, other youth, and the environment. They give all their time for free because they want to see Whangārei become a more inclusive and interesting place for other youth.

Youth-led action. Community-wide impact.



Youth Creators Christmas Market & Wrapping Station

40+
youth stallholders

500 - 800
visitors



A year of achievements



The Amazing Youth Volunteer Race

50 participants competing in The Amazing Youth Volunteer Race, connecting with seven community organisations



Scholarship & Youth CV writing workshop

Scholarship & Youth CV writing workshop run by one of the group members with 34 participants, supported by WDC and NorthTec



Highschools roadshow Whangārei

Highschools roadshow Whangārei – over 300 youth conversations over a week



Inner-city clean-up days

Two inner city clean-up days in collaboration with F.O.R.C.E.

Other achievements throughout the year:

- New Whangārei Youth Action website, with volunteer roles specifically for youth and plenty of information on volunteering
- New youth volunteering booklet for schools and youth organisations published

Training and Workshops

Financial Skills Workshop – Building Capability Across Te Tai Tokerau

Building capability within community organisations is a cornerstone of Volunteering Northland's Strategic Plan. We've continued to support not-for-profits in becoming more attuned, knowledgeable, and confident in their financial skills.

Facilitated by an experienced chartered accountant, this one-day workshop offered practical tools, fresh insights, and greater confidence to navigate today's funding environment and strengthen their mahi. Open to all community groups across the Mid and Far North, it presented a powerful opportunity to grow financial literacy, from reading reports and building budgets to making data-informed decisions.

The workshops fostered a supportive, down-to-earth environment where community organisations could build financial know-how in ways that felt accessible, relevant, and empowering.



"Mā te rongo, ka mōhio, Mā te mōhio, ka mārama, Mā te mārama, ka mātau, Mā te mātau, ka ora.
From listening comes knowledge, from knowledge comes understanding, from understanding comes wisdom, from wisdom comes well-being"

2
workshops

24
attendees

Feedback

"Informative and very helpful"
"Very useful, clear and easy to understand"
"Very informative and easy to follow for some complex terms"
"A great Overview to give me a better understanding as a board member"
"Ka rawe! Excellent!"
"Very comprehensive and clear. Lots and lots of information covered."
"Found very helpful and the presenter made herself engaging."

Essential First Aid



7
workshops

107
attendees

Seven first aid workshops brought together 107 attendees for hands-on learning, offering opportunities to practise first aid techniques and learn how to respond to emergencies.

With heartfelt thanks

Thank you to all the volunteers who have given their time, expertise and aroha to contribute to the capacity and capability of Volunteering Northland. They gave more than 750 volunteer hours over the year to support our work.



750+

volunteer hours
contributed over the year

Current and Former Board of Trustees

Teresa Hart - Chairperson
Francoise Vaughan - Treasurer
Nicholas Connop
Mark Vincent
Rebecca Rowsell
Jane Scripps
Liesl Musto
Shirley Peterson

Admin and Event Support

Sharee Scawboard
Wendy Holland
Sacha Brown

Whangārei Youth Action Group

Chloe Harrison	Lara Hammer
Emma Tyson	Leon Harvey
Ezrah Armstrong	Liesl Musto
Frankie Johns	Olivia Howard
Grayson Sutherland	Pallavi Kaushik
Harita Patel	Sharee Scawboard
Jodie Rameka	Simran Kaur

Connect & Website

Tim Wylie



Writers / Reporters

Janie Duncan

Social Media Support

Orawan Promptana
Viktor Rodriguez Gee



Thank you to our Funders & Supporters

Ara Taiohi	Foundation North	Pub Charity
ASB Community Fund	Grassroots Trust	Ray White
Blue Sky Community Trust	Harcourts Foundation	Trillian Trust
COGS	Lotteries	Volunteering New Zealand
Department of Internal Affairs	Northland Community Foundation	Westpac
Eclipse Architecture	Oxford Sports Trust	Whangarei District Council
Far North District Council		



Member Organisations

155 Whare Āwhina
1st Dargaville Girls' Brigade
57 Squadron ATC Dargaville
Abbeyfield Whangārei
Athletics Northland
Bald Angels Charitable Trust
Bay of Islands Riding for the Disabled
Baylys Beach Society Incorporated
Baysport Inc.
Beagle Radio
Blind Low Vision NZ
Blue Club
BOI Animal Rescue
Books Bikes and Beyond Charitable Trust
Bowls Northland Inc.
Bream Bay Coastal Care Trust
Bream Head Conservation Trust
Breast Cancer Foundation NZ
Breast Cancer Support Northland Trust
Bushland Trust
Cancer Society Northland
Canine Friends Pet Therapy Inc.
Carbon Neutral NZ Trust
Citizens Advice Bureau Far North Inc.
Citizens Advice Bureau Whangarei
City Cricket Club
Coastguard North Kaipara
CollaborationNZ
Creative Northland
Dargaville Arts Association Inc
Dargaville Community Development Board Incorporated
Dargaville Mainly Music
Dargaville Museum
Dementia Tai Tokerau
Department of Conservation
Department of Corrections
Doubtless Bay Sea Scout Group
Dragonfly Springs Wetland Sanctuary
Dress for Success Northland
Dyslexia PLUS
EcoCentre Kaitaia
EcoSolutions Whangārei
English Language Partners Northland
Far North Community Foodbank
Far North Community Hospice

Far North Search and Rescue
Fire and Emergency
For Our Real Clean Environment (F.O.R.C.E.)
Forget Me Not Adult Day Centre
Friends of Matakoho / Limestone Island
Friends of Maunu Cemetery
Friends of Rangikapiti Reserve Society Incorporated
GirlGuiding New Zealand
Good Bitches Trust
Greenways Trust
Grow Paparoa Inc, Whakatipu Paparoa
Habitat for Humanity Northland
Hare Krishna Food for Life Charitable Trust
Hokianga Harbor Care / Tiaki Nga Wai o Hokianga
Hospice Kaipara Inc
Hospice Mid-Northland
Hundertwasser Art Centre with Wairau Māori Art
Gallery
I Have A Dream
IHC
Insight Endometriosis
Jigsaw North Family Services
Kaipara Budgeting Service
Kerikeri Basin Weed busters
Kerikeri Community Patrol
Kerikeri Retirement Village
Kiwi Coast Trust
KnowYourStuff NZ
Kumarani Productions Trust
Lions Club of Ruawai
Mahitahi Hauora
Mangawhai Daring Trust
Mangawhai Heads Volunteer Lifeguard Service Inc
Mangawhai Museum and Historical Society
Mangawhai Tracks Charitable Trust
Maungatapere Mountain Trust
Maunu Gardens Project Charitable Trust Inc
Mid North Māori Wardens Est. 2012
Mid North Women's Aid and Refuge
Multicultural Whangārei
New Zealand Red Cross
No. 20 Squadron (Whangarei Branch)
Air Training Corps
North Haven Hospice
North Kaipara Agricultural Association

North Rodney Blue Light Ventures Inc.
Northern Wairoa Agricultural And Pastoral Association
Northland Car Club Inc
Northland Community Foundation
Northland Craft Trust / Quarry Arts Centre
Northland Indian Association
Northland Multiple Sclerosis Society
Northland Society of Arts Inc (Reyburn House)
Northland Youth Theatre
NZ Police Northland District Headquarters
NZSL Club Trust
ONEONESIX
Onerahi Community Association
Onerahi Weeds Group
Our Kerikeri
Parihaka Community Landcare
Parkinson's New Zealand
Pehiōweri Marae
Pioneer Village Kaikohe
Puke Kopipi Restoration Group
Pukenui Western Hills Forest Charitable Trust
Questionable Research Labs
Radio Lollipop NZ
Raumanga Community Garden
ReSport Charitable Trust
Royal Forest And Bird Protection Society Of New Zealand - Northern Branch
Royal NZ Plunket Trust - Northland Area
Rural Support Trust - Northland
Rural Youth and Adult Literacy Trust
Sail Northland Charitable Trust
Soul Food What's Cooking Whangarei
Special Olympics Whangarei
Sport Northland
St John New Zealand | Hato Hone Aotearoa
Taonga O Te Moana
Taonga Oranga Charitable Trust
Te Ahu Museum
Te Houtaewa Maori Charitable Trust
Te Kamo Community Inc.
Te Kopuru Amateur Swimming Club Inc
Te Kowhai Print Trust
Te Ora Hou Northland
Te Tai Tokerau Emergency Housing
Te Wairua O Te Moananui - Ocean Spirit

The Best Dog Trust
The Blue Goose Papermill Charitable Trust
The Dargaville Gardens Trust
The Kauri Museum
The Northland Pacific Islands Charitable Trust - Fale Pasifika Te Tai Tokerau
The Packard Motor Museum
The Salvation Army
The Scout Association of New Zealand
The Shutter Room
Tiaho Trust
Tiakina Kerikeri (Northland Regional Council)
Tiakina Whangārei
Tiki Pride
TTTWON
Wai A Ariki Food Forest Onerahirahi
Waipoua Forest Trust
Waipu Business and Community Incorporated
Waipu Caledonian Society
Weed Action Native Habitat Restoration Trust
Whanau Focus Kaipara Incorporated
Whangarei Agricultural & Pastoral Society
Whangārei Art Museum
Whangarei Cat Rescue Trust
Whangarei Community Patrol
Whangārei District Council
Whangarei District Libraries
Whangarei Lions Club
Whangarei Mens Shed Inc.
Whangarei Museum and Heritage Trust
T/A Kiwi North
Whangārei PROUD
Whangarei Quarry Gardens Trust
Whangarei Rape Crisis Group Incorporated
Whangarei Riding for the Disabled
Whangarei Saloon & Stock Car Club
Whangarei South Rotary
Whangarei Steam and Model Railway Club (Inc)
Whangarei Youth Music
Whangaroa Health Services Trust
Whare Bike
Wild Side Charitable Trust - Arapohue Rural Retreat
WINGS



**Volunteering
Northland**

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KOHA/
HER
Or: Volunte
12-30
AST