



Volunteering Northland



AUTUMN EDITION 2018 | ISSUE 3

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.



CHECK OUT THE NEW CAR!

Thanks to LEVEL for the design and FAST SIGNZ for the graphics and application. We can now fit in the gazebo and stall into the vehicle for our ventures around the North.

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

Autumn Activities Pitch into Planting Projects

CATHY ROBINSON

Many environmental organisations hold planting days over autumn and winter in a variety of regeneration and restoration projects to improve the health of our beautiful Northland region.

Help out to give back for the firewood you are burning, the energy you are using to power your heater and run your heat pump - balance your carbon account this year by lending a hand and planting trees.

This is a great opportunity suitable for all ages and abilities, for any individual, group, club, team, business or family to get outside and help out for a few hours. No experience or special equipment required; all you need to offer is your time, energy, willingness and enthusiasm. Lend a hand for as much or as little time as you can spare – all help is welcomed.

For example: the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust needs planting day participants for a series of events held from May to September to help with the Waitaia Awa Restoration Project to improve freshwater quality and the health of the Waitaia River.

We also work with other environmental groups including DOC, Limestone/Matakohe Island, KiwiCoast, Bream Head, Quarry Gardens, Weedbusters, Parihaka Landcare and many more....Contact us to see what's happening in your area. This is also a great activity for a group or corporate team!





Board's Column

Councillor **Cherry Hermon** chairs the Community Development Committee for the Whangarei District Council, which has a particular focus on advancing and strengthening communities through engagement and utilising community energy.



Cherry Hermon

Where would this country be without its volunteers? We learn about volunteering through childhood, where every kindergarten, pre-school and school is supported by a willing group of parent volunteers, but it doesn't stop there, and as we grow through life we are constantly met by worthy organisations we can help. But there is another whole world of worthy organisations we don't meet, and that's where Volunteering Northland plays such a valuable role as it helps connect people to groups or organisations around the North for the betterment of everyone.

Volunteering Northland is an organisation dedicated to helping groups, workplaces and businesses, charities and other organisations find a fit with community volunteers. Its like a shop....pop in, browse the shelves, and see what you like. Do you like working with your hands? Working with the elderly or the needy? Do you have needlework, teaching or carpentry skills? Just like fixing things? Volunteering Northland is now in its 5th year and has over 2,000 listed volunteers and working with over 160 organisations that need extra hands.

Who can volunteer? Anyone, all you need is the ability to give of your time. Volunteering Northland can help match your skills and interests with the requests on offer.

The importance and value society places on our volunteers is well recognised by the bronze sculpture in the Whangarei Mall, depicting a group of community figures with their arms raised in the air, offering to help. It was commissioned during the Millenium celebrations, and constructed by artist Peter Yeates and despite a few run-ins with cars and vandals, still proudly stands and represents the spirit of volunteering, which I'm happy to say runs strong in our beautiful New Zealand.

Governance and First Aid Training - Northland

Thanks Triple One Care for running the latest First Aid Workshop in Whangarei, also to Kamo Fire and Emergency for providing the venue.

Dargaville - FIRST AID - 19/20 April Kaikohe - FIRST AID - 7/8 May

Places available on Kaikohe course, standby for Darg. These are heavily subsidised thanks to Pegasus Funding. *After these workshops, we have sponsored 200 people in First Aid. Time for a refresher - look out more more info soon. **Below, a photo gallery of what to expect.**



All Go for Governance

We are pleased to announce we have scheduled the FIRST Governance Workshop for Whangarei.

"Governance that Adds Value" - this is for anyone on a Board. We also encourage **Youth** participation. 17-30 year olds can attend for **FREE** with another participant. **Whangarei, 10th May.**

We are currently working with other funders to enable us to run this, and other workshops in the Mid/Far North.

The other Governance workshops to be scheduled are:

'Leading a Board' for Chairs & Chairs-to-be
'Leading Organisations' Chairs with Managers



Contact us or visit the website for more info
<https://volunteeringnorthland.nz/organisations/course>

Volunteering Provides Pathway to Paid Work

CATHY ROBINSON

Whangarei migrants Vinkal Gaur and Astrid Kelly found volunteering helped them successfully find paid work.

International Northtec student Vinkal Gaur came to New Zealand in 2017 to study a degree in sport. He wanted to build networks and applied for advertised jobs but found the lack of response frustrating. "I applied for jobs," he says, "but I never heard back."

As part of a Multicultural Whangarei employment program he volunteered to lead Yoga classes. Then a referral to the Whangarei Aquatic Centre resulted in a few weeks working as a volunteer there until he was offered a paying job as a group fitness instructor.

"This is the ideal job for me," he says, "it is an amazing place to work... it is very satisfying."

Migrant Astrid Kelly had a similar experience; after migrating to New Zealand from the Philippines to join her kiwi husband she researched job searching and learnt volunteering could help.

"Volunteering can give you exposure... it can be a stepping stone to work," she says. Like Gaur, she had no success in applying for advertised jobs but worked as a volunteer through a Multicultural Whangarei employment program and joining Volunteer Northland.



International student Vinkal Gaur credits volunteering & networking opportunities found through Multicultural Whangarei for finding his perfect job.



"My first volunteering in administration was for Plunket," says Kelly. She was also a volunteer event photographer for Multicultural Whangarei.

She used these work experiences and references when applying for paid work at Literacy Whangarei, a vacancy she discovered through her Multicultural Whangarei network. She has worked as a Literacy Whangarei administrator since May 2017.

"Volunteering is good for foreigners to know how it works here in New Zealand," Kelly says.

Multicultural Whangarei Centre Manager Jessie Manney agrees, "Lots of New Zealand employers want local experience."

As well as gaining local work experience and references, Manney has found volunteering helps migrants develop networks, get to know their community and learn how things are done here.

She has observed that being a successful volunteer helps newcomers build confidence as well as providing opportunities to practice language skills, all of which help with success in getting paid work.

Volunteering gave migrant Astrid Kelly local work experience and references used to find paid work at Literacy Whangarei.

Welcome to the Minister for Volunteering, Peeni Henare

The Hon. Minister Peeni Henare at the Volunteering Northland Office. Thanks for taking time out to see us. L to R. Megan Wills (Trustee/Treasurer), Bart van der Meer (Manager), Lucy Schuurman (IT Specialist/Administrator), Hon. Peeni Henare (Minister for Community and Voluntary Sector, Youth, Whānau Ora, Assoc. Min Social Development), Fiona Morgan (Trustee/Chair).

A typical Northland welcome, combined with a drenching from the effects of Cyclone Hula. (Gumboots were the footwear of choice on the day)





Kaipara News Bites

Thank you to the Kaipara Community for welcoming us at the Northland Field Days in Dargaville. It was great to connect with the wider community and seeing a bunch of familiar faces.

We learnt that volunteers are the backbone of the Kaipara community and are doing great things. Please get in touch as we are always looking for new opportunities to publish on our website.

Area Coordinators needed for PINK RIBBON Street Collection

Victim Support Workers

Fire & Emergency Volunteers

DOC Kauri Coast - Volunteer Days

Literacy and Numeracy Tutors required - Dargaville

Mangawhai Walking Tracks

Diving Mentors - Dargaville

DOC Kauri Coast - Volunteer Days

Gardening Maungaturoto

Retail Shops; Hospice and Red Cross - Dargaville

Mangawhai Museum - Book Fair and Cafe

Waipoua Forest - Trustees

Plunket - Mangawhai

Kaurilands Skills Centre -

Resident Support + more on our website



Bay Beach Clean - Paihia

DIANA SMITH

All ready for the off at 8.45 am: bag packed ready (sun cream-check, sunnies - check, hat - check, rubbish bags, gardening gloves - check errr, rubbish bags, gardening gloves?!) They're packed because it's Bay Beach Clean. Bay Beach Clean is a group of volunteers who meet alternate Sunday mornings to collect rubbish from Waitangi to Te Haumi. There is an 'A' team and a 'B' team who start at different ends of the Bay and meet in the middle at Alongside Restaurant in Paihia for a generous free coffee and chat afterwards.

John and I have only taken part three times so far. We were a little bit surprised the first time when we realised that there were only three of us. We checked the time and place, 'B' team, 9.00 by the boat ramp at Te Haumi. We looked around at dog walkers and ramblers wondering if they were part of the team, but no, so the three of us got on with it. With some advice from the other volunteer we collected not only glass, cans, paper etc but treated wood that can leak chemicals into the sea. Amazingly the most common debris washed up on the shore was pegs. Between us we also found an assortment of woolly hats, socks and undies (possibly from faraway peg-less washing lines!)

The next time we took extra collection bags with us thinking that there may be detritus from Christmas and New Year's Eve revels. Pleasingly the good folk of the Bay had mostly cleaned up after themselves (or the council had got there first!)

It's a really nice way to start the day. We have lots of cheerful chats with people we meet along the way, a few shout outs from well wishers, a lovely coffee from Alongside, a warm feeling inside and best of all we made friends with another Bay Beach Clean volunteer. Sadly, we haven't managed to meet up with any A team volunteers yet, we must keep missing each other.

Check the Bay Beach Clean website for dates and times to help keep the bay beautiful.

<http://www.baybushaction.org.nz/BayBeachClean>

Bay Beach Clean volunteer two weekly over summer (November to April) then on the second Sunday of the month over winter (May to October). **Dates (2018)**

Team A - Start 8am
Team B - Start 9am

15 April
29 April
13 May
10 June



Our Supporters

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

