



Volunteering Northland



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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.

Want to Volunteer?

One-off or long-term, in a team or behind the scenes? There is a wide range of opportunities available, so everyone can find something that fits.

If you want to donate some time, energy, and/or skills, contact us or check out the full list of opportunities on our website.

Need a Volunteer?

Looking for some fresh energy, extra hands, or specific skills? Are you expanding your services or organising an event?

Get in touch - we advertise these events in many ways and connect potential volunteers with the non-profit sector.

Contact us

Online

www.volunteeringnorthland.nz

On Foot

Suite 11, 71 Banks St. Whangarei

By Phone

09 945 4984 or 0800 865 268

By E-mail

info@volunteeringnorthland.nz



Find Us On Facebook
Volunteering Northland

One off/Team Volunteering an attractive option.

In June, as part of National Volunteer Week the team at Volunteering Northland promoted "Team or Corporate Volunteering". Our idea was to connect local business leaders with non-profit organisations. 21 projects were actioned with 26 different teams joining up. That's 120+ volunteers! We also had non-profit groups banding together to help out other non-profits. Some individuals have offered on-going support to the organisations they were involved with.

Projects ranged from environmental work, book sorting, painting, meal preparation, sports and media brainstorming. Thanks to everyone involved. Volunteering is great for team building while helping your local community. Contact us to find out how you can help.



Dive! Tutukaka team working on moving "Mulch Mountain" at Puke Kopipi Reserve, Ngunguru. The team thoroughly enjoyed their volunteering experience, and plan to volunteer again.

Did You Know?

Volunteering reduces the body's stress levels and releases endorphins (the body's natural painkillers.)

95% of people feel good after volunteering.

Regular volunteers are 10x as likely to be in better health than people who don't volunteer.



Board's Column

Libby Jones works to enable community and government organisations in health, social services and education to develop healthier and stronger communities. She is manager at Jigsaw North Family Services, member of Northland District Health Board and a Kaipara District Councillor.



Libby Jones

"I am fortunate to be a trustee on the Volunteering Northland board. I say fortunate, as it gives me an opportunity to be with like-minded people, and use my skills and experiences to work towards creating stronger communities across Northland. This gives me great satisfaction, increases my knowledge and networks, and benefits other groups and organisations that I am involved with. Volunteering is a mutual exchange, not only does the organisation benefit, but so does the volunteer.

What creates a good fit between volunteer and organisation or role? While the task-to-volunteer matching and suitability around time required, location, and so on are important in determining this, the purpose of the match between person and volunteer work is also essential. When you examine your beliefs, values and purpose for volunteering, and the purpose of an organisation, it helps to find the right organisation to be involved in.

My purpose for volunteering is to assist in improving people's lives, especially those who are disadvantaged. Seeing individuals, groups and communities achieve their goals and improve their circumstances is something I value, and dedicate my time towards achieving.

Volunteering Northland's purpose in helping communities become stronger through supporting volunteers and organisations is a good match for me. Volunteering Northland strengthens communal bonds, and makes Northland a better place for all."

Opportunity of the Season!

In July 2017, Fire and Emergency New Zealand Service Area Manager, Wipari Henwood, sent out an open letter to all of Northland. The Far North are currently experiencing significant volunteer shortages that impacts the Fire Service's ability to respond to callouts, and he is asking people to step forward to make a difference.

Most people think they need to be a physically strong and active person to be involved, but age, gender, and fitness are no barrier to being a volunteer. If you are prepared to step forward and support your community, the Fire Service will help you to find a suitable role – be it fighting fires or providing administration support at the station.

Can you assist? Even if you cannot volunteer yourself, you might know someone who is up for the challenge. Contact us today to get involved and make a difference.



Kamo High School students John Wallace and Sean Hay, both 17, are the youngest members of the Kamo Volunteer Fire Brigade

Food For The Soul

Every Monday and Friday afternoon, the seemingly quiet hall on Deveron Street Whangarei transforms into a buzzing hub of activity, as volunteers gather in a collective effort to feed those less fortunate.

Soul Food is organised by Chris Youens and Rochelle Hedges, two passionate and caring people who make the community of Whangarei a better place. They have been running the Soul Food programme for the past five years, improving the lives of those in need.

They are always looking for volunteers - people are needed to help prepare, cook, and serve food, as well as clean up afterwards. If you think this could be for you, get in touch with us.

Soul Food also relies on food donations - both perishable and non-perishable goods are welcome. You can drop off food at the hall on Monday and Friday afternoons from 4pm. Contact us for any more information on Soul Food, or search for them on Facebook - 'Soul Food What's Cooking Whangarei'.

Boomerang Bags a Hit

DIANA SMITH

As newbie volunteers my niece Connie and I were a little apprehensive. With our sewing paraphernalia tucked under our arms we were on our way to the 35 Degrees South restaurant on the Paihia waterfront. This was the venue for making Boomerang Bags, a charity originally set up in Australia which involves making shopping bags from recycled material to replace plastic carriers. It sounded great but, really, what had we let ourselves in for? We'd have to speak to people we didn't know, would our novice needlework skills be given scant regard? Brave faces on, we giggled that we were off to save the planet (a side effect of volunteering!!) with a pillowcase, scissors, pins and a sewing machine.

Sarah Greener, the organiser, greeted us and filled us in on the tasks. Although it was only just past 9.00 am there were already lots of busy people cutting out fabrics, pinning, sewing, ironing and screen printing. Connie and I set ourselves up on the cutting out table. Boxes galore of gorgeous fabrics had been donated by a local curtain company, along with other donated fabrics. We enjoyed choosing material for bags we thought we would like, then sensibly realised it wasn't about us, it was about making as many as possible. Sarah told us that the Paihia FourSquare used at least 300 plastic bags a day. Boomerang Bags had a mission. Get people to use a fabric bag to take home their shopping, then return it to the shop on their next trip in so others could use it.

We were too busy to be nervous now, we were part of a team generating a real buzz. Sarah, and her family had kindly provided morning tea, and I joked that we were working in the most beautiful sweat shop in the world. Seriously, have you seen the view from 35 Degrees South? Sun was pouring in through the windows. The bay was at its best. If a unicorn had flown overhead it couldn't have been any better!

It had been a very productive morning, with many bags made and volunteers taking some home to finish. Thanks to 35 Degrees South's incredible venue and Sarah's excellent organisational skills Connie and I had a brilliant introduction to volunteering and although the planet isn't quite saved yet Boomerang Bags is certainly raising awareness and doing something about it. I'll be back next time, hope to see you there too.

Boomerang Bags is a grassroots, community driven movement tackling plastic pollution at its source. Volunteers from all walks of life get together to make re-useable 'boomerang bags' using recycled materials, as a means to provide a sustainable alternative to plastic bags.

Plastic Bag Free Whangarei also run a similar bag making initiative every second Tuesday on Mill Rd, Whangarei.

Contact us to find out more.

From the Far North

Prison Literacy attracts New Volunteers

A literacy programme for prisoners is having huge success teaching offenders basic reading and writing skills to assist them with their reintegration back into the community. The NZ Howard League is a charitable organisation that has been running a literacy programme in prisons since 2011. A recent recruitment drive by Volunteering Northland has seen 15 volunteers offer their services with 12 already through the induction course at the Northland Regional Corrections facility at Ngawha near Kaikohe.

Full House for First Aid

40 representatives from Mid and Far North non-profit organisations benefited from the subsidised First Aid Courses held in Kerikeri and Kaitia recently. Grants were provided by Foundation North, Pub Charities and Oxford Sports Trust. Contact us to register your interest in the next one.

North Opportunities

Too many to list here, all volunteer opps can be found on our website, filter the search to your location and/or interests or Call us!

Eco warriors, Retail extraordinaires, Drivers, Befrienders, Search and Rescue Radio, Fire Service, Info Centre, Theatre and Museum Hosts, Literacy, Guides, Train Guards...

Age is no barrier to volunteering. Check out the St John youths we met at our Stall during the Mangonui Waterfront Festival earlier this year.





Kaipara News Bites

Wikipedia affirms the Kaipara's strong community connections, be part of this by helping out your local non-profit.

"Community spirit is strong among the various rural communities, as is evident by the numerous local clubs, volunteer organisations and other initiatives" 2017

DOC Kauri Coast - Volunteer Days

Literacy and Numeracy

Tutors required - Dargaville

Mangawhai Walking Tracks

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

Workshops Update

Communication Workshops running in Kaitiaki and Whangarei.

27 October and 7 December, a couple of places still available.

For Volunteer Managers - don't miss out on Rob Jackson's Seminar 2 Nov. All info on our website.

Register your interest for the next subsidised **FIRST AID** on our website.

Growing a Strong Connection

Staff and residents of the Falls Estate jumped at the chance offered by Volunteering Northland to support The Papermill by tending to their gardens.

Recently two of the Falls Estate gardening team, Chris Allen and Sam Camocamo, the Village Manager, Ros Martin and a resident Ken Barber, spent a morning pulling weeds and chopping back overgrown plants in readiness for new planting which will be colourful and vibrant, but easier to care for.

Village Manager, Ros Martin says that she sees the gardening effort as a wonderful opportunity to create a lasting connection between the Falls Estate Village and The Papermill. "Many of our residents have been keen gardeners and love the chance to do something meaningful and special for a group of people in the community who are achieving to their highest ability," she said.

"We anticipate that we will take these refurbished gardens under our collective wing and keep them looking attractive over time. We also hope that the papermakers will visit us at the Village to inspire us with their amazing art work. It's the beginning of a long term relationship between the two organisations."

The Papermill Business Manager, Paula Lang says that they have been thrilled to have the Falls Estate become associated with The Papermill. "While we would love to tend to the gardens ourselves, it's just not possible – so we are very grateful to The Falls Estate. What they achieved in a morning is more than we could have ever imagined, and we look forward to keeping in touch in a variety of ways with the staff and residents."



Our Supporters

