



# Volunteering Northland



SUMMER EDITION 2017/18 | ISSUE 2

## 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.



The Municipal Building in Bank St had a recent facelift, the huge flower urns also needed attention. Volunteering Northland planted them and they have now flowered. Can you see what we did there?

## Contact us

### Online

[www.volunteeringnorthland.nz](http://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](mailto:info@volunteeringnorthland.nz)



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Volunteering Northland

## Events of the Summer!

As we struggle to balance life's demands, often not enough time is left for volunteering. Episodic or one-off volunteering offers an opportunity to volunteer quite quickly without the long-term commitment. It is also a great way to engage in a variety of roles with different activities for different organisations.

Volunteering Northland has 'partnered up' with a range of event-organisers to help recruit volunteers for festivals, arts, cultural, education and eco events this summer.

Hop on-line and check out all the one-off events, learn new skills, meet new people, become part of a fun crew and add to your CV.

Search "one off events"

See below for some of the events that are online.



Whangarei Heads Arts Trail 2018



## Board's Column

**Colin (Toss) Kitchen MNZM** is semi-retired but in saying so is kept busy within the Northland Region. He is presently the Chief Fire Officer of the Kaitia Volunteer Fire Brigade where he has been a member for some 49 years. Also he is a Far North District Councillor, a Member of the Northland District Health Board and is Chairperson of the Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group. Last but not least he is a Trustee on the Board of Volunteering Northland, a position that is dear to his heart.



**Colin (Toss) Kitchen MNZM**

The contribution that Volunteers make to our economy and indeed to the society of NZ is second to none. Whether it be within sports, culture, arts, recreation, health, education, environment or emergency sectors, Volunteering contributes in excess of \$3.5 billion to our country's gross domestic product (GDP). You marvellous Volunteers out in our community can be very proud of what you do 24/7, 365 days of the year.

I urge you all out there to shoulder tap members of your communities in relation to increasing our Volunteering Northland data base, thus spreading the work load.

Recently, we as a board have purchased a vehicle, this great asset will soon be sign written and will be very visible throughout Northland. If you should spot our vehicle please don't hesitate to make yourself known to our staff.

**In conclusion I would like reinforce:**

### Our Vision

A community where voluntary work comes naturally, is recognised and respected, as life enhancing for the individual and advances the common good.

### Our Mission

To celebrate, support, and highlight Volunteering.

To provide training, advice, advocacy and recognition for individuals and community organisations involved in Volunteering.

To create more volunteering opportunities for youth, migrants and others who are looking to find their place in Communities.

### Our Values

Friendliness, respect, diversity, flexibility, integrity.

## Volunteering Provides Interest and Stimulation

### CATHY ROBINSON

"I volunteer because it is interesting," long-time Whangarei resident Kim Silvey says of the volunteer work she does for several local organisations. "I like going out and meeting people... I wouldn't stick at it if it wasn't stimulating enough."

Kim started volunteering over six years ago at Citizen's Advice Bureau because she liked the idea meeting lots of people. "It is character building to meet people from other places, and see the challenges they have and to be able to assist them to overcome them." She stayed because she enjoys the stimulating environment and the opportunities to learn. She especially finds her colleagues interesting and she enjoys mentoring new volunteers into the role.

Her ESOL (English as a Second Language) volunteering came from an interest in language, "I find it rewarding to take people through the process of learning English," Kim says. Her volunteer work with the Multiple Sclerosis Society grew out of joining the committee as she herself has MS, and her involvement with the Tiaho Trust is an extension of her paid role as a Trustee. "As with many NGO's there is always plenty of volunteer work to be done."

As an animal lover Kim would like to work with cats and dogs, but while she can choose what to volunteer for, physical limitations may rule out some options. However Kim likes to be busy and is already working on her next challenge: becoming a volunteer Justice of the Peace, representing the disability sector.

"In volunteering, as with everything, it is a matter of be the change you want to see," she says. "That is the most effective way of making change, it is all up to us individually."

**Kim Silvey**







## Kiwi Coast reaches 100!



### NGAIRE TYSON

100 entities are now linked into the Kiwi Coast! Pest Free Pahi near Paparoa hit the milestone when they became part of the collaborative Kiwi Coast initiative last month.

Volunteering Northland would like to acknowledge the tireless volunteers in the North working together to reduce pests, boost biodiversity and help kiwi thrive in the wild. Northland's future is looking bright indeed.

Collectively the 100 entities are actively managing 131,294 hectares, making it New Zealand's largest initiative. Kiwi Coast stretches for 291km up the east coast of Northland from Mangawhai to the Aupouri peninsula in the Far North.

Kiwicoast says "We are now seeing western and inland projects forming and linking into Kiwi Coast too – putting the first steps in place for a kiwi corridor stretching right across Northland from the east to west coast!

As well as helping individual community groups, Kiwi Coast strategically supports predator control in key areas to build continuous landscape scale trapping networks across multiple projects.

Each group that gets underway or links in, not only gives a huge boost to local forests and wildlife, but also fills a gap and takes us all one step closer to the vision of thriving kiwi able to roam and wander freely in Northland."

If you want to get a community pest control or kiwi care group underway, contact Ngaire Tyson, the Kiwi Coast Coordinator.

## Getting Manly

"Most community organisations are unconsciously geared toward catering for women volunteers", says Volunteering Canterbury's Outreach and Marketing Manager, Glenda Martin, and with that comes the risk of alienating a whole heap of potential volunteers without even knowing it.

With volunteering becoming increasingly skill-based, it's more about asking men and women what they want to do as volunteers – what skills do they want to offer back to the community. Recent research confirms that a lack of time is generally the most common reason given for not volunteering. "It's reasonable to assume, if time is limited, that people want to be very specific about where they gift that time", Martin says.

Donald Pettit, from the Christchurch Men's Centre, states that language is important. Volunteering, contributing or making a difference – these are not necessarily terms which resonate with our menfolk. Start talking about lending a hand, pitching in or helping out, though, and you will get men's attention.

Volunteering Northland agree with Martin, in that we should encourage our member organisations to think outside their usual 'communities/circles' for volunteers. "Male volunteers", Martin says, "tend to be hugely resourceful and once involved, become very committed to a cause".

Recruitment aside, to retain those volunteers is about knowing them, knowing what motivates them, and treating them as the treasures they are.



Refining NZ team 'pitching in' at Dragonfly Springs Wetland Sanctuary in Onerahi, June 2017.



## Kaipara News Bites

**Kai Iwi Lakes Open Day - Tour Guides and Helpers. 27th January**

Know the lakes and/or like working with people? We have some great opportunities for the open day.

Also all over Northland - Seaweed Educators in March needed.

Congratulations to Pest Free Pahi to be the 100th Kiwi Coast Member. More western and inland entities sought.

**Kai Iwi Lakes - Tour Guides and Helpers**

**Sea Week - Educators**

**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

## ASB Bank adds a Sparkle

For the third Christmas running, staff from ASB Bank Rural and Commercial teams have been decking out the Selwyn Park Village and Rest-home with Christmas decorations.

Recently 8 staff members headed up to Maunu with an 8.30am start, decorating the large Christmas trees at the village.

As part of Volunteering Northland's Employee or Team Volunteering program, this initiative is about making lasting connections between corporate and non-profit organisations.

Senior Commercial Manager at ASB Bank Fiona Morgan is also the Chair at Volunteering Northland. She says all the staff at ASB Bank love the chance to help with the Christmas decorations. "With a group of us working together we can get this done quite quickly around our work commitments and then of course Selwyn Village provides us with a delicious morning tea". Like most corporate organisations, staff love the chance to do something meaningful for other groups in the community.

During National Volunteering Week in June this year, staff from ASB Branches in Whangarei and Kaitia also sent out teams volunteering. Part of a garden clean-up project was tackled at CCS Disability Action in Kamo, and Kaitia Hospice Shop had a team helping out sorting donations.

Trish Clarke from Volunteering Northland says "Employee volunteer programmes provide benefits for organisations, individuals, community groups and wider society. Projects broaden a team's outlook, extends thinking beyond a work desk and is generally fun in the process. Business skills applied to community projects add capacity and new ideas". Try it in 2018!

ASB Bank staff with Stephanie Ducrot (Manager – Selwyn Park)

## 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.

