

UPDATE



volunteering waikato
"enriched lives and communities
through volunteering"

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2011

FOR YOUR
DIARY

June 19-25

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From the General Manager...

The Volunteer Excellence Awards are always a clear highlight of our calendar - and this year's awards certainly lived up to our high expectations!

This year we had a total of 25 nominations (14 individual, two individual youth and nine team nominations), and well over 220 people attending the awards evening this week.

Our congratulations go to the award recipients (see insert for details) - the judges were most impressed by the contribution the award winners made to the community, and to the organisation, or organisations, for which they choose to volunteer.

We would also like to congratulate each and every one of the award nominees, individuals and teams. Both the

individual and collective impact of these volunteers on our community is huge and immeasurable.

We would also like to thank and congratulate the community organisations that took the time to recognise the contribution of these volunteers by nominating either individual volunteer/s or by nominating a team. We encourage organisations who did not nominate, and those who did nominate, to consider nominating next year.

Our thanks also go to every one of you who attended the awards evening. As volunteers are such a crucial part of our community, gathering to celebrate and recognise the contribution and achievement is time very well spent!

Finally, our awards are only made

possible by the generous contributions of our funders and sponsors. Particular thanks go to the SKYCITY Hamilton Community Trust for once again supporting this event. We are grateful for your support, not only for Volunteering Waikato, but for the volunteers in our community.

On a completely different note, I would like to announce the appointment of Carol Mills into the newly established position of Regional Co-ordinator.

Carol is a great addition to our team, and has the responsibility of promoting and extending our services throughout the Waikato Region.

Heather Moore
GENERAL
MANAGER



Volunteering Waikato congratulates the 2011 Volunteer of the Year, Dawn Highnam. See inside for more photos from the 2011 Volunteer Excellence Awards.

Thank you, thank you,
thank you!!

Volunteering Waikato would like to thank everyone who made our Volunteer Excellence Awards such a special occasion.

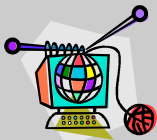
These awards would not be possible without the support of the community, and the level of support that this community provided for these awards was once again very heartwarming.

We are all extremely proud of all those who were nominated for awards, without each of you our community would be lesser...



"The deepest principle in human nature is the craving to be appreciated."

~ William James



ARE YOU PROFILED ONLINE??

Are you aware that every one of Volunteering Waikato's member organisations has the ability to have a profile on our website?

These profiles give potential volunteers some information about your organisation and what you do - helping them to make an informed choice about who they choose to volunteer their time for.

Do you have a profile? Only 64% of our members have set this up - have you?! It's free!

If you are not sure whether you have a profile or not, or if you would like help setting one up, give us a call and we can help!

Any questions? Phone Heather or Veronica.

From the Volunteer Co-ordinator...

As we near the end of Volunteer Awareness Week, and another successful Volunteer Excellence Awards evening, we are reminded that volunteer recognition is of course not just something we do once a year. We encourage all organisations that engage volunteers to find the way that works for them and their volunteers to say thanks - often. Remember how critical these volunteers are for your organisation, your clients and your community.

Volunteer appreciation doesn't have to be a costly exercise nor a time consuming one - it can actually help improve the systems within your current programme.

'Volunteer' is not a job description but a pay category

This month I offer some suggestions and options on how to keep your volunteers feeling appreciated. Some also will provide incentive for volunteers to put their hand up for other projects, internal promotions are great as the volunteer already

knows the organisation.

Service hours award

Keep track of a volunteers hours, have them sign in and out each shift. Establish milestones for the hours and when reached, a certificate acknowledging the achievement will no doubt be well received by the volunteer.

Spotlight a volunteer

Each month Volunteering Waikato spotlights volunteers on our website. Do you have a volunteer on your team who has stood out? Email a blurb (approximately 100 words), a photo and I'll let you know when your volunteer and organisation will be on our front page. Your notice board, newsletter or website could also highlight the achievements, commitment and hard work of a valuable team member.

Appreciation events

Holding a volunteer appreciation event of some type can be an excellent way to demonstrate to volunteers that their generosity is

valued. A car wash for your drivers, an annual or quarterly morning tea, lunch or pot luck dinner. Don't have the budget? What about a sponsor for the event?

Thank you letters

Volunteers give you their time which means it is time away from their friends and family. A simple letter to their son, daughter, parents or partner thanking them for loaning you their loved one is an effective way to show your appreciation. (You should have next of kin details somewhere).

There are many more ways to say thanks and you know your volunteers best so what could you do as their manager/co-ordinator to leave them feeling appreciated? Check out www.energizeinc.com/ideas.html for further ideas

Veronica Keats

VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR

BP Vouchers for Volunteers 2011

Since 2006, BP Vouchers for Volunteers has recognised volunteer effort by donating thousands of BP fuel vouchers to organisations that have volunteers working in our local communities. BP New Zealand recognises that the cost of running vehicles has a big impact on these community organisations, so they want to do their bit to help out.

To find out if your organisation is eligible to apply, simply visit www.bp.co.nz

**Applications will be accepted
20th June - 15th July 2011.**



**BP Vouchers
for Volunteers**
Supporting New Zealand
Communities

NETWORK MEETING

**For Managers / Co-ordinators of
Volunteers**

Every second month Volunteering Waikato hosts a network meeting for those who are managing or co-ordinating volunteers in our member organisations.

These meetings are a great way to find out about other organisations in our region, and to share ideas, resources and experiences regarding involving volunteers in your organisation.

The next meeting will be held:

**Thursday, July 7, 10-11am
Link House
2 Dawson Street
Hamilton East**

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Veronica on 838 3449 or email recruitment@volunteeringwaikato.org.nz

From the Community Project Co-ordinator...

I attended a breakfast meeting through the Chamber of Commerce recently for Southern Cross, as it was a great opportunity for a good breakfast and a chance to network with like minded people.

I also love these events as you're never too sure what will come out of them! As I sat there listening to a presentation by Southern Cross I had a real "aha" moment when they started to speak about Workplace Wellness Programmes.

I find it really commendable that many companies around the Waikato take good care of their staff and it has equally created for me an opening into the corporate world, as Employee Volunteering is a perfect match for any Workplace Wellness Programme. So, watch this

space with any progress that I make regarding this over the next month.

As winter starts to set in, group volunteering has been a little quieter this month with only one project taking place.

The students from Train Me, went back to The Waikato Winter Show to help pack down the event and to help rearrange the huge shed where they store all of their supplies. June has been much busier already and I look forward to telling you all about that next month.

Heather, Veronica and I attended Volunteering New Zealand's Raising the Bar conference in Wellington recently, which was a wonderful couple of days, a superb opportunity to network and to put faces to names.

Many of the people who attended, particularly from other Volunteer Centres around the country, mentioned that you did read this newsletter, and it was great to meet you all, to be inspired by so many great workshops and presentations.

I came away from this conference feeling really proud that there are so many of us around the country doing such a great job everyday in this incredible sector.

Charly Ainscough
COMMUNITY PROJECT
CO-ORDINATOR

*"There is no "I" in a
team but there is a
"U" in volunteer!"*

Debbie Weir

DO YOU HAVE FACEBOOK? We DO!

We had a absolutely pleasure of meeting Sam Johnson, the founder of Christchurch's Student Volunteer Army, and some of his team at the Volunteering New Zealand conference, and were impressed by the amazing work this group have done since the September earthquake. Their use of Facebook as a key communication tool has prompted us to improve our use of this awesome networking facility.

Search for Volunteering Waikato on Facebook and 'Like' our page - you never know when we might need you!



From our newly appointed Regional Co-ordinator...

I am very pleased and excited to have been appointed as the inaugural Regional Co-ordinator for Volunteering Waikato.

To this new position I bring a knowledge of volunteers and volunteering through my previous employment as Executive Manager of Dress for Success, Hamilton and my volunteer work at Women's Refuge. I have also worked as a volunteer interviewer with Volunteering Waikato since July 2010, giving me a good

understanding of this organisation and the valuable services it provides to the community.

I am looking forward to promoting Volunteering Waikato and its services throughout the Waikato / Thames and Coromandel region. I will identify and provide training to current and new regional member organisations in the use of Volunteering Waikato services, including our online services. It is in my plan that I will be in your area at least once a month and I

look forward to meeting you all.

I am available to attend network meetings in your area and will bring to you my knowledge of volunteering to help you promote your service within your community. There are so many community groups that are in my region that I still need to find out about, if you are one of those please email or phone me (see page 4 for contact details).

Carol Mills
REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR



Volunteering Waikato thanks the following Funders, Sponsors and Supporters:

Accuwrite
Wordsmiths, ASB,
Basketique,
Bunnings,
Calder & Lawson
House of Travel,
COGS,
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The Department of
Internal Affairs,
Donny Trust,
D V Bryant Trust,
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Family Trust,
Gallagher Trust,
Hamilton City
Council,
Hamilton Press,
Imageland,
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Community,
Maggy's Catering,
New World Te
Rapa, New Zealand
Community Trust,
Page Trust,
Pak'n Save Mill St,
Primo Vino,
Pub Charity,
Scotts Epicurean,
SKYCITY Community
Trust Hamilton,
Southern Trust,
The Base, Trust
Waikato,
United Video,
Waikato Times,
WEL Energy Trust,
W3



volunteering waikato

"enriched lives and communities
through volunteering"

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Upcoming Training Workshops

Recruiting Volunteers

- Tuesday 12 July, 9am-1pm

Finding the right volunteers for your programme is more than simply locating warm bodies. Most people don't volunteer because they aren't asked - it's far more difficult to turn down a specific invitation.

Knowing exactly the kind of volunteers you seek and going directly to them will reap positive recruitment rewards.

PLEASE SEE ENCLOSED REGISTRATION FORM!

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Skilful Interviewing

- Tuesday 02 August, 9am-1pm

Interviewing volunteers is very different to interviewing paid staff. Perhaps surprisingly, the fit with your organisation is far more important than the fit with the job. It takes thought, preparation and skilful questioning to uncover the information you need to make a good decision.

Facilitator: Jenny Magee. Places are limited.

**Registration forms available from www.volunteeringwaikato.org.nz
or email admin@volunteeringwaikato.org.nz**

Why the why matters...

Do you have a favourite website? Mine is www.TED.com

It's where I go for inspiration, information and entertainment. Some of the best thinkers in the world present their most compelling ideas, each in less than 20 minutes. New videos appear each week, from TED conferences held around the world. A regular TED fix is part of my self-care and self-development.

This past week I watched Simon Sinek, author of 'Start with Why', talk about the reasons why people engage. He says that we are drawn to organisations that clearly communicate WHY they do what they do. Knowing this helps us believe what they believe in. When our values match the organisation, it's much easier to buy what they do.

So how does this affect you? More strongly than you can imagine! When a volunteer chooses to work with you, they

are far more likely to stay if they feel there's a good fit with your purpose and values. As Sinek says, 'people don't buy WHAT you do, they buy WHY you do it.'

Recruitment is an obvious example. It's a costly and time-consuming exercise that we repeat regularly. But far from recruiting warm bodies from the 'anyone-will-do' school of recruitment, the goal should be securing volunteers who are a great fit for your organisation. You can train people in skills, but attitudes and beliefs remain largely unchangeable. It's about recruiting and creating a team of raving fans who will add such strength, passion and value to your programmes that you will become a magnet for volunteers eager to join your ranks. That will translate into all areas of your organisation's profile, both in-house and publicly.

Getting clear on why you do what you do is not always simple.

Often organisations tell me they exist to 'make a difference'. Noble sentiments indeed, but what kind of difference, to whom, and why?

Volunteers want to belong – we all do. When you are clear about why your organisation exists, potential volunteers can choose if it's a cause to which they are drawn.

The July workshop (note the changed date) focuses on Recruiting Volunteers. If you have all the volunteers you could possibly need, this one won't be for you. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing you there.

Jenny Magee

Jenny Magee has spent almost 25 years immersed in community organisations, managing, growing and supporting large teams of volunteers. As a trainer and coach she helps organisations with volunteer management, governance and diversity. Contact her on 0274 863 623 or visit www.jennymagee.com.