

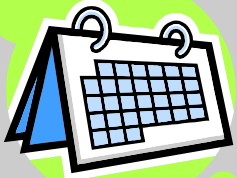
## UPDATE



volunteering waikato  
"enriched lives and communities  
through volunteering"

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2011

FOR YOUR  
DIARY

December 5



*How is your organisation going to celebrate International Volunteer Day? This is the perfect time to thank your team for the awesome voluntary work they do in our community!*

~ ~ ~

**December 5-24**  
*Christmas Gift Wrapping Project - buy your gifts at Centre Place or The Base and one of our volunteers can wrap it for you at a gift wrapping booth!*

~ ~ ~

**December 16**  
Volunteering Waikato closes to the public

~ ~ ~

**January 9**  
Volunteering Waikato re-opens

## From the General Manager...

Last week on International Volunteer Managers Day we had a great breakfast network meeting with 25 representatives from our member organisations to celebrate the work that we all do.

The role of Volunteer Manager (or Co-ordinator or whatever the title might be) is at times a challenging and yet very rewarding role, and takes some specialised skills that we often do not have training in, but pick up along the way.

It was great to hear so many of the people there speaking about their very successful relationship with Volunteering Waikato, and with the volunteers that we refer.

I did note with interest one participant commenting on how

it was getting harder to get volunteers - which has not been our experience, or the experience of many of our member organisations.

During the past few years we have continued to attract an increasing number of volunteers, and we are certain to once again break our own records regarding the number of volunteers registering with us and applying for positions in 2011.

I understand that some roles are definitely more difficult to fill than others, and some organisations need to recruit people with a very specific skill set. However we are also aware that some organisations are more prepared to involve a diverse range of volunteers than others.

We encourage our member organisations to think carefully about what skills or training a volunteer needs to successfully undertake your position, and communicate your requirements well. However we also encourage you to be open minded about who may be able to fill this role.

For organisations who are prepared to involve volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds - ages, ethnicities, abilities etc - the richness that diversity brings is very rewarding, both for our organisations, and for our community.

*Heather Moore*  
GENERAL  
MANAGER



## International Day of the Volunteer

Monday, December 5th

***Celebrate your volunteers!!!***

*Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it*

*~ William Arthur Ward*



Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened.

Happiness never decreases by being shared.

~Buddha



## WEBSITE TIPS

### HAVE YOU LOOKED AT YOUR ORGANISATIONS PROFILE LATELY?

Every member organisation has a profile on our website for volunteers to see who you are and what you do...

Is yours current? Is it enticing to a volunteer who is considering applying for a position with your organisation?

### MAKE SURE YOURS IS UP TO DATE!

Need help? Phone Veronica or Heather

## Asking the right people the right questions...

Is it important to your organisation to know how you are perceived by your volunteers? Is it important to regularly review your programme?

To have or add the practice of review to your organisational flow will ensure that you are getting the best out of your volunteers, that your volunteers are getting the most out of the opportunity and that your programme remains current and up to date for the community you serve and your service users.

A volunteers job description will provide an easy template to work off, to gauge whether or not the volunteer is adequately completing the tasks and responsibilities their role entails. It may also provide the opportunity to extend the role to add more purpose or challenges to a volunteer's engagement with your organisation.

Reviews provide opportunity to get feedback from volunteers as to what works well, or not so well - both for the volunteers and for the organisation. Ask what challenges that they encountered, what resources could be useful and their highlight of the year. There is an old saying 'If you want to know something, ask the person pushing the broom'.

Those working one on one with your clients should be in the loop when reviewing the sustainability and relevance of your programmes. Talking to your volunteers will allow you to keep your finger on the pulse and make them feel like their time with your organisation is important.

Whilst reviews can generate useful feedback for both the organisation and the team members, it is important not to get lost amongst the information provided. Although reviews can

be a valuable tool, it is vital to disseminate the information.

Great ideas are not always practical to put into action e.g. due to funding restrictions or it may not meet the organisation's ethos. Some conflict issues may be the result of a personality clash, not a person's ability to carry out their role.

Look for patterns within the information that a review provides to help decide what may need to be changed and what might warrants further review or acknowledgement. . Reviews will allow you to gauge the relevance, sustainability and suitability of your service, its delivery to clients , and to acknowledge those who have contributed positively to your programmes.

*Veronica Keats*  
VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR



## Do you leave your jobs open or close them over the holidays??

Volunteering Waikato's office will be closed to the public (no interviews will be held) from...

**Friday, December 16  
to Monday, January 9**

However volunteers who register online will still be able to apply for any open online positions during the holiday period.

If you are shutting down and will be unable to respond to a volunteer application within five days, please close your positions before you shut down - they are simple to reopen (copy) when you return.

**If you need any assistance with this, give Veronica a call on 07 838 3449 or email [recruitment@volunteeringwaikato.org.nz](mailto:recruitment@volunteeringwaikato.org.nz)**



## Getting out and about around the Region...

This month I took a bigger look around the region and went to places that I knew about, possibly driven through at some stage, but never taken to time to look around to see what is in the community.

I have travelled to Ngatea, Pirongia, Tokoroa, Tirau, Morrinsville, Te Aroha, Paeroa, Matamata, Cambridge, Te Awamutu, Otorohanga, Te Kuiti and Waihi. I have met with member and non-member organisations throughout the region.

We have several new member organisations in our region, and when I talk with each organisation I come into contact with the most common comment is the lack of volunteers for their group and the difficulty they have in finding new people to fill a vacant role.

Many volunteers have to do extra shifts to ensure that their organisation has continuity of a vital service to the local community.

When this lack of volunteers is combined with the funding decreases that many organisations have experienced in the past few years, extra pressure is put on the already stretched community groups and volunteer teams. It is increasingly important to ensure that your organisation sources and retains good volunteers.

How can we help you to do this? Every member organisation is able to set up a profile and list volunteer positions on our website. This will give you access to a whole new range of people who are ready to give something to help out.

The next step is helping your

organisation to find volunteers within the region to fill the new roles that are available.

Potential Volunteers are able to register online with us; all they need is an email address, a willing heart and time to give to your organisation. The registration process is very user friendly.

I am in most towns at least once a month to attend network meetings and to meet with other groups. If you would like me to visit your organisation, I am very happy to do so.

Feel free to email or phone me (see page 4 for contact details) to find out when I am next in your area so we make a time to meet. I look forward to hearing from you, and visiting you soon.

*Carol Mills*  
REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR

## A successful month for Group Volunteering...

What a busy time it has been! Thanks to those of you who have contacted me with projects for your organisations and a special thank you to those groups who have given their time so generously.

In the past month some generous organisations have released their employees to work for a day in our community. These occasions are fantastic opportunities for colleagues to work together on a project which really does make a difference to the organisations they are supporting. Reports back to me consistently say how much people have enjoyed the chance to be involved in some meaningful 'team building' .Some activities from the past month:

- A 'Spring Clean' at a local school. A great group of

Employee Volunteers from a large corporate organisation got out of their business gear and into their 'mucking in' clothes. As a result, refreshed children and staff returned to an equally refreshed school environment ready to start their new term.

- ...and still on a school children note, another group of Employee Volunteers spent the day at the A & P Show, stamping booklets for school children and generally helping out – by all accounts they had a fabulous day out of the office!

We have been fortunate to have several groups of young people who are happy to get out and help on some outdoor projects. This month saw a group assist with plant releasing at a local

reserve - how special it will be for them to know in the future that they have been a part of an important conservation project which will be here for years to come.

Another group offered to give up their Sunday to assist at a local Charity Day.

Please keep the project ideas and suggestions coming in. We have groups of all sizes who are keen to lend a hand.

As we move closer to Christmas it may be that there are some things which you would like to have done before things wind up at the end of the year. Contact me if you think we might be able to help you.

*Raewyn Calvert*  
COMMUNITY PROJECT  
CO-ORDINATOR



### Volunteering Waikato thanks the following Funders, Sponsors and Supporters:

Accuwrite  
Wordsmiths, ASB,  
Basketique,  
Bunnings,  
Calder & Lawson  
House of Travel,  
COGS,  
Community  
Waikato,  
The Department of  
Internal Affairs,  
Donny Trust,  
D V Bryant Trust,  
G. D. Gallagher  
Family Trust,  
Gallagher Trust,  
Hamilton City  
Council,  
Hamilton Press,  
Imageland,  
Kiwi Property  
Management Ltd,  
Lion Foundation,  
Lone Star, Lottery  
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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# A true fairytale of King Allan, Charming Prince Sam, and the Student Army.

## Or: The Challenge for intergenerational Volunteering.

*By Mary Woods*

Once upon a time the earth beneath the city roared and shook and the city broke. Buildings fell. People died. People wept. Roads cracked and liquefaction spread its grey greasy silt across the ground. It was a sorry state.

Then the people picked themselves up and said "How can we fix our broken messy City?"

It was the Civil Defenders who had power to sort things out, but the job was so big and they were so tired. Who could help them? They summoned their team mate King Allan from over the mountains on the West Coast. He is a wise king with wide experience. He would know what to do.

King Allan said "Yes, I'll come and help." He mounted his iron charger and sped across the Alps.

Meantime out in the still standing Ivory Towers, Charming Prince Sam said "I have my book of friends and they have friends and they have friends. We are young and strong so we can help the people." So he sent his cyber pigeons off to summon up his friends.

King Allan came and saw the mess of grey revolting silt that the Earth had spat up and everyone said "Yuck". "O dear, O dear" King Allan said. "How can we clean this up?" Then came a knock on his door, Prince Sam peeped round and said "Excuse me Sir, we've come to help. There are about a thousand of us, what is it we could do?"

King Allan looked and saw a boy one third of his great age. "How could a callow lad know how to lead?" thought the mighty sage. The King threw up his hands and nightmares passed his eyes – drunken students, burning sofas, undie 500 cars broken down in intersections blocking all the roads. He couldn't let students loose to loot the people with their scars.

"Sorry Mate" King Allan said "it's too much risk, how could we keep them in control? Send your lively students off to someone else's place."

Prince Sam persisted "No" he said "we've got energy and skills. We'll even jump through hoops for you to help the others live." King Allan scratched his beard and said "Ahem, we'll see you try. Deliver Lad, to me at speed the rules that must apply. Show us how we'll know who's here and where and how they'll work and what they're going to do."

Prince Sam went home and called his team of widely

skilled students who put their trusty computers to work long into the night. Together they devised procedures and set up systems to ensure the safety of the mob.



At 3am King Allan heard the cyber pigeon call. "The web site's up and ready with instructions for us all. We've got i.d. cards to know who's who and check us in and out. We work in groups and only do what's asked." King Allan thought "Maybe I can trust this precocious boy to do the mighty job. His computer is his other arm and far from just a toy. He's passed the test and led a team, we have to let him try."

And so the student army went with shovels and barrows to dig and scrape and clean away disgusting heaps of silt from the yards of the people of Christchurch.

But hard working students get very hungry, so Prince Sam gave all his money to his friend, Sir Morgan, to buy the workers lunch. Meantime down in the South, the people of Oamaru and Dunedin baked and cooked and created a mountain of food, so next day enough lunch arrived to feed an army. The students ate and distributed meals to the communities they were helping.

This miracle happened because wise King Allan tested his distrust of youth by listening to Prince Sam and challenging him to do the things that would make his army safe. Despite his enthusiastic confidence, Prince Sam heard King Allan's worries and thought "we have ideas, skills and energy galore but this old Geezer's been around and probably knows some more." He used the skills and tools of youth to allay the old man's fears.

As a result many of the people of Christchurch were rescued from a sticky mess and the students experienced the joy of helping.

*This story is based on a presentation given at the May 2011 VNZ Conference in Wellington. The people concerned were Allan Willson, Civil Defence Manager for Greymouth District Council, who was seconded to the Civil Defence team in Christchurch and Student Volunteer Army leader, Sam Johnson. The story was first published in "Tui Mote InterIslands", September 2011.*