

# Volunteering Canterbury

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## Annual Report

2022





We're here to help you make a difference

## Vision

People and communities prospering through volunteering

## Mission

Enable the successful engagement of volunteers by charities, and promote the benefits of volunteering to people and communities

## Values

Integrity, Respect, Inclusiveness and Service, with a commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi

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# About Us

# 03

Volunteering Canterbury was opened in September 1988, with a vision to see people and communities prospering through volunteering.

Our purpose on a day to day basis is to enable the successful engagement of volunteers by not-for-profit organisations, and promote the benefits of volunteering to people and communities.

Our office is staffed by Glenda Martin (Outreach Manager), Alison Marshall (Administration & Finance Coordinator), Tammy Dodgshun (Project Support & Administrator), Lizzie Daly (Selwyn Outreach) and aided by our long-standing volunteer, Mary Ellen Wilson.



Our Chairperson, Lynette Crestani, is supported by our 2022 Board: Helen Kidd (Vice Chair Person), Dante Fyfe (Treasurer), Molly Sialeipata (Pacific Peoples' Forum representative), Ngaio Stuart (e Runaka ki Otautahi o Kai Tahu representative), Kahn Charles (Youth Representative), Peter Madden, Ruby Haddon, Nicole Glover and Charlotte Ferrier (Minute-taker).



*From top left: Lynette Crestani, Helen Kidd, Dante Fyfe, Molly Sialeipata, Ngaio Stuart, Kahn Charles, Peter Madden, Ruby Haddon, Nicole Glover, Charlotte Ferrier, Glenda Martin, Alison Marshall, Tammy Dodgshun, Lizzie Daly and Mary Ellen Wilson.*



# 04

## Chair's Report



*Chair Person, Lynette Crestani, presents  
a Volunteer Recognition Award*

I am extremely proud to be writing this report as Chairperson of Volunteering Canterbury. I joined Volunteering Canterbury through my interest in volunteering and the kaupapa of Volunteering Canterbury - people and communities prospering through Volunteering.

2022 has been a year of re-establishing relationships after the effects of Covid19 and lockdowns. Fewer zooms and more face to face interactions. The home isolations having less impact on our operations due to flexible and committed employees and volunteers.

The growth of Volunteering Canterbury continued with the addition of a new team member based in the Selwyn District. This is a collaboration with the Selwyn District Council and has proved very successful with Selwyn District embracing the opportunity to have a local to support them, and it strengthens the 'Canterbury' in Volunteering Canterbury.

I would like to thank the Board - Dante, Helen, Kahn, Molly, Ngaio, Nicole, Pete, Ruby who are extremely supportive and passionate about Volunteering Canterbury. Responsive to emails and confident to have robust conversations all for the improvement and growth of our organisation. To Helen, Deputy Chair, a special mention and thank you for all your experience, support and guidance.

**“** *Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

*- Margaret Mead*

Our strength is our staff team of five, flying the flag, continually looking for opportunities in the community, learning new skills and supporting each other to ensure Volunteering Canterbury continues to be the best it can be for our Canterbury Community.

# Chair's Report Cont'd

# 05

Outreach Manager – Glenda shows an ever increasing ability to make new contacts and extend the services of Volunteering Canterbury with organisations and people far and wide. She continues to show her passion for her Outreach role and ensures Volunteering Canterbury continues to thrive.

Administration & Finance Coordinator - Alison continues to ensure the smooth running of Volunteering Canterbury, ensuring we have the funding to strive, and those hidden but essential tasks completed.



*Volunteers at the launch of NZ Food Network  
Selwyn Operation*



*The Volunteering Canterbury Staff  
and Volunteer Team*

Project Support & Administrator – Tammy's skills are shown in her design talents and media posts, detailed, perfected, funny and always encouraging 'comments or likes' to extend our membership base and profile.

Selwyn Outreach – Lizzie began on a fixed term for 2022 and packs a lot into her 4 hours. Extending Volunteering Canterbury and its resources and support into the fastest growing area, with the lowest average age of any district in NZ. We are hopeful this partnership will continue

Our Volunteer Extraordinaire Mary Ellen continues to share her time, skills and laughter willingly completing a large and growing list of varied responsibilities.

Thank you to our funders who enable us to continue to do what we do. These include Christchurch City Council, COGs, Department of Internal Affairs, Lotteries Commission and Rata Foundation.

# 06

## Chair's Report cont'd



*'Effective Governance' Workshop, with the  
Canterbury Somali Association*

My biggest highlight of the year is the Volunteer Awards where we are able to celebrate the achievements and dedication as 37 Volunteer organisations reward and acknowledge a volunteer or group in front of proud attendees. The excitement and gratitude of receiving an award cannot be overvalued despite not one of the recipients doing any of their roles to seek recognition.

Thank you to you our valued and appreciated members, who ensure our success by your continuing need for Volunteers, desire to be volunteering, valued feedback, attendance at trainings and much more.

As a board we acknowledge that the past, current and continued success of Volunteering Canterbury is a responsibility we share with you, our members and community. We thank all those from previous years for their input into Volunteering Canterbury and respect the privileged of being involved in a valued and respected Canterbury Organisation. I look forward to what can be achieved in this upcoming year.



*No act of kindness is too small. Everyone deserves to feel like what they do and who they are matters, especially during challenging times.*

- Ulunda Baker

*Lynette Crestani  
Chairperson, Volunteering Canterbury*

*September 2022*



# Report from the Office

# 07

Global considerations have hampered or changed ways we have done things.

Volunteering, however, remains crucial in New Zealand now as at any other time and in 2021 volunteer-engaging organisations supported by Volunteering Canterbury contributed some \$11.9m (based on minimum wage of \$20/hour) to this region's economy through the gifting of 598,400 hours, impacting on the lives of 303,000 Cantabrians. A 'ripple effect' – where there is a flow-on to those around the individual initially impacted – suggests that these figures are on the light side.



Staff from Colliers volunteering at O800 Hungry

Our Tautoko Network sessions have been somewhat sparse as we have worked around the effects of short-staffing within the sector as a result of COVID-related household self-isolation or illness, and the general fatigue that so many have, or are still, experiencing. Well received events have included Tautoko Network sessions on funding and health and safety in the Covid environment,

“ I express our sincere appreciation for the opportunity to continue the association with these (Governance Bites) workshops. Over the past 3 years most of our Committee have attended several workshops, and this has given us the ability to move forward in a positive manner.

- Halswell Hall Inc

and workshops on diversity in the workplace and difficult conversations. Sitting alongside these sessions, our second offering, supported by Rata Foundation, of the Governance Bites series has been less well populated than the first. However those attending talk highly of its benefit and the 'value add' for their organisations. We are confident that these numbers are a reflection more related to the COVID environment we are all navigating than the sessions per se and will be pursuing working alongside Rata and LEAD to offer this series again in 2023. Governance Bites is offered to the wider community sector and the diversity and numbers of different organisations attending session/s indicate that its 'capacity building' goal is being met.

In the year since our last report, 16 new member organisations have joined Volunteering Canterbury, and their diversity is reflected in an added richness to the volunteer roles which we are able to offer to those looking to make a difference in their communities by gifting of their time.

# 08

## Report from the Office cont'd



*Student Volunteer Expo*

Although low numbers on campuses around New Zealand as the predicted COVID Omicron variant made itself felt created additional 'plan B' planning, our annual partnership with the University of Canterbury to host an on-campus Student Volunteer Expo went ahead and was once again a success – 350 students visited the 26 community organisations in the Undercroft of the University of Canterbury, all of whom went home with a list of potential volunteers to follow-up.

While some of the 'big number' community events we normally participate in or host did not go ahead this year due to COVID-related Alert Level requirements around gatherings, we still have managed to be out and about in the community – making 14 presentations to approximately 250 people, with an additional online workshop which attracted 40 participants. Predictably our group volunteering programme has also been impacted, with 27 projects enabling 430 people to get out into the community to 'make a difference'. A new offering, a three hour 'Effective Governance' workshop, received excellent positive feedback from its first cohort, and we hope to build this work up in the coming year.

*“ We thoroughly enjoyed our time with the students and others exhibiting there who are all doing the most amazing work in the community and beyond.*

- Sanctuary Charitable Trust



*Some of the volunteers profiled on our Social Media pages*

Our social media strategy to highlight the work of individual member organisations and celebrate volunteers has also gone from strength to strength, with 18 organisations being profiled in the past twelve months. Last year we indicated we would be exploring extending this type of coverage to occasions such as Student Volunteer Week and we were delighted with the response when we did just that earlier this year, profiling some amazing young people! The system for identifying people to approach is now more streamlined and the formula developed is working.

# Report from the Office Cont'd

# 09

Our more formal celebration, our Volunteer Recognition Awards, went back to its usual timing



*2022 Volunteer Recognition Award recipients*

within National Volunteer Week, this year with a record number of 37 Awards presented, following a wonderful tribute to Matariki from Twin Harmony and some inspiration from the Chief Executive of Hapai Access Card.

Collaboration continues within the wider Canterbury area and earlier this year, through support from Selwyn District Council, Volunteering Canterbury welcomed a Selwyn Outreach team member. While this fixed term contract comes to a close soon, the activity and engagement that has been happening as a result of this appointment gives us great confidence for ongoing support from SDC which will sit alongside a successful bid for COGS funding specific to this area.



*A Selwyn Library Drop-In Session*



*Volunteers preparing Home Care Packs during the Covid19 Omicron outbreak*

COVID created an opportunity for collaboration with colleagues at MSD, CDHB, CDEM, Age Concern and the Cancer Society as we met to plan a response for what was at that time a predicted community outbreak of the COVID-19 Omicron variant. Our ability to step up swiftly, set parameters around volunteers and volunteering, access reliable, task-competent volunteers and – no surprises to us – the impact that those volunteers made during that outbreak, has cemented Volunteering Canterbury's relationship with this group (which continues to meet monthly).



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## Report from the Office Cont'd

As introduced last year, a strengthened Volunteer Centre Network Aotearoa (VCNA) has provided resources and discussion spaces throughout the year with our team playing an active role in working groups which relate to work within our region. One such area is 'spontaneous volunteering'. Significant weather events, lockdowns ... these types of events have seen significant spontaneous volunteering, and with that, some challenges. To ensure volunteering remains safe for all involved, and in a bid to



A regular Zoom meeting of the VCNA

*“Good timber does not grow with ease. The stronger the wind the stronger the trees.”*

- Thomas S. Monson

find processes and procedures that can be put in place in preparation rather than created 'on the hoof', members of the Volunteering Canterbury team will shortly participate in training around management of spontaneous volunteers with colleagues from Volunteer Centres around the country.

Looking forward to the coming year, the staff team will be prioritising in areas such as accessibility of our services (which may include a necessary review of current tools including the volunteer recruitment platform and website), inclusiveness, and sustainability. We are excited by the possibilities offered through utilising software recently made available to us by SG360 with which we hope to track and report on things such as the impact a specific volunteer role makes towards a United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (UNSDG). We hope to utilise this information to support member organisations to reassure volunteers of the very real and worthwhile nature of their contribution – no matter its size – and, at the same time, align our work more closely with the Living Standards Framework / Wellbeing Budget, enabling everyone, including our funders, to clearly see the power of volunteering supported by Volunteering Canterbury throughout our region.



Students from Christs' College volunteering at SPCA

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## Our Services

### How we're helping to make a difference



#### Recruit - Individuals

We encourage individuals to apply for volunteering roles posted by our member not-for-profit organisations, across all areas of the community. These volunteers support those who need it most in many different ways: helping vulnerable people, educating and mentoring, supporting charities administratively, counselling and befriending, to name a few.



#### Recruit - Groups

We arrange groups of people from businesses, schools, faith-based groups and other organisations, to volunteer together, helping not-for-profit organisations achieve larger scale projects.



#### Support

We support our member organisations by organising relevant workshops, training and network meetings, as well as individual meetings to support our members' management of volunteers and related issues.



#### Promote

We present the benefits of volunteering to schools, businesses and the general public, and share volunteer stories via traditional and social media. We host annual Volunteer Recognition Awards, Student Volunteer Expos, and events to celebrate International Volunteer Week, International Volunteer Manager's Day and International Volunteer Day.



#### Collaborate

In order to increase the scope of volunteering in Canterbury, we actively collaborate with various non-member partners, including the NZ Volunteer Centre network, Exult, University of Canterbury Internship Program, Skillwise and Volunteering New Zealand. We encourage inclusiveness within volunteering and are actively trying to reach everyone in our communities.

Thank  
You

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We would like to thank all our Volunteers, Member Organisations, Funders, Corporate Volunteers, and all our other stakeholders.

We would not succeed without the support of our Members, and the part they play in helping us to address the trends and issues that affect us all.

And without Volunteers to apply for roles individually, or as a group, be it as part of a Corporate organisation, a school, or another

not-for-profit, we would not be able to exist, and neither would the community sector and all those people served by them.

To everyone who volunteers, thank you.

We would also like to thank the generosity of our partners and funders who allow us to operate the way we do, and enable our volunteers to be such a pillar of the community sector.

*Thank You  
from the VolCan Team*

