

# Volunteering Canterbury

## Annual Report

2023





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

Address: Christchurch Community House  
Te Whakaruruhau ki Otautahi  
213 Lichfield Street  
Christchurch 8011

Email: [office@volcan.org.nz](mailto:office@volcan.org.nz)

Phone: 03 366 2442

Website: [www.volcan.org.nz](http://www.volcan.org.nz)



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# About Us

# 03

Volunteering Canterbury began 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.



*A Volunteering Canterbury public display*

Our Chairperson, Lynette Crestani, is supported by our 2023 Board: Molly Sialeipata (Pacific Peoples' Forum representative), Ngaio Stuart (e Runaka ki Otautahi o Kai Tahu representative), Charlotte Ferrier (Youth Representative), Peter Madden, Nicole Hay, Betty Orr-McFaul, and Madeleine Tutty (Minute-taker).



*From top left: Lynette Crestani, Molly Sialeipata, Ngaio Stuart, Charlotte Ferrier, Peter Madden, Nicole Hay, Betty Orr-McFaul, Glenda Martin, Alison Marshall, Tammy Dodgshun, Lizzie Daly and Mary Ellen Wilson.*



# 04

## Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends,

One of the joys of preparing an Annual Report is that it gives us the opportunity to look back and be thankful for all that has been accomplished. The past year was filled with many wonderful opportunities and challenges.



Some of my highlights were:

- We have strengthened our presence in the Selwyn District
- We welcomed 25 new not-for-profit Member Organisations
- We were represented by Glenda at the 26th IAVE World Conference (a membership of countries including global companies)
- Active volunteers on our website were numbered at 1,590
- An interesting statistic is 42.2% were under 29 years of age
- The VCNA Hui was attended by Alison and Glenda
- We received continued multi-year funding
- We moved to our new, modern, light office 'with a view' at 213 Lichfield Street.

Special recognition must go to our wonderful team:

Outreach Manager – Glenda, who has knowledge and contacts of people and organisations that continually grow for the betterment of Volunteering Canterbury.

Administration and Finance Coordinator - Alison, completing successful funding applications, many, varied office duties, and ensuring the smooth running of Volunteering Canterbury operations.

Project Support and Administrator - Tammy, continually creating inspiring visuals for media posts, funny and serious, along with digital marketing, and signatures for Volunteering Canterbury's emails.

Selwyn Outreach – Lizzie, in her second year with Volunteering Canterbury, cementing our availability and visibility in the Selwyn district, with increased community contact and referrals.

Volunteer Extraordinaire – Mary-Ellen, regularly joining the office on a Monday, supporting volunteers who require a little more assistance and doing those office jobs that are needed but sometimes don't make the top of the list.

Thank you to our funders who continue to support us, allowing us to support volunteers and organisations with volunteers.

Thank you also to our valued members; we thank you for your support, attendance at trainings, your feedback and continued engagement of volunteers.

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 privilege of being involved in a valued and respected Canterbury organisation. I look forward to what can be achieved in this upcoming year.

Finally, a quote from IAVE - Volunteers are people who “give their time freely for the benefit of others.”

*Lynette Crestani*

*Chairperson, Volunteering Canterbury*

*August 2023*



*The Volunteering Canterbury Staff Team*

The year under review has provided its own challenges as organisation's worked through providing the essential services they do in the community, often with reduced capacity as a result of COVID absenteeism. However, 93% of those who responded to this year's Volunteering Canterbury volunteer survey noted that they were 'likely' or 'highly likely' to recommend volunteering to whanau and friends, with the top motivation for their own volunteering 'doing good to benefit others'. This bodes well for the sustainability of volunteering in our region.



Volunteer Centre Network Association (VCNA) Hui

“ I have always appreciated the opportunities I have been given. The best way for me to show my appreciation is to give back.

- Zoher, Volunteer



Chris, a volunteer with Community Patrols New Zealand

Obviously, the greater range of volunteer opportunities, the best able we are to meet the range of motivations which individual volunteers have for pursuing getting involved in their community. It is pleasing to note that during this year the number of member organisations has sat between the range of 260 and 268, compared to between 253 and 263 in the previous year. A widened membership brings with it a diversity in available volunteer roles. It is hoped that this will go some way in the coming year to reduce the number of volunteers surveyed (21.52%) who commented that they could not find a role that interested them.



# 07

“ *I love my time spent volunteering, it enriches my life as much as it enriches others.*

- Joy, Volunteer

Sharing volunteer stories continues to be a strong part of promotion of volunteering in Otago – with people readily identifying with the ‘why’ and ‘what’ of others who volunteer. This year’s 22 volunteer stories shared on social media platforms have all been well received and the engagement they receive undoubtedly contributes to the profile which Volunteering Canterbury enjoys in the wider community.

As well as local events, this year under review provided the opportunity for the first face-to-face gathering of Volunteer Centres since 2019, providing an opportunity to swap notes and gain inspiration from colleagues across the country. We were also delighted to share in the celebrations of 15 years of supporting volunteering by our colleagues at Volunteering Mid-South Canterbury (VMSC), this Volunteer Centre having originally been set up ‘under the wing’ of Volunteering Canterbury.



*Celebrating VMSC's 15th Anniversary*



*IAVE World Conference, Abu Dhabi*

Further afield, we were also represented, alongside Volunteering New Zealand, at the 26th IAVE World Conference in Abu Dhabi. We were delighted that this also enabled our attendance at the Global Volunteer Leaders Summit prior to that Conference where there was opportunity to build relationships, particularly within the Asia Pacific region, with those who, like us, work to support and promote volunteering within their own communities.

Our presence on the ground within our own region has seen us attending a range of community events, talking to some 300 people about volunteering. Our annual 'Tautoko Network: Supporting the Community Sector' programme has attracted 200 participants who support their organisations in either governance or volunteer management roles.



*Student Volunteer Expo, University of Canterbury*

“ Our gratitude for all the work that you do, promoting and supporting volunteers in Canterbury and providing us guidance and training. It is so beneficial and lovely to have space where we can gather together and gain knowledge from other organisations.

- Lifeline Aotearoa



*Abbott Insurance, group volunteering at Edible Canterbury*

With constraints on time remaining the number one reason given why people across New Zealand do not volunteer, it was heartening to see that despite challenges through COVID-related absenteeism, 42 group volunteering projects still went ahead, with 460 people from business, sports, or other groups, contributing 2,300 hours to community organisations. This year we look forward to getting the Family Volunteer Days back on track which, alongside the Group Volunteering Programme, provides opportunities for people to get involved in the community alongside their other commitments.

# 09

## Selwyn Report

We were delighted to report last year on the support from Selwyn District Council which had enabled us to have one of our team 'on the ground' in that District.

While we knew that we could offer support to community organisations providing services in this region, we have been very pleased with the interest and results already achieved.



*A Selwyn Library drop-in Session*

Library drop-in sessions continue to be busy, and are offered at Leeston, Darfield, Lincoln and Te Ara Atea (Rolleston) libraries. Many individuals and community groups have taken advantage of the sessions on offer to find volunteers, volunteer roles, and improve existing organisations.



*Student volunteers supporting the local NICU Cuddlehearts programme*

Of the opportunities that have already been taken up to support volunteering and community based organisations, a particular highlight from the year is the micro-volunteering project begun by a group of senior secondary school students to support the NICU Cuddlehearts programme. Achieving its initial goals, and working alongside Cuddlehearts' founder, led to a real passion by the student group leading them to continue to meet and create Cuddlehearts once a week in their lunch hour – making 500 hearts by the end of 2022, representing one sixth of the total cuddlehearts required for Canterbury!

We are excited to see how the work we have begun in Selwyn develops over coming years.



# Volunteer Spotlight

# 10

## Volunteers making a difference in Canterbury



**Bobbie**

"I volunteer because I love to help people and give them a voice. I enjoy supporting rangatahi and members of my community because you get as much as you give and it's important to connect with different people, building a sense of whanaungatanga, the family-like bond that gives people a sense of belonging. Giving a place for rangatahi to feel like they belong and are comfortable to share their voice is an issue that is very important to me, specifically with ākonga Māori. Our society needs Māori input and I strive to get it heard to be acted on. 'Me mahi tahi tātou mo te oranga o te katoa' or, 'We must work together for the well-being of all'."



**Les**

"My career was in education, and after retiring I wanted to use my knowledge and experience to assist others. The request by the Hagley Adult Literacy Centre on the Volunteering Canterbury website caught my eye. Working with adults young and old has been a real pleasure and privilege. Everyone is so supportive and encouraging of each other. We try to make our lessons challenging but also fun. A sense of humour is important! Seeing our students gain in confidence and attain new skills and knowledge is a highlight for me. I continue to be in awe of each student's positiveness to life. I am looking forward to continuing my volunteering at Hagley."



**Karen**

"Being new to the area and an avid op shopper, I was excited to hear of a new store that had just opened close to me. So I went along to hunt for treasure and got a lot more than I bargained for! Not only did I find a beautiful store, but it was apparent by the warm and welcoming atmosphere that this was a truly community-based enterprise where profit was secondary to the desire to serve the community. How could I not want to be a part of that! I have been volunteering two mornings a week and in return for that I have made genuine friendships and the knowledge that, in my very small way, the time I give makes a difference."

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## Our Services

### How we help you 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, clubs 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 opportunities, 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 Volunteer Centre Network Aotearoa (VCNA), University of Canterbury, including its PACE (Professional and Community Engagement) team, 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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## Thank you to our valued supporters

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*

