

Volunteering CANTERBURY

Annual Report 2025





Make Your Mahi Have Meaning

Our Vision

People and communities connecting through volunteering

Our Mission

To enable meaningful volunteer opportunities that build connections and make mahi have meaning

Our Values

Integrity, Respect, Compassion and Inclusiveness, 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

Phone: 03 366 2442

Website: www.volcan.org.nz

Front image credit: Lightforge Photography



Table of Contents

03	About Us
04	Letter from our Chair
06	A Year of Impact
07	Delivering on Our Mission
11	Volunteer Spotlight
12	Our Services
13	Thank You
14	Financial Statements



About Us

03

Founded by Mayoress Lady Judith Hay, Volunteering Canterbury opened in September 1988 as New Zealand's second ever Volunteer Centre.

Our purpose is to connect people and communities through meaningful volunteering that builds relationships and makes mahi have meaning.

Our office is staffed by Glenda Martin (General Manager), Alison Marshall (Administration & Finance Coordinator), Tammy Dodgshun (Social Media & Project Coordinator) and aided by our long-standing volunteer, Mary Ellen Wilson.



A Volunteering Canterbury public display

Our Chairperson, Lynette Ensor, was supported by our 2024 Board: Molly Sialeipata (Pacific Peoples' Forum representative), Ngaio Stuart (e Runaka ki Otautahi o Kai Tahu representative), Peter Madden, Vanessa Simpson, Rae Wakefield-Jones, Annette Campbell, Ruby-Grace Miller (Youth Representative), Niki Chen (Treasurer) and Serena Sia (Secretary).



From top left: Lynette Ensor, Molly Sialeipata, Ngaio Stuart, Peter Madden, Vanessa Simpson, Rae Wakefield-Jones, Annette Campbell, Ruby-Grace Miller, Niki Chen, Serena Sia, Glenda Martin, Alison Marshall, Tammy Dodgshun and Mary Ellen Wilson.

04

Letter from our Chair

Kia ora koutou katoa,

One of the great pleasures of serving as Chairperson of Volunteering Canterbury is the opportunity to reflect on the year that has been, and to celebrate our achievements, growth and the many meaningful connections we have made.



Through our wide range of services and support, we have continued to strengthen connections within the Ōtautahi Christchurch community and beyond. Highlights this year have included our Governance Bites workshops, Tautoko Support Network training, University Volunteering Expos, Group Volunteering projects, and Coffee & Chat peer support sessions. And of course, my personal favourite – our annual Volunteer Recognition Awards, where we honour the outstanding contributions of volunteers across the region.

This year also brought some exciting changes to our team. We restructured our staffing model and were delighted to promote Glenda Martin from Outreach Manager to General Manager. Glenda now oversees all aspects of our work and leads the team with her deep knowledge, enthusiasm and unwavering commitment to volunteering. Thank you, Glenda, for stepping into this role with such capability and heart – your leadership is already making a difference.

Alison, thank you for your work behind the scenes on those hidden but essential tasks. Your efforts to secure funding help to keep Volunteering Canterbury running smoothly.

Thanks to Tammy, who has increased her hours and continues to bring dedication to her role as Social Media and Project Coordinator, ensuring the stories of mahi aroha across Waitaha are shared and celebrated with our wider community.

To our incredible volunteer and life member Mary Ellen – we are so grateful for your ongoing commitment and weekly support. You are an integral part of the team.

We are also excited to have welcomed several new Board members this year through our very own recruitment platform. A warm welcome and thank you to Rae Wakefield-Jones, Annette Campbell, Vanessa Simpson and Niki Chen, who join Peter Madden (now in his fifth year) in providing strong governance, experience, and guidance to the organisation.

While we no longer have a team member based in Selwyn, we continue to provide training and support for volunteering across that district and remain committed to nurturing those connections.

To our funders – Department of Internal Affairs (Lottery Community Fund, Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS), Community and Voluntary Capability Fund), Christchurch City Council, Rātā Foundation and Christchurch Casino Charitable Trust – we are deeply grateful for your continued support. Your contributions provide the essential financial foundation for everything we do.

And finally, to all our volunteers, members, supporters, and friends – ngā mihi nui ki a koutou. Your time, feedback, encouragement and energy make our work possible. Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

Finally, I leave you with an inspiring thought from Bill Clinton: “Volunteering is an act of heroism on a grand scale. And it matters profoundly. It does more than help people beat the odds; it changes the odds.”



Lynette Ensor
Chairperson, Volunteering Canterbury

August 2025

06

A Year of Impact

36

years serving
our community



287

Member
Organisations
Supported



52

Volunteer
Recognition
Awards

383,398



Cantabrians
Helped

1.2m

Volunteer Hours
gifted across
Canterbury



5,946

Volunteer
Referrals

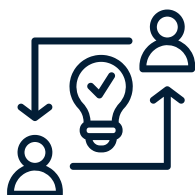
9

Peer Support
Sessions



23

Training
Workshops



Group Volunteering Programme



142 Projects

5,859 Hours



\$29.8m

value of time
contributed to
our local economy

Delivering on Our Mission

07

Activities and Highlights from the Year in Review

This year has been another dynamic one with continued growth in support for our member organisations with around 450 participants at over 49 events, specifically aimed at providing information and professional development opportunities for volunteer leaders. Member organisation numbers have remained steady, averaging 262 across the year, and together supporting over 383,000 Cantabrians through the gifting of some 1.2m hours.



Student Volunteer Expo, Aug 2024

“ We absolutely loved our time with you and all the students went away feeling great, that they had really helped! For our students many of them have only been told negative narratives about themselves so it felt so special hearing you talk highly of them all.

- Ara Supported Learning Programme



Loburn School students at Riverlution Hub

Our Group Volunteering Programme facilitated opportunities for over 1700 people to participate across 142 one-off community projects. While the groups involved were largely from local businesses, there continues to be solid support from those working with young people across primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. We are grateful to the community organisations which host these groups and ensure a worthwhile volunteer experience for the visiting teams.

“Thank you so much for the effort you put into making the Newcomers Volunteer Expo a success! It’s wonderful to hear the community groups had meaningful conversations and found the event valuable.

- Christchurch City Council

Gaining skills which may be transferrable to the workplace continues to be a strong motivator for many of those utilising our recruitment platform. Information gathered through this service also informs operational opportunities. One example of this came about from noting that those interested in finding a volunteer opportunity identified as

belonging to over 20 different ethnicities. The result was a collaboration with the Multicultural and Recreational Community Centre in hosting a ‘Newcomers Volunteer Expo’. Such Expos, targeting specific audiences, are valuable recruitment opportunities for our member organisations. The Newcomers Expo and another, which supported those interested in environment roles (hosted at the Richmond Community Gardens), sit alongside our existing partnership with University of Canterbury where we annually host two student-focused expos.

Another highlight was a specific shout out to environment volunteers achieved through the acquiring of a ‘Living Wall’ at the Climate Action Campus (former Avonside Girls’ High School site). Working alongside local artist, Josh Montgomery, the wall was prepared for painting and completed by several local Members of Parliament and City Councillors who responded positively to the invitation to participate.



Living Wall Mural, Climate Action Campus

Social media platforms continue to play a large part in sharing volunteer stories. We moved to ensure these stories are not lost with the creation of a Volunteering Canterbury Collection in the Canterbury Stories archive hosted by the Christchurch City Council Library service.

Our 'Knit for Purpose' micro-volunteering project continued for another year, and once more people knitted at work, home and in libraries and residential facilities to produce beautiful peggy squares made from gifted wool. These were then transformed into a total of 34 blankets, and donated to community organisations across Waitaha.



knit for Purpose, June 2024

Advocacy for volunteering is a key part of our role at Volunteering Canterbury. This year we have made submissions to both the 'Amendment to the Social Security Act' in regards to proposals for community work experience and associated financial and non-financial sanctions for beneficiaries, and the 'Emergency Management Bill' which seeks to introduce legislative reforms to ensure a whole-of-society approach to emergency management.

“Volcan played a huge role in my journey, from my first volunteer experience to securing long-term employment. I’m incredibly grateful for the support they’ve given me along the way.

- Diane, Volunteer



VNZ Changemakers Hui, Sept 2024

As well as our continued commitment to the Volunteer Centre Network Aotearoa, we were fortunate to support the 2024 Volunteering New Zealand Changemakers Hui held in Ōtautahi, an opportunity for local volunteer managers to immerse themselves in a day of learning and sharing with others from around the country. We were also delighted to identify 20 local volunteer leaders to attend the Hui at no charge, thanks to funding made available by Rātā Foundation.

10



27th IAVE World Conference, Oct 2024

Our attendance at the 27th IAVE (International Association for Volunteer Effort) World Conference in Pusan, South Korea, presented opportunities for us to share and learn about global volunteering trends and initiatives. This provided insight into what is happening in other regions of the world and also offered timely reminders of the uniqueness of volunteering across Aotearoa, where a relatively small population makes a huge impact, with an estimated contribution (based on the minimum wage of \$23.15 per hour) of some \$4 billion nationally (of which nearly \$30 million takes place here in Waitaha).

Recognition of volunteers continues to be a huge event for the Volunteering Canterbury team particularly during National Volunteer Week in June. This year, with the presentation of 52 awards, we acknowledged that sadly we had outgrown the amazing facility which we have utilised for many years at the Civic Offices and a new site will be identified for the 2025 Awards event.



2024 Volunteer Recognition Award recipients

“ Thank you for all you do and for your partnership over the years. [Our organisation] was built on volunteers, and we appreciate the work you do very much.

- Trade Aid

With extensive networks across the community, we continue to be well placed to collaborate with diverse groups to ensure support for the community. One example of this has seen the development of a relationship with Civil Defence Emergency Management teams across the region, with a focus on support for management of spontaneous volunteers during emergencies. Another example was a collaboration with local IT company, Inde Technology, to support upskilling of community organisations around data protection and bank scams. We are looking forward to both collaboration opportunities being further developed over the coming year.

11

Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteers Making their Mahi have Meaning in Canterbury



Michelle

"Volunteering makes me feel happy that I'm achieving something worthwhile and meeting people at the same time. I've met some awesome go-getter people, who I may not have met had I not joined Rolleston Rotary. I love how generous people can be and also how grateful. I try and be a helper. The times I can help are all for a good cause. The best part of volunteering with Rolleston Rotary is being involved in a relatively new service club here in Rolleston, and being part of a great group of people who want to give back to the community we live in. I enjoy volunteering because I now have the time to give back."



Oliver

"My name is Oliver, and I am 11 years old. Our class at school needed to carry out some Ambassador work, completing some community service tasks. So far this year I have collected money for Child Cancer - knowing that the money has gone to people even younger than me gives me mixed emotions. I did some weeding at Silverstream Reserve [and] I have done jobs to save up money to buy grocery items to donate to a food bank. Giving back across our city is making me learn about others and their needs. These experiences are helping me grow my confidence. They've made me feel very lucky that I am well and healthy. Age can be a barrier, but I am still finding small ways I can help, even though I'm young."



Deborah

"In 2014 I suffered from hypoxia (lack of oxygen to the brain) and since then have had some difficulty communicating. My daughter got me into volunteering at the Cats Protection League where I still volunteer now. I later started doing Meals on Wheels once a fortnight. I enjoy this as it gets me out of the house. And this year I started volunteering at Kairos Food Rescue. I enjoy this as I get to talk to other volunteers along with keeping my brain active. I love cats and I love people, that is why I am now a volunteer. But it doesn't have to be because you have a brain injury to become a volunteer. It takes all sorts of people to become a volunteer."

12

Our Services

How we help you Make your Mahi have Meaning



Recruit - Individuals

We enable 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, utilising their interests and values in a voluntary capacity, and helping not-for-profit organisations achieve larger scale projects.



Support

We support our member organisations by organising relevant workshops, training and networking 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, Volunteer Expos, and special events to celebrate National 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

13

Thank you to our valued supporters

We extend our sincere thanks to all our stakeholders – our incredible volunteers, member organisations, funders, and employer-supported volunteering groups.

Our success is only possible because of the collective support and commitment from our members, who help us navigate the trends and challenges impacting the community sector. Your insight, collaboration, and mahi make all the difference.

To our volunteers – whether you give your time as individuals, part of a workplace team, a school group, or another community

organisation – thank you. The community sector, and the many people it serves, simply couldn't function without your contribution. Neither could we.

We are also deeply grateful to our generous partners and funders. Your support enables us to continue operating in a way that empowers volunteers to remain a cornerstone of the community – strong, visible, and valued.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.

Thank you, all of you.



36 YEARS

Volunteering CANTERBURY

Making your Mahi have Meaning
since 1988

“

I'm proud to be a
volunteer and give
back to the city I love

- GARY, VOLUNTEER

”

Student Volunteer Expo

Tuesday 5 August
11:30am
The Undercroft

FREE entry

volcan.org.nz/events



COFFEE & CHATS Peer Support



9:00am - 10:00am

2nd Thurs of the Month

Volunteering
CANTERBURY

C

canterburystories.nz



Climate Action Campus

A collection of photographs relating to Climate Action Campus (180 Avonside Drive).
Image credit: Mural by civic leaders, CCL-VoCa-001



Family Volunteering

A collection of photographs relating to Family Volunteer Day held by Volunteering Canterbury.
Image credit: Painting toilet block at Linwood park, CCL-VoCa-006



First 30 years

A collection of photographs relating to the first thirty years of Volunteering Canterbury.
Image credit: Youth Volunteer Programme float, CCL-VoCa-032



Knit For Purpose

A collection of photographs relating to Knit for Purpose held by Volunteering Canterbury between 15 April and 8 June 2024.
Image credit: Recipients of Knit for Purpose, CCL-VoCa-016

IT Security

for Community Groups

Session 1: Technology
Session 2: Banking

Thursday, 20 June 2024

Doors open 6pm

Christchurch Community
House, 213 Lichfield Street
outreach@volcan.org.nz
RSVP by 14 June

Volunteering
CANTERBURY

inde

Knit for Purpose
2024:

34 Blankets
1913 Squares



International
Women's Day

Volunteering
CANTERBURY



"Volunteerism is the voice of
the people put into action.
These actions shape and
mold the present into a
future of which we
can all be proud."

- Helen Dyer.

Volunteering
CANTERBURY

GOVERNANCE BITES Workshop Series



Rātā
Foundation

Volunteering
CANTERBURY

Tautoko Workshop: UC PACE Programme



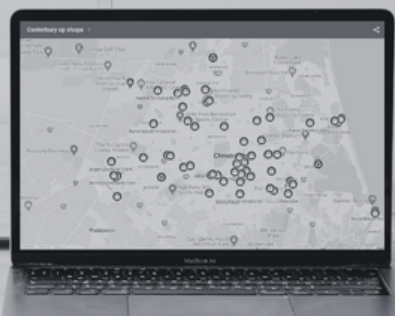
NEWCOMERS EXPO

Saturday
15 February 2025

11:00am - 1:00pm

Multicultural Recreation
and Community Centre,
Hagley Avenue

All Welcome!



Charity Op Shop Map