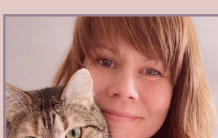
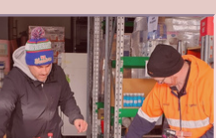


olunteering CANTERBURY

Annual Report 2026





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: outreach@volcan.org.nz

Phone: 03 366 2442

Website: www.volcan.org.nz



Table of Contents

03	About Us
04	Letter from our Chair
06	A Year of Impact
07	Delivering on Our Mission
12	Volunteer Spotlight
13	Our Services
14	Thank You
15	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), Tammy Dodgshun (Social Media & Project Coordinator) and aided by our office volunteers Mary Ellen Wilson and Sandi van Barneveld.



A Volunteering Canterbury public display

Our Chairperson, Annette Campbell, was supported by our 2025 Board: Niki Chen (Treasurer), Molly Sialeipata (Pacific Peoples' Forum Representative), Cass Flutey (Te Ao Māori Representative), Rebecca Inch (Youth Representative), Demetrio Cooper, (Youth Representative), Rae Wakefield-Jones, Vanessa Simpson, Noel Stewart and Gina Dao-McLay (Minute Secretary).



From top left: Annette Campbell, Niki Chen, Molly Sialeipata, Cass Flutey, Rebecca Inch, Demetrio Cooper, Rae Wakefield-Jones, Vanessa Simpson, Noel Stewart, Gina Dao-McLay, Glenda Martin, Tammy Dodgshun, Mary Ellen Wilson and Sandi van Barneveld.

04

Letter from our Chair

Kia ora koutou katoa,

It is my great pleasure to present this report on behalf of the Board of Volunteering Canterbury. Volunteers are the backbone of the strong social economy we have in Canterbury. It is therefore fantastic to be involved with a team of people focused on ensuring both the groups that engage with volunteers, as well as the volunteers themselves, are supported, recognised and acknowledged for their contributions. It is sometimes hard to believe just how much value volunteers contribute to our community, so being involved in this positive progressive organisation has allowed me greater insight into this value. Put simply we have a lot of wonderful people from all sectors of our community contributing heaps!



I believe recognising volunteers is important and so I think it is worth noting just how well our social media stories about volunteers have been received. The fact we have also outgrown our earlier venue for the Volunteer Recognition Awards is another strong indicator that these Awards are fulfilling the objectives set by the team.

It has been very encouraging to see the number of younger people who are volunteering their time. For example, we now have a number of young people contributing strongly to our Board, and I believe this bodes well for our future. In a similar vein it has been great to see the Volunteering Canterbury team working on projects that increased the number of older Cantabarians contributing to making our community stronger. The challenge for us, as well as our members, is increasing those from the in-between age groups who tend to be time-poor.

Supporting our members with workshops and training aimed at gaining benefit from volunteers has seen positive growth throughout the year and we are very grateful to all our funders for support to make these happen. As groups gain more insight into how they can achieve greater benefits, the better the outcomes for all concerned.

This year has seen some significant changes at Volunteering Canterbury, and our operational team, including our wonderful volunteers, should be proud of what they have achieved. In particular it has been wonderful to see the revamp of the website and the recruitment platform so it is easier for both potential volunteers and members to engage. Feedback on the website usability has been very positive and applications for roles have almost doubled. Brilliant stuff.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank both the Board and our operational team for all the work they have done to make Volunteering Canterbury an effective and productive organisation. I am very much looking towards seeing the organisation continue to flourish in the upcoming year.



Annette Campbell
Chairperson, Volunteering Canterbury

August 2026

06

A Year of Impact

37

years serving
our community



278

Member
Organisations
Supported



53

Volunteer
Recognition
Awards

878,089



People
impacted

983,629

Volunteer Hours
gifted across
Canterbury



6,415

Volunteer
Referrals

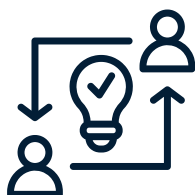
9

Peer Support
Sessions



23

Training
Workshops



Group Volunteering Programme



88 Projects

4,282 Hours



\$23.1m

value of time
contributed to
our local economy

Delivering on Our Mission

07

Activities and Highlights from the Year in Review

This year has seen increasing recognition of the services we provide, with social media continuing to play a key role in sharing volunteer stories, alongside our community-specific newsletters for members, wider Waitaha community groups, schools, and volunteers, ensuring up-to-date and relevant information is widely shared. We were delighted to have one of our posts selected by the International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) for its 'Call to Action' campaign.



Student Volunteer Expo, Aug 2025

“ Thank you again for your amazing platform for connecting volunteers and organisations. I think it is an excellent process.

- Natasha, Volunteer



Canterbury volunteer, Colin Hill, with Hon. Louise Upston and other celebrated volunteers.

We also took the opportunity to share volunteer stories with Volunteering New Zealand as part of the June 'Big Shout Out' promotion, with one story, that of Colin Hill of Delta Community Support, subsequently shared with the Office of the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector. Colin was one of just three volunteers from across the motu selected to attend a Parliamentary breakfast celebration as part of the 'Big Shout Out 2025'.

08

“ I really appreciate your generosity in sharing resources and for all the support you give to us and the community

- Delta Community Support Trust,
Member Organisation

Our 'Tautoko Network: Supporting the Community Sector' annual programme has again been well received, with over 305 attendees participating in a range of gatherings. We have continued to hold these kanohi ki te kanohi, enhancing networking opportunities for community organisations and creating space to learn and share with

peers. Our Coffee and Chat Peer Support monthly meetings have been particularly significant in this regard, with strong interest in hosting by organisations and consistently steady attendance. And once again, Inde Technology stepped in to support our member organisations, with training around AI, while a new collaboration with HR Consultants, Bishop and Associates, saw a session to support innovative recruitment practices.

Alongside this support for volunteer managers, the Governance Bites programme, supported by Rata Foundation, continues to receive positive feedback while building community capacity. Notably, half of the governance volunteers in attendance serve on boards of non-Volunteering Canterbury member organisations – a strong indication that our mahi is valued across the wider community.



'AI and Data Protection' training workshop with Inde Technology

Our annual end-of-year surveys indicate that volunteers across Volunteering Canterbury member organisations contributed nearly one million hours through more than 878,000 acts of volunteering. This generosity of time is valued at \$23.1 million and has positively impacted the lives of thousands of Cantabrians.

Out of the office, we delivered around 40 presentations to over 800 participants from a wide range of audiences, including special interest groups, students, businesses, and groups in transition. In the office, we introduced a new volunteer role specifically to support member organisations, helping us keep records up to date in a sector that continues to experience significant transition and change.



Best Practice Guidelines Workshop, International Volunteer Managers' Day 2025

“Thank you so much for facilitating the working bee yesterday. It was great to come and help out and get a better understanding of what you all do!”

- Group Volunteers from Shine On



2025 Volunteer Recognition Award recipients

Our messaging on the importance of volunteer recognition has been widely shared, and this year we presented 53 awards for outstanding local volunteer contributions. Having outgrown our previous venue, we held the ceremony at the Salvation Army site on Colombo Street, providing ample space for awardees to attend with friends and whānau. Guests enjoyed a delightful musical performance by a Christchurch School of Music duo, along with an inspiring address from Keran Tsering, Coordinator of the Salvation Army Driver Mentoring Programme. We were also once again invited to judge the community contribution category of the Selwyn Awards, an event held every two years.

10



Medbury School students, volunteering at Riverlution

Supporting older adults to continue volunteering was identified as a key focus for the year. We were delighted to welcome to Ōtautahi, Dr Jurgen Grotz, whom we met at the 2024 World Volunteer Conference in Pusan. Through our Tautoko Network programme, he presented a session on 'Ageing Older Adults Volunteering'. Grotz is Director of the Institute for Volunteering

Research (IVR) at the University of East Anglia (UEA), and during his visit we took the opportunity to introduce him to University of Canterbury Community Engagement students and showcased several Ōtautahi sites with significant volunteer contributions, including the Transitional Cathedral, Urban Farm, and Riverlution in the red zone.

A few months later, we ran our first retirement village pilot with Alpine View dedicating a 'volunteer month' and providing transport for ten residents to participate in group projects during September. Participants reported enjoying the experience and discovering organisations new to them, and one resident has continued to volunteer independently with one of the organisations.



Alpine View residents, volunteering at PIPS

“ *The training was excellent, and I really valued the opportunity to connect and build relationships with the other volunteer coordinators. I always take a lot away from these sessions.*

- Workshop Participant, Christchurch City Mission

Supported by Volunteering New Zealand, we rounded out 2025 with a sold-out Best Practice Guidelines full-day workshop on International Volunteer Managers' Day. The value of offering these opportunities kanohi ki te kanohi was highlighted when several attendees using the same volunteer management software connected, leading us to establish a peer support group that has since met twice.

“Loving the Seek partnership – we've got some wonderful new volunteers from the recent recruitment.

- CoCA: Centre of Contemporary Art Toi Moroki

Early 2026 saw the culmination of our team's work with local developer Catchlight on a new, up-to-date, and accessible website, alongside the migration of our recruitment platform to SEEK Volunteering. Launched on 21 January 2026, the changes have already increased access to member organisations' volunteer roles, with applications for roles managed by Volunteering Canterbury almost doubling.

Acknowledging the continually changing face of our region, we were delighted to host a Newcomers Volunteer Expo as our first major event of 2026, in partnership with the Multicultural Recreation and Community Centre, Welcoming Communities, and the Christchurch City Council. The Expo was attended by 200 newcomers and is expected to become an annual fixture on our events calendar.



Newcomers Volunteer Expo 2026

Another annual event, Knit for Purpose: A Micro-Volunteering Project, saw over 50 blankets, hand-knitted by volunteers with donated wool, passed on to community organisations for distribution to their clients. Projects such as these show the power of volunteering to connect, inspire, and strengthen our communities.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to creating meaningful opportunities for volunteering, fostering connection across Waitaha, and celebrating the generosity and dedication of the voluntary sector.

12

Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteers Making their Mahi have Meaning in Canterbury



Haydn

For 27 years, Haydn volunteered as a host and guide at the Air Force Museum of New Zealand. A trained pilot, his career saw him flying across the world, later becoming a flying instructor, before moving into civil aviation. After retirement, Haydn joined the volunteer team at the Museum, sharing his knowledge and stories with thousands of visitors. "The best part," he says, "is passing on my knowledge as a former pilot." Haydn also mentored many other volunteers, helping build the respected hosting team the Museum is known for today. His commitment, generosity, and storytelling have left a lasting legacy.



Pauline

For over three years, Pauline has been a dedicated behind-the-scenes volunteer at Nurture Trust, helping prepare donated baby items for families in need. "I clean the donated baby equipment... to make sure they work properly and are safe," she says, taking pride in the care she puts into every task. Pauline values the connection volunteering brings, sharing, "I enjoy the camaraderie... I feel like I'm part of something much larger." In retirement, volunteering keeps her engaged and purposeful - "It keeps me connected [and] offers social interaction with a positive difference."



Rod

"Volunteering is about showing up, doing what you can, and leaving things a little better than you found them. Across my life I've volunteered for multiple different causes and charities. After becoming permanently injured, I had to find other ways to keep volunteering.

NZ relies heavily on its volunteers. We need a wide mix of people to meet the needs of our communities, and every volunteer plays a part.

If you're thinking about volunteering, give it a go. You might end up helping others, but you also might find it changes you in ways you never expected."

13

Our Services

How we help you Make your Mahi have Meaning



Recruit - Individuals

We enable individuals to engage with 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 for 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

14

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.



Connecting
volunteer
communities
across Aotearoa



Knit for purpose 2025



NEWCOMERS VOLUNTEER EXPO 2026

📍 FREE entry
📅 Sat 14 Feb 2026
🕒 11:00am - 1:00pm
📍 Multicultural
Recreation and
Community Centre,
Hagley Avenue



2025 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS



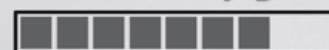
Volunteering CANTERBURY GOVERNANCE BITES Workshop Series

supported by  Rātā
Foundation



Volunteering
CANTERBURY

Website Upgrade



loading...



COFFEE & CHATS Peer Support



9:00am - 10:00am

2nd Thurs of the Month

Volunteering
CANTERBURY

“
Staff are great and
always helpful and
very responsive if
we have need for
advice or support,
so thank you!

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PARTNERS

 ENGLISH
LANGUAGE PARTNERS
NEW ZEALAND
Working with former Refugees and Migrants



Volunteer Voices

“
Volunteering allowed me
to form meaningful
connections that made a
big difference in my life

”

- DIANE, VOLUNTEER

Connecting
volunteer
communities
across Aotearoa



Volunteering
CANTERBURY

Knit for purpose 2025



NEWCOMERS VOLUNTEER EXPO 2026

- 🗨️ FREE entry
- 📅 Sat 14 Feb 2026
- 🕒 11:00am - 1:00pm
- 📍 Multicultural
Recreation and
Community Centre,
Hagley Avenue



Volunteering
CANTERBURY

Multicultural Recreation
and Community Centre

Christchurch
City Council

Welcoming
Communities

Christchurch
City Council

Christchurch
City Council

Christchurch
City Council

2025 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS



Volunteering
CANTERBURY

GOVERNANCE BITES Workshop Series

supported by  Rātā
Foundation



Volunteering
CANTERBURY

Website Upgrade



loading...



COFFEE & CHATS *Peer Support*



9:00am - 10:00am

2nd Thurs of the Month

Volunteering
CANTERBURY

“

Staff are great and
always helpful and
very responsive if
we have need for
advice or support,
so thank you!

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PARTNERS

ENGLISH
LANGUAGE PARTNERS
NEW ZEALAND
Working with former Refugees and Migrants



Volunteer Voices

“

Volunteering allowed me
to form meaningful
connections that made a
big difference in my life

”

- DIANE, VOLUNTEER

