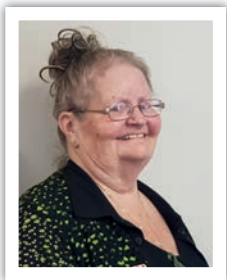


WOLLY Vibes

"We support, promote, value and encourage volunteering"



Greetings everyone

Tēnā tatou katoa
WOW On May 27th, 2023 we celebrated our Annual Volunteer

Recognition Awards.

This is always a fantastic opportunity to appreciate and thank those Awardees who do awesome mahi within our community.

It is thanks to those people who take the time to nominate their volunteers who are also to be appreciated and praised. If it weren't for them spending the time putting the nomination together, we would not have any Awards to celebrate. I know the amount of time that this takes to put together a worthy nomination.

You will see in this newsletter the many different types of volunteering that happens and the range of ages of the people who volunteer. It has been reported in the media that the young ones are volunteering less – that is certainly not the case in our experience here at VNP. The example of the two young women we had in these Awards is evident. They are both passionate about volunteering and the benefits that they have received that are other than financial.

The categories for the Awards this year were as follows:

The Awardee stairs photo of everyone awarded on the day and those who represented the Teams is in this newsletter. Also Raewyn McDonald of Pregnancy Help Taranaki who was presented her Award in Stratford late last month.



Recipients

Youth	Nominators
Eliza Thomson	Hearing Dogs NZ (nominated by SVA)
Tania Peng	Waimanako; Taranaki Retreat Cafe
Individuals	Nominators
Elsie Morgan	Pregnancy Help Taranaki
Rob Maetzgig	Eastern Taranaki Kiwi Trust
Brett Hall	Age Concern Taranaki
Wendy Brown	We Love Dogs Trust
Teena Jordan	Taranaki Emergency Management Office (TEMO)
Long Service	Nominators
Maureen King	Seasons for Growth
Donna Baker	Taranaki Cancer Society
Adrienne Tatham	Friends of Pukekura Park
Raewyn McDonald	Pregnancy Help Taranaki
Couple	Nominators
Dot and David McKay	Friends of Pukekura Park
Teams	Nominators
Waimanako; Volunteers	Taranaki Retreat
Care in the Community	Taranaki Emergency Management Office
NP RDA Operational	New Plymouth Riding for Disabled

Kiddylandz Toy Library	Pregnancy Help
Inner Wheel New Plymouth	Taranaki Womens Refuge
Eltham Knitters & Crocheters	Seasons for Growth
Super Swop Shop	Volunteering New Plymouth
Waitara Knitters	Taranaki Women's Refuge, Pregnancy Help & Volunteering New Plymouth

We have amazing volunteers in our community- who are all very humble and say that they don't do their volunteering for the accolades.

In the last couple of years, I have realized why it was so special for me each year. It is because I read all the awesome citations and see what amazing work is going on out there that most people have no idea about. Then I get to talk with those who are being awarded and they give me a little insight about their why and then I meet them on the day and I learn more about their who. Each year is as special as the previous – this is my 8th Recognition Awards.

Shona Glentworth (our Emcee) commented the

Continued next page

Awards

other day how great it is to see the recipient's faces as they hear the words said about them (as they have no idea what has been written)

Through the awardees citations we see a diversity of volunteering; from those supporting people having challenges be it with clothing, food, building confidence, health or grief or helping people with their newest electronic device or looking after our rescue dogs, or caring for our community through disaster relief of either COVID 19 or Cyclone Gabrielle as well as the outdoors style of volunteering of protection of our native fauna and flora supporting others to enjoy the outdoors by caring for our wonderful Park and then those who are there beavering away with needles – whether they are knitting or crocheting for Babies, young people, blankets or tiny teddies. As well, we have our young people giving their time to support our people either raising a puppy or serving people in the Koha cafe. All these diverse roles are all happening here in our local community.

So a very BIG Congratulations to each and everyone who has been awarded together with the members of the TEAMS – some of which total over 30. To a small team 3 – 8 members - all doing amazing work.

Volunteering New Plymouth work involves many aspects of Volunteering from recruiting volunteers to supporting Community groups / Organisations to do their work. We offer training and look to offer Support to all volunteers whether a Board member or a volunteer driver or a sewer or knitter. We celebrate volunteers and volunteering by holding a Volunteer Recognition Awards Annually and forward some of our amazing volunteers to the New Zealander of the Year – Local Heroes or Community Group or Senior categories.

There are many Organisations that are often looking for volunteers and those roles can range from helping at a day care programme for the older person to offering support to someone needing help with sourcing clothes for an interview to helping with zero waste at an event or protecting our environment from pests to checking on kiwi in the wild. There are opportunities for everyone to enjoy giving back / paying forward to our community.

VNP also arranges coffee meetings for Manager's of Volunteers to learn about what each other does and gain insight into ways of dealing with challenges they may face. Board member coffee mornings have also been another success, where Board members of different organisations can meet and learn more about what is on offer to support them.

As Volunteering New Plymouth is one of 18 from North Cape to the Bluff –with 21 offices we have the accumulated wealth of knowledge of all these centres – many of the Managers / CEO have been in their roles for up to 28 years and are very innovative and are amazing at sharing of resources. We meet on a fortnightly basis via zoom and have done since the start of COVID with initially meeting twice weekly to support each other and share ideas on how each area was doing.

Together with our own centre having a 22-year history within our New Plymouth district and surrounding communities and a total of 100 years' experience, within the 4 Board and 2 Staff members, in the Volunteering Sector.

We are excited to have many new things in the planning stages for 2023/2024 . If you are keen to learn more don't hesitate to contact us, or if you have an idea that you would like to suggest – feel free to give us a call.

If you are in the Not for Profit (For Purpose) Sector please contact us if you are interested in learning how we can support offer resources to you and your Organisation.

Kindest regards

Nga mihi nui

Marie R

Marie Riordan, Manager



Eliza Thomson - Hearing Dogs NZ (nominated by SVA)

We would like to nominate Eliza Thomson in the youth volunteer category in her volunteering hours she has achieved through the Student Volunteer Army Service Award. Eliza joined the SVA

Service award in March 2022.

Eliza was a full-time student who took on the responsibility of socializing a puppy called Darby before he entered training school with Hearing Dogs New Zealand. Eliza committed to volunteering whole heartedly and gave over 3500 hours, which is one of the highest achieved hours in SVA Service award history. She did all of this to make sure Darby had the best start, she spent long nights getting up and looking after him, all while being a full-time student, studying for exams and working a part time paid job.

SVA believes Eliza holds our values at heart to empower future generations of volunteers. Eliza is an incredible role model for future students to learn from.

We are delighted to see that she has as a couple of her guest Darby and his recipient. Great to see this continued connection.



Tania Peng - Waimanako; Taranaki Retreat Cafe

Tania Peng approached us to volunteer while still in school last year. She has been with us 6 months now and within a week she had made herself invaluable in our café.

Tania has worked across all aspects of the café and has mastered each. Our guests know her by name which isn't common with volunteers.

Tania is a very bright girl with a strong social conscience, she is very kind and treats all of our guests with respect and dignity. Tania fully encompasses our ethos of kindness; she is by nature non-judgmental and approaches everyone with the same lovely smile and welcoming attitude.

Tania has often responded to a call to work with alacrity and professional readiness. The staff as a team smile when she walks into the café as she is highly skilled and always ready to serve. Tania is our standout, everyone at the Retreat would agree.



Elsie Morgan - Pregnancy Help Taranaki

We have a large number of knitters that contribute to a collection of knitting that go out into our clothing parcels, but Elsie's contributions are a very extra kind of special.

Elsie specialises in knitting one-of-a-kind sets for the babies we provide care packs for. Each set includes a jersey or cardigan, hat, slippers and a toy. Each set is unique, Elsie does not use a pattern as you might think, she

thinks of an idea and then goes off and makes it.

Elsie sources the wool herself as well utilising bits from other projects and scouring Spotlight for bargains.

For some of the clients we support, having new items for the baby is not possible, but because of Elsie, these mums have something that has been made just for them, it becomes a treasured item that they keep for their baby's memory box.

We have been privileged to witness a couple of mums receiving this gift, and the delight and gratitude that these new parent's show is so rewarding.



Rob Maetzig - Eastern Taranaki Kiwi Trust

Rob Maetzig has volunteered with our project for four years.

Rob is absolute gold for our organisation offering his valuable time and expertise in the area of journalism and media.

Rob took ownership of creating our newsletter and turned it from basic to a professional looking publication.

He is a very committed volunteer; his passion for our project is evident with the continual work he does to help us source funding/ sponsorship from his wide net of connections he has built over the years.

Rob ensures that we capitalise our media opportunities, which is crucial to help us attract funding and be visible within the community and New Zealand.

He has also recently joined our Board of Trustees and was nominated as Chair; having him volunteer in this capacity is extremely valuable and as a true advocate for the project he will lead the board and project team to continue their important work to protect the ecosystem and biodiversity in East Taranaki.

It shouldn't be left unrecognised that Rob is also active in his role in Rotary; he embodies the attributes of great community person and deserves to be acknowledged for all that he does to support community and community projects.



Brett Hall - Age Concern Taranaki

Brett started with Age Concern Taranaki at the launch of the Digital Literacy Lessons programme in November 2021. He is a dedicated and valuable volunteer, whose knowledge and teaching style

has helped many people accessing our programme.

He has many years' experience in teaching computer skills, and was able to bring his previous students along, with many returning weekly to continue their learning.

Brett's dedication is exceptional. He would walk into town to our office to deliver lessons, throughout the year, braving elements of all seasons. Unfortunately, Brett battles with serious health issues, despite this, he has been there for his students as much as he possibly could, and always with a positive disposition.

We saw the hugely positive impact Brett had on our digital literacy attendees when he had to take a break, people were asking us how he was doing and when he would be back, as they were missing their enjoyable and helpful sessions. The level of care and concern

his students have for him is a tribute to his good nature and the value he has brought to their lives.

Brett's contribution to Age Concern Taranaki has undoubtedly earned him a nomination as an outstanding volunteer.



Wendy Brown - We Love Dogs Trust

Wendy brings empathy and understanding where dogs in our community are in need. She provides the liaison when meeting potential adopters, clients needing to rehome their

dog(s) and persons offering to foster.

Spending many hours meeting and following up placements when dogs are rehomed into adoptive or foster homes

Providing valuable back up advice, assists with vet visits, and makes sure each dog is fully vaccinated, microchipped, registered and desexed – ensuring the very best outcome for both the dogs, families or individuals involved in fostering, adopting and surrendering.

Wendy gives her time freely, the impact of her work has been a huge factor for the many dogs and puppies the trust has rehomed, for the human side of rehoming she has provided comfort and relief for those seeking to surrender and a new companion "doggy" friend for those wanting to rescue a dog. Wendy has been involved as a volunteer with the trust for over two years after retiring from teaching.

Her impact cannot be underestimated, the trust sees so many dogs surrendered for a variety of situations, her understanding and non-judgmental approach deserves recognition. She provides a very "pawsitive" impact, enhances the lives of owners and the community.



Teena Jordan - Taranaki Emergency Management Office (TEMO)

Teena encourages and exemplifies the virtue of a good volunteer and consistently displays values of humanity, selflessness, empathy and community

service. Teen has been a volunteer since 2018 and brings valuable skills to the role across training facilitation, psychosocial first aid, animal welfare and best of all 'can do attitude'.

Teena contributes selflessly to the TEMO vision and mission and volunteered in the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) during Covid-19 and Cyclone Gabrielle Welfare team. Teena worked on the welfare desk and then within the Care in the Community team throughout our 2020 Covid-19 response, and later with the joined-up Taranaki response lead by TDHB 2021-2022. A good example of Teena's commitment to the community is in her work during Covid-19 within the Care in Community team looking after deliveries for the Bell Block/Waitara 7 days a week, delivering packages to support whanau/households isolating with Covid-19. Teena's commitment goes beyond assisting when we are in response, she diligently and willingly attends practice exercises throughout the year and is proactive in upskilling through training and meetings. She helps and encourages people she works with and always with a positive solution focused attitude and above all always a smile on her face.



Maureen King - Seasons for Growth

Maureen King has been involved with seasons for over 14 years. Maureen is very kind, caring and shows empathy when facilitating the children's grief and loss programme. She became a

companion because she liked working with children and enjoys empowering them to realise that "life is like the seasons and nobody gets through life without its challenges".

Maureen can work with all age group and when asked to companion always says yes providing it fits with her other volunteer roles, include Victim Support, Citizen's Advise and Hospice. Maureen says it's not work as it adds value to her day and part of her whole life. Both parents set a good example of caring through their volunteering. Maureen is a special, kind person who adds value to our team, she bonds quickly with children and accepts them all. When asked what keeps you going her reply is "my generation doesn't view this as work but more it's just what you do, and if you find something you love you stick with it as it's rewarding. We are so lucky to have Maureen and our team empowering young people to accept their situation and provide skills to enhance their well-being.

She is the driving force in the Friends of Pukekura Park, she has a deep knowledge of the history, ecology and the plants in the park. A font of knowledge and advice, raising hundreds of cuttings and seedlings for the annual Pukekura plant sales to fundraise for park projects. As well as involved with guided walks and working bees, She set up the Gables Gardening Group, and is still very actively involved meeting each Thursday morning to weed and plant the Gables gardens which surround the Gables building, currently used by NP Art Society.

In rain or shine these gardeners meet, weeding, planting, planning, then enjoy morning tea together. The level of commitment is illustrated during WOMAD closedown. They relocate to other gardens in the Park, all at Adrienne's instigation. She is an invaluable asset to the Gables and the Park in general. She was chairperson of the NZ Founders Society for 3 years too.



Raewyn McDonald - Pregnancy Help Taranaki

Raewyn, now into her 10th year of volunteering with our organisation, in that time she has played a significant role in shaping who we are today. She has held different roles including sitting on the

board for a number of years. She contributes more than 500 hours of her time each year and along with her other volunteer responsibilities she organises the roster for the other volunteers.

Along with volunteering for our organisation Raewyn also volunteers with Lions and the reason she is not here today is that she is with the Lions on a training and also with the Cancer Society, regularly helping with fundraising and making events happen.

Raewyn is great at making everyone who comes into our organisation welcome and cared for. She is an excellent recruiter of volunteers, many of whom were invited to join the team by Raewyn and have stayed on year after year. Raewyn is such a key part of our team, and we are very grateful that she has shared so much of herself with us.



Donna Baker - Taranaki Cancer Society

Donna has been a volunteer for the Taranaki Cancer Society since the very early 2000'. In this time she has done many different roles as a volunteer including home visits, client drives, oncology

morning and afternoon teas, practical assistance, friends of the society and has been a big part of the Relay for Life and Daffodil Day volunteer teams.

In the early days of Relay for Life Donna took over the big job of doing the survivor's lunch. This is a large part of the day where cancer survivors are celebrated, and a lovely lunch is provided for them. This can have over 100 people to organize food for. Donna does an amazing job putting sandwiches, savouries, and yummy slices and cakes together all on time with help of volunteers – some who may not have helped in the food area before.

Donna also volunteers for other organisations and helps out where needed through the Inglewood Lions along with working full time. She is always ready to help, passionate about her time volunteering and advocates for the Taranaki Cancer Society whenever she can. We could not do without her and appreciate the precious hours of volunteering she gives us.

board for a number of years. She contributes more than 500 hours of her time each year and along with her other volunteer responsibilities she organises the roster for the other volunteers. Along with volunteering for our organisation Raewyn also volunteers with Lions and the reason she is not here today is that she is with the Lions on a training and also with the Cancer Society, regularly helping with fundraising and making events happen.

Raewyn is great at making everyone who comes into our organisation welcome and cared for. She is an excellent recruiter of volunteers, many of whom were invited to join the team by Raewyn and have stayed on year after year. Raewyn is such a key part of our team, and we are very grateful that she has shared so much of herself with us.



Dot and David McKay - Friends of Pukekura Park

Around 6-7 years ago, Dot and David decided the asparagus weed was becoming invasive in Pukekura Park.

They decided one of their retirement missions, which

they could do together, was to be assisting the Park team by removing as much of this weed as possible.

So the two of them quietly go around the Park twice a week, doing just that. They can be seen working away, carting away the weeds and making a real difference.

Occasionally a helper may join them, but for the most part this is a Dot and David initiative and a real commitment to the jewel which is our Park.

They show initiative, commitment, and dedication to the cause.



Adrienne Tatham - Friends of Pukekura Park

Adrienne Tatham 90 years young has been involved with Friends of Pukekura Park for over 20 years, 8 years as President and now Patron.

She has a very strong

connection with Brooklands gifted by Newton King (her grandfather) to the people of New Plymouth.



Waimanako; Volunteers - Taranaki Retreat

The Taranaki Retreat Café is a 'kai for koha' café. Our food and drinks are all less than \$10, most meals are around \$5. There are many in the community

who cannot find that \$5 so the food is 'koha' - no cost.

Being a social enterprise, we have paid employee, however we wouldn't survive without our volunteers which currently number around twelve. We have trained volunteers for kitchen working, Front of House, taking orders, delivering the food, cleaning the tables and the dishes. One of our best baristas is a volunteer.

Our café volunteers are indeed extraordinary as this is hard work and one's heart must be front and centre in this kind of social enterprise.

We deal with people who have no home, no food. Our mission is to give them hope.

Our volunteers do that by sometimes sharing that they are there to help (not for financial reward but because they care) the customer then learns that they have chosen to be there.

Watching these interactions daily, seeing humans care for humans. I am often in awe of each new volunteer approach I receive, knowing that yet again I am going to meet an extraordinary person.



NP RDA Operational - New Plymouth Riding for Disabled

Therapeutic, educational, and recreational horse riding for North Taranaki young people living with disability.

Our active in service delivery or property management volunteers number 30 during the year.

Volunteers come at least one day each week of the school terms and average 6 hours each day.

The primary duties of the majority include horse leading, sidewalking, grooming, tacking up (picking up horse poo which is sold) and other related duties.

All volunteers undergo induction and orientation training as well as regular refresher training.

Good physical fitness of the team is an important attribute as well as being comfortable around horses.

Understanding and empathy of our riders who are living with a wide range of disability is essential.

A number of the volunteers are also involved in monitoring our 11 horses, checking fences and water troughs on the days we don't operate, in addition to their normal hours.

Some members of the team are involved in property management which includes moving electric fences, repairing, and building fences, spraying and even hay making each year on our leased property.

On average in the year, we have had between 60 and 75 riders participating each week.

What makes our volunteer team outstanding: "commitment!"



Care in the Community - Taranaki Emergency Management Office

The Care in the Community team was made up of volunteers from within the New Plymouth District Council as well as a small number of community volunteers in strategic

locations to provide full coverage across the district. The team was formed in 2020 and is made up of 15 volunteers who put their hands up to support the regional delivery coordination of the supported isolation model. The team were rostered across the response to provide seven-day capability. The team made over 400 deliveries in 2021 and 2022.

The volunteers maintained this service and prioritised our community, supporting the welfare function of the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) to deliver welfare services during Covid-19 and across 2021 and 2022 within the DHB lead Care in the Community model of wrap around support for people and whanau and families isolating at home. The team delivered kai packages, hygiene kits, pet food, nappies and baby supplies, oximeters, prescriptions and performed door knocks seven days a week. This outstanding service meant that those in our community who did not have support systems – friends/family/whanau – were able to safely isolate. The team did significant mahi to minimise the social and economic impacts of Covid-19 in the Taranaki community.



Kiddylandz Toy Library - Pregnancy Help

The Kiddylandz Toy Library runs free indoor play sessions for under 5's. The team of 4 volunteers greet families and support caregivers to use the indoor play space.

The volunteers come alongside carers and find out how they are doing and if they can help in some way they will do. This might mean making a coffee, providing parenting advice, or connecting with a support agent that can help with practical and wellbeing needs.

The team is lead by Rosalie Terry, who as a volunteer coordinates the toy library and arrange the loan of toys and equipment to families. Monique Avery, Ruth Baird, and Kayne Barron set up the space each week and make sure each family is welcomed and facilitate conversations so that carers connect and build their parenting network. Without the volunteers engaging with carers and children, the opportunities to meet those hidden needs and getting support to families means less families are thriving in our communities.

Event Funding & Sponsors:

New Plymouth District Council

DIA Community & Volunteering Capability Fund

Marbles Buffet

Starbucks

DeliStar



Inner Wheel New Plymouth - Taranaki Womens Refuge

The Inner Wheel New Plymouth North have been supporting Taranaki Women's Refuge for many years particularly, the past seven years. They contribute donations to our fundraisers, collect items

of clothing for our pop-up shop, make and donate goods and are regular volunteers.

In the past seven years they have been a much appreciated and dependable presence in the setup of our major fundraiser - The Pop Up Shop. They have been integral at getting the event ready for the public "we wouldn't know what we would do without them". Also supporting other fundraisers such as Deck the Rooms for Refuge as event support and collecting donations for our street appeal. They are the group we call on if we need volunteers as they are resourceful, reliable and ready to help. Recently they have taken over garden maintenance at our Safe House. It is so valuable to have support from a team like this who always do their best to fill any request or need we have. The effort and commitment to supporting our mahi is greatly appreciated. They have contributed to, and supported the rights and ability for women and their children to live a life free from violence.



Super Swop Shop - Volunteering New Plymouth

This was a surprise for Robyn the Founder of Super Swop Stop New Plymouth FREE OP SHOP

She nominated her team of two helpers and we

realized that Robyn deserved to be recognised for all her work as well.

Twelve years ago, Robyn Willis needed help with clothes, she received help from a cousin who gave her too much & was told to give the rest away and now she does just that.

This is a 100% free op shop where clothing, shoes, kitchen stuff, sheets, toys, linen and much more are on offer. Donations regularly come in, but some items are dirty & yucky. That is where Kylie & Debbie help out by taking home, washing and re-sorting all the items ready for putting on the shelves for customers (in her covered in carport). Kylie & Debbie are on board from before opening till after closing, making sure we are all clean for the following shift. Spotswood College donates left over school lunches two days a week and Bread is also received two days a week. No money changes hands for any exchange. There is no pressure to donate - if you need something and it is in store then you are welcome to take it. Robyn couldn't do this without her team as she has health challenges which she pushes through because Payment is the Happiness of knowing that people out there need and appreciate what we do.



Eltham Knitters & Crocheters - Seasons for Growth

What began eight years ago as a notice on the Eltham library wall, seeking like minded people to share friendship and the love of crafting, has led to a wonderful close team

of caring ladies who help one another and their communities and one another through life's ups & downs. I recently collected 10 gorgeous creations made mostly while a member was undergoing chemotherapy; it gave her joy creating them.

I am grateful to receive teddies and animals that have been created with love that I give to every child who attends our Seasons for Growth children's grief and loss support programme. I see the joy on the children's faces when they receive a teddy that is often accompanied with a note "To someone very special".. These are keepsakes and companions after programme completion and a friendly reminder of how they learnt to cope with life challenges.

Other items include schools and rest homes having blankets and slippers, Plunket, Stratford Teen Mum unit receiving blankets and garments, Food bank, Police received packs of teddies and blankets, Neonatal unit in New Plymouth, Hawkes Bay community and the Nest in Wellington. Thank you to the fabulous team who enriched others' lives.



Waitara Knitters - Taranaki Women's Refuge, Pregnancy Help & Volunteering New Plymouth

Waitara Knitting group have been donating knitted goods to Taranaki for over 7 years. This group of knitters have been

dedicated to using their skills to support others. They are aware of wanting to meet the needs of the community by checking in regularly. Every winter we can be assured of receiving boxes of beautifully made hats, scarves, gloves and mittens. As needed, they also make blankets. The team are proactive, and their commitment is consistent. Grace, as a representative, is a regular presence in our office delivering goods and catching up on the latest need to fill. All knitting is made from resources funded by the group. The amount of time that is surely spent creating their donations is huge.

The Waitara knitting group are an unassuming team of volunteer's who give their time, resources and skills to help our community, also Supporting Pregnancy Help with Baby items and Volunteering New Plymouth with Tiny Teddies for Gabby's Starlit Hope for kids in hospital.

Because of their work, many in our region have been kept warm and comfortable. Their generosity and kindness may never be known to them; The three organisations wish to acknowledge their commitment to their community.