

# WOLLY Vibes

*"We support, promote, value and encourage volunteering"*



Hi Everyone,  
*Wow* Again.

Since our last newsletter it has been busy as usual. We celebrated National Volunteer week and during that time we had the Managers Morning tea at Starbucks and we launched the Op Shop Brochure – (hard Copy) to be uploaded onto our website soon – look

out for it at [www.volunteeringnewplymouth.org.nz](http://www.volunteeringnewplymouth.org.nz)

We have just 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. We do ask for a citation of 200 words and for all Awardees I know how hard that is – so the committee does appreciate all the information that nominators send it – it just gives me the challenge of reducing it to be 200 words ☺.

I enjoy reading the information sent in and learning about what these people are doing in our community. I realized this year why the event means so much to me personally. I have read about all these people who are awarded and then I get to meet them and thank them for all that they do. It is such a joy and all recipients say much the same when I phone them to tell them that they are going to receive an Award – "We don't volunteer for any accolades, we just volunteer for the personal rewards that we receive from it" – this might be something like a releasing a kiwi into the wild or the smile that a person who is receiving a meal gives the deliverer or the people who have a warm home to live in because they have just had their home double glazed and had a heat pump out in. It is also often that they JUST DO and they don't think of it as volunteering.

You will see in this newsletter the many different types of volunteering that happens and the range of ages of the people who volunteer, and how much that the young ones are doing. 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 Volunteering New Plymouth. The example of the two youth categories we had in the Awards. The Camp Rolo have a total of 43 in their team and Kane has been volunteering for more than 2 years for two different Organisations. Then there are the two girls Bella and Indie from Tuku Iho – (three generation or more) they have been part of the Rotokare volunteer whanau almost from birth – certainly from the age of two either helping their Great Grandmother with serving lunch or being carried in a back pack. Recently they have been part of the team who released kiwi into the reserve and / or empty the boxes at the kiwi release at Totara block.

The categories for the Awards this year and the Awardee are as follows and you will see their photo and citation within this newsletter. I do hope that you enjoy reading about all that these Awesome Volunteers have been doing.

Kindest regards,

*Marie R*

[Marie Riordan, Manager]



**Tuku Iho - (Three Generations or more of one Family / Whanau)**

- Beverley Pranker
- Kara Pranker
- Matt Kyle
- Indie Kyle
- Bella Edwards

**Teams**

- Kaumatua Housing Team
- Seasons for Growth
- St Vincent de Paul

**Individuals**

- Kim O'Connor
- Lynda Hooker
- Julia McNeil
- Julia Kuriger

**Long Service**

- John Oxenham
- Jennie Rae
- Norma Haley

**Couples**

- John & Pam Denney
- Gordon & Ann Chisnall

**Youth**

- Kane Fabish

**Youth Team**

- Camp Rolo Youth Leaders

**Weaving People Together**

- Rosemary Richards
- Patricia (Pat) Keinzley

- Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust

- Te Atiawa Kaumatua Housing Trust
- North & Central Seasons for Growth
- Furniture Team Taranaki Women's Refuge

- Taranaki Women's Refuge
- ParaFed Taranaki
- Take Them a Meal
- Take Them A Meal Special Appreciation

- Urenui & Districts Health Group
- NP Budget Advisory Service
- Taranaki Cancer Society

- NZ Red Cross
- Taranaki Cancer Society

- Taranaki Cancer Society

- Vertical Horizon Adventure Centre

- Long Service Seasons for Growth NP
- Individual Age Concern Taranaki



## CAMP ROLO YOUTH LEADERS –

Vertical Horizon Adventure Centre

Could the Youth Leader representatives & Staff please stand

Camp Rolo is held during the first week of each holidays from 1pm on Saturday till 4pm the following Friday. For four camps a year, this group of 43 young people give up an enormous amount of their time to make Camp Rolo possible for 140 campers aged between 7 – 13 years.

Our camp offers a unique and diverse camp with extensive activities that provide challenges, learning opportunities and encourages people to grow physically, emotionally, and spiritually through Hope, Purpose, Connection and Belonging.

All Youth Leaders (generally aged between 14 and 20 years) old work at instilling these values into the children at Camp while under their care. They play a vital role to ensure the campers have the time of their lives and show fantastic examples of leadership, becoming role models for the aspiring campers. It is impressive how much time and energy these young leaders give up for others. The commitment is also 1 weekend a month for training from Friday 5pm till 10am Sunday. This is happening currently that is why there are only 4 here representing the team and the all leaders will receive their individual certificates tonight at training.

The impact their guidance and leadership have on the young people around them is immense Without them we would not have camp.



## GORDON & ANN CHISNALL

Gordon and Ann have been involved with the Taranaki Cancer Society for over 15 years. They started out as participants in the annual Relay 4 Life event when it first began in Taranaki and have carried on with this event annually since.

Gordon and Ann have delivered posters for Relay 4 Life to the Hawera businesses. This can be a time consuming job.

During this time they took on board being “Daffodil Day Area Coordinators” on behalf of the Manaia Lions. This role involves them ordering merchandise to sell, coming to New Plymouth from Hawera to collect the merchandise, attending Daffodil Day meetings and doing a money collection in Manaia. This is a big job that can be unpleasant on a cold, wet day. They even have their yellow beanies and scarves for the day.

There is never a dull moment when both Gordon and Ann are in the Cancer Society office. Their bubbly, enthusiastic personalities are a big benefit to our society

Also involved with –

- Manaia Lions, President / Treasurer member, 35 years;
- Hospice Shop, Volunteer, 3 years;
- Manaia Walkway, Volunteer, 20 years;
- Gordon – Life member of both the Manaia Lions & Lord Morgan Trust.



## JULIA KURIGER

Julia K is here today as a nominator of Julia McNeil however – little did she know that it has been requested that she too receive recognition for the work she has done in setting this up and being that go to person prior to Julia Mc coming on board.

Julia is the Founder and Coordinator of “Take them a Meal” Back in 2014 she started this because when she was overseas with Sophie she had people cook for her and she remembered how appreciative she was.

Take them a Meal is group made up of a very wide spread bunch of people in our community that like to support people through life changes or challenges by volunteering to provide home cooked meals, baking, ingredients, supermarket giftcards or other food to show the recipient that others care and they are thought of. So far this year they have arranged 120 meals.

This is a no questions support and regardless of who we are or our life circumstances there are times when having one less meal to cook or having something nice to sit down and enjoy with a cuppa makes a little difference to our day.. Today Julia has a very special birthday as well. Congratulations

## JULIA McNEIL

Julia has served our “Take them a Meal” network since about 2017, since 2018 on the key coordinating team. Everything works better with Julia around. She constantly has fresh ideas, making sure that the service we deliver is high quality. She discovers needs, works to create meals (made by herself or others from our network) and beautifully handles deliveries and pastoral care of the families. Julia has such a special way with words, so handles tricky situations with grace and sensitivity, often needed when working with families that are facing big challenges.

Julia has created relationships with community groups and businesses to support our project – NZ Post Centre Smart Road- contacts Julia to collect food boxes that are delivered incorrectly; these are then delivered to registered families.

She is a ‘make it happen’ and ‘nothing is too much trouble’ kind of person and opens her home and pantry to our team for our biannual all-day cook.

Everyone needs a ‘Julia’ on their team! We are beyond grateful that she chooses to give her time, money and energy in the way that she does!

Also involved – Multiples Taranaki, Committee / Welfare Officer

Mangorei Primary School, Parent Support Coordinator

## KANE FABISH

Kane has been a volunteer with the Taranaki Cancer Society for the past 2 years. In this time, he has helped at the Office and with Events, while still doing his studies.

Kane started as a “Car Cleaner” – regularly cleaning the Society cars, inside and out also included maintenance checks and WOF and Registrations reminders. Kane got the feel of the place and decided to volunteer more.

He helped at the Stratford Daffodil Day Luncheon. Kane did deliveries to the other Volunteers, helped setting up tables in the hall and dishes.

At Christmas time Kane did “Gift Wrapping” at the Society Wrapping station in Centre City.

In March Kane volunteered for our Relay 4 Life Event. This involved him transporting participants gear into the venue and Logistical work. His attention to detail, enthusiasm and efficient nature will see Kane join the committee for Relay 4 Life 2022 in an official capacity – the youngest person to do so for Taranaki. Kane is a huge asset and a great example to other youth.

He is a City of NP Army Cadets Corporal & Stores / Logistics for 2 years Section Commander / Colour Party Guard, 1 year



## KIM O’CONNOR

Kim has volunteered for Taranaki Women’s Refuge Pop Up Shop from the 2015 beginning. Kim is hard working, dedicated and a solid representative, entirely trustworthy and a cherished volunteer who is entrusted with all financial aspects of our event. Kim always gives as much as she can and will often come in to volunteer even round precious family visits. Kim is kind, professional and works to ensure guests have an enjoyable time.

Kim also offers her business as a drop off locations for donations. She encourages and invites others to support our fundraising efforts and always collects a huge amount of donations from her store. She is committed to making our fundraising successful for women and children in our region. Kim’s compassionate nature means she is an asset in our volunteer team and we know we can rely on her every year. Kim has supported 4 coordinators over her time. Kim celebrates with us, our joy over our successes is her joy.

Also involved with –

Tell your girlfriend Facebook page Admin, 2-3 years; NP Joggers & Walkers, Sponsor & Volunteer, 10 years; Cape Egmont ½ marathon, Sponsor & Volunteer, 2 years



### JENNIE RAE

Jennie is currently the President of NP Budget Advisory Service – a position held for 20 years, she has been a Volunteer Budget Adviser (Financial Mentor) for 30 years. Jennie has made a measurable impact over the past 30 years as a Leader and Volunteer, she is a strong advocate in best practice for Financial Mentors and the main stay for our Service, taking the Organisation from a small mainly Volunteer run Organisation with 1 Part-time paid Coordinator helping 200 clients a year to today with 6 employees, 10 Volunteers – seeing over 1500 people last year.

Her Volunteer activities include:

- Touched and enriched the lives of others, particularly those who are vulnerable or who have found themselves in difficult financial position due to circumstances out of their control.
- Working with clients to help them create financial resilience and reduce debt levels
- Shown ongoing initiative, leadership and Community Education
- Devoted herself to sustained and selfless voluntary service
- Demonstrated innovation and creativity in delivering lasting results.
- Understanding the ever-changing funding streams

Her contribution to others becomes all the more impressive when you consider Jennie has a busy full-time role in the health sector and is involved with Nurses Union.



### JOHN & PAM DENNEY

For 35 years John and Pam have been delivering Red Cross Meals on Wheels in New Plymouth. They started in 1986 and their run is every Monday. These days John usually does the driving and Pam braves the elements and delivers the meal.

It is a balancing act to be able to have a small chat with the person receiving the meal but at the same time also knowing that others are waiting for theirs. It is often the highlight of the client's day. For some they just deliver the meal, for others they set the meal up and open the containers. Their visit also provides a sense of security, and they report back if there are any concerns or that the person is not managing.

John and Pam bring a happy and cheerful face and say it has given them satisfaction and brightened their lives. They highlight the Red Cross principles of Humanity and Voluntary Service

Also involved with – Reading Sessions, Oakura School, 7 years; Probus, 20 years; Kidney Support Group (John), Various, many years; Pam- St Mary's Volunteering Café, Stop In Charity Shop and Saturday lunches for widows & widowers 5 years +



### JOHN OXENHAM

Urenui & Districts Health Group was formed in 1987 As a "First Responder Team"

John joined in 1988 as a First Responder, a Committee member, then became First Response Liaison, coordinating callouts and responders paged by the 111 system. He organises St John training and reports to the Committee. First responders need a level 3 pre-hospital care qualification and maintain their training. On Committee he has governance input into the safe running of the team. He maintains relationships with local funders to support equipping the team.

John has supported many community members at incredibly difficult times through, births, deaths, farm accidents, cardiac arrests, motor vehicle accidents, suicides, or night callouts to help elderly patients who have fallen, also supporting community events by providing "First Response" service.

This has been a 24/7 position, John's paid job as a farmer has allowed for some flexibility and his commitment and determination to succeed has hugely benefitted our rural community John's medical skills, professionalism and confidentiality have benefitted our community, after more than 30 years of service and still going strong at 76 years old we think he's more than worthy of the award.

For many years Uruiti Hall Chairperson /Committee member



### TUKU IHO – Muller / Pranker Family

The Muller / Pranker family epitomise community volunteering. They are generous with their time and talents. When they commit to something, you know that they will be there and they will most likely bring someone or something with them to make the task easier and more enjoyable to everyone involved. Four generations of the family have been involved with Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust since its inception just 17 years ago Gwen Muller took it on herself to feed the volunteers every Sunday. delivering it herself from New Plymouth every Sunday (An estimated 30,000km over 10 years). She was made our first Life Member in recognition of her unselfish dedication. It was Gwen's lunches that kept volunteers coming back and so much was able to be achieved as a result. Sadly she passed away in March 2016.

Gwen's daughter Beverley Pranker and granddaughter Kara Pranker were also there from the beginning. There are no tasks in the sanctuary that they haven't done between them, always with a smile. They will tell you that they "haven't done much", but probe a little deeper and you will learn that they have cut the first tracks in the bush, spent hours trapping pests, searched for kiwi in rugged country for hours at night, completed countless funding applications, painted and concreted, taught ecological monitoring skills to new volunteers, transported precious kiwi eggs to Rotorua for hatching and delivered the chicks home again to Rotokare, hosted volunteers, researchers and trainee rangers in their own home.

Beverley . Like her mother, cares deeply for people and goes out of her way to ensure that people are looked after and nurtured to develop their full potential. In addition to her volunteer involvement at Rotokare, Beverley has been a netball stalwart. Coaching at local and regional level for over 30 years and counting!

Kara There is nothing about the sanctuary that she doesn't know about. She was the first person they employed. These days Kara stays involved at regular Sunday working bees, biosecurity tasks, including trapping, and tracking tunnel deployment, species management including annual 5 Minute Bird Counts, kiwi catching and monitoring. Kara also volunteers with South Taranaki Forest and Bird, including 4 years as President.

Kara's efforts, over many years have directly contributed to the success of the Taranaki Kohanga Kiwi at Rotokare project. The project reached a milestone last year with the first translocation of kiwi from Rotokare Sanctuary

Kara's daughter Indie is the fourth generation of the family to volunteer at Rotokare. She is only seven however recently she assisted with deploying tracking cards along 2.5km of bush tracks and helped carry empty kiwi boxes at the kiwi release at the Totara block in eastern Taranaki in May this year. Indie is growing up with an extended Rotokare whanau.

Matt Kyle – Indie's Dad and Kara's partner was the one who carried Indie in a back pack, (which peaked her interest) He is part of South Taranaki Forest and Bird and has also been involved with the Kiwi release at the Totara block.

Bella Edwards (Beverley's granddaughter) Beginning as a two year old, Bella accompanied Gwen and helped to serve Sunday lunch to the volunteers at Rotokare. She was also able to begin her kiwi conservation journey by helping to release kiwi into the Reserve at the start of the Taranaki Kohanga Kiwi at Rotokare project

The family's commitment to the Rotokare project is inspirational. Without the dedication of this family, Rotokare Sanctuary would not be the success it is today. We look forward to having them as part of the Rotokare Whanau for many years to come.

### LYNDA HOOKER



Lynda started selling old fashioned rare cottage and special plants, seeds and bulbs for ParaFed Taranaki in 2015, by year end 2020 she had raised nearly \$13,000.

Lynda chose ParaFed Taranaki, an organisation dedicated to growing and developing sport and recreational opportunities for disabled people within the region.

"Unfortunately, my father was the victim of medical misadventure and a tetraplegic for 12 ½ years before he passed." As a result, Lynda is passionate about the cause. "This is a life-changing thing when you've got a family member in a wheelchair or with a disability."

Lynda is selfless keeping not one cent for herself, she also protects plants from the past, "a lot of the stuff I've got is not available in garden centres – so she keeps them alive through Plants for Parafed. Although it is a lot of work "I never realised it would get so big. It was a Sunday morning activity and is now almost a full-time job," says Lynda.

Tracy Coker, ParaFed Taranaki sport development adviser, says Lynda's contributions help pay for equipment, repairs, programme delivery and anything not covered by other funding. "She just gives back and gives back,"



### TE ATIWA KAUMATUA HOUSING TRUST

The Board of Te Atiawa Kaumatua Housing Trust deed was signed 16 May 1996, and 2 founding Trustees remain today. The Trust undertook social housing for the rental of 8 units at 11 Leslie Street, Waitara from the Maori Affairs Department. The Charitable Trust was formed, partial extract from the deed as follows: 'To provide, deliver and administer rental and other forms of accommodation principally for kaumatua and kuia, to raise funds and receive grants to further the purposes of the Board'.

2011 – Trustees applied for grants to assist with major upgrades to all 8 units.

2016 – Trustees purchased the property next door, 15 Leslie St, Waitara.

2019 – Te Puni Kokiri assisted the Trust in building 4 x 1 bedroom new units.

2020 – during COVID19 a grant from TET installation 8 heat pumps to the older units, 2 units fitted with new double glazing  
2021 – June, TSB Community Trust (now TOI) grant final 6 older units to receive new double glazing.

Six Trustee volunteers meet on a regular basis, strategically plan for the future of the Trust and tenants. Trustees do not receive an honorarium, proceeds from rental income reassigned and budgeted for operational expenses.



### ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Could all members of the St Vincent De Paul Team please stand St Vincent de Paul's mission is to provide practical and effective help to those in need.

St Vinnies have been supporting Taranaki Women's Refuge clients for many years and in 2018 the arrangement was formalized.

They follow up, check and collect donations, storing them and when our women need items for a home, they provide whatever they can, with no cost and physically help move the family into their new home.

They also donate extra funds, support clients who may need smaller items such as clothing, bedding, etc. The time, organisation, travel costs and physical needs of the move is huge. It also means that women are not accumulating debt by needing to borrow money to furnish a new home for their family.

They are hardworking committed volunteers who work to make life better for others. Without their support we do not have the capacity to help fill all the needs and get donations into the hands of who need them most. Their commitment to good is admirable and we are continuously grateful for their support. They have changed the lives of countless families who continue to be grateful and recall their generosity.



### NORMA HALEY – Taranaki Cancer Society

Norma has been a Volunteer for the Taranaki Cancer Society for around 22 years. She started out by organizing the Daffodil Day Street Collectors for many years. This role involved finding volunteers to occupy sites with another person for a scheduled time on Daffodil Day. Norma was required to contact all of the volunteers and stay in touch with them regarding their times and directions.

Norma has been contacted many times over the years to sell fresh Daffodils at various places when they have bloomed earlier than they should.

In the lead up to Daffodil Day, she has gone out and delivered Business Merchandise orders.

Norma has been a general volunteer throughout the 22 years. If a job arises, Norma is one of the first to help out. She is one of those volunteers that anyone can count on. Norma is a trustworthy, reliable, dedicated volunteer of the Taranaki Cancer Society and we appreciate everything she does for us.

Not only does she volunteer for Cancer Society she also volunteers for Hospice and has done for 20 years and Riding for Disabled for 4 years

## With Thanks to our Sponsors.....

New Plymouth District Council (Funding & Venue)  
DIA - Supporting Volunteer Fund (Funding)  
Starbucks (Event Sponsor)

Venture Taranaki (Event Sponsor)  
Marbles Buffet (Event Sponsor)  
Z Service Station (Sponsor)  
North Taranaki Midweek (Volunteer Call)  
Razz Print & Design (Printing & Design)  
Le Dejeuner Catering Services (Event Sponsor)  
Katie Coplestone-Tipler  
(Event Volunteer Photographer)  
NZ Red Cross (Training)

Sport Taranaki (Training Venue)  
Blind Foundation (Event & Training Venue)  
The Wheelhouse (Event / Education Support)  
Taranaki Community Law (Education Sponsor)  
Primo Wireless (Internet Sponsor)  
Access Radio Taranaki 104.4FM (Airtime)  
MSD (Funding/Staff)  
Lottery Grants Board (Funding)



### ROSEMARY RICHARDS

Rosemary trained as a volunteer Seasons Companion in 2007 and started facilitating groups. Rosemary often provides her own resources for groups and is often required to induct newly trained candidates, into their first program, where she guides and supports them ably.

She has also trained to run the LTI (Life Threatening Illness) Program which specifically supports children and young people living with someone who has a serious illness.

In 2015 a decision was made to join two similar grief and loss support programs together. Rosemary made this adjustment smoothly and continued to mentor many newly trained Companions over the subsequent 5 years.

Our program offers each participant a knitted teddy bear on completion of the program. Rosemary has been one of the main knitters of teddy bears in New Plymouth. She has also gathered support from St Chad's weekly knitting group.

What Rosemary contribution is immense, bringing humour, intelligence, sincerity, kindness, calm and punctually into situations and new Companions love learning from her. Rosemary prefers not to be in the limelight and has earned our greatest respect for her character.

She is a PARS- SKYPE Prison Visitor/Courthouse supervisor and also makes savoury & sweet preserves for Waiwhakahi Hospice Shop



### SEASONS FOR GROWTH TEAM

Could all members of the Season's for Growth Team & Staff please stand

Seasons for Growth (SFG) is an education and support programme for 6 – 18 year olds facing loss and grief. Small groups of 3 – 5 participants meet for weekly sessions and are facilitated by two volunteers called Companions. The program and volunteer team in New Plymouth and Central are managed by two Coordinators. Within these groups there are at least three who volunteer for both.

Recently we have been inundated with requests from schools, other professionals and families and for youngsters to be part of the SFG Groups. The program continued as soon as we could after Lockdown and around 175 children and young people attended a group during the last year. Twenty seven of our Companions have been involved during the last year, facilitating one to four groups each.

Companions need to be flexible and adaptable, patient and calm; most have experienced losses and grief of their own and their empathy and care are highly valued by the children, parents, professionals and program coordinators. In 2020 saw Seasons for Growth as one of the top 10 semi finalists for Community of the Year- New Zealander of the Year Awards. Our national success could not have been achieved without the tireless and effective contribution of each of these special Volunteers.



### (PAT) PATRICIA KEINZLEY Age Concern Taranaki

Pat has devoted numerous hours as a volunteer for Age Concern Taranaki for the past three years.

Pat brings to our organisation a vast number of skills which include great communication, reliability, food preparation and kitchen skills, a keen desire to help in any situation. She is volunteer extraordinaire, nothing is too much trouble.

She is very established in her current role as Convenience Meals Service Volunteer and having completed our policies and procedures training pertaining to our food licensing responsibilities. Pat completes weekly stock takes, stock rotation, ordering and safely delivers meals each week to regular customers, many look forward to seeing her smiling face on Friday mornings.

She has built good friendships, is respectful and values everyone.

Pat also volunteers at St Mary's Church Breakfast on a Tuesday morning as a server and recently featured on TV on Seven Sharp.

Pat always goes the extra mile for Age Concern Taranaki. She has driven staff to venues, collected groceries and mail and been a volunteer receptionist at times.

She was actively involved in our premise move in 2020.

She is also involved with: Spotswood United Rugby, Volunteer Catering for 20+years;