

# WOLLY Vibes

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



Hi Everyone,  
*Wow* Again, I say this everytime, but this has been an even crazier time – we are halfway through the fifth month and I am just starting to come up for air.

Most people who I speak to are saying

the same and are of the opinion that 2020 has been a wake up and New Zealanders are extremely fortunate to have been not as severely affected as those in other countries – in the most part.

I think it has made people in general think about what is important to them and we have noticed quite a change in volunteering patterns. There are still a good number of people putting their hand up to volunteer – however those who are offering to volunteer are looking at more options and not taking on a volunteer role that is not the right fit.

This is a potential two-edged sword. The Organisations need volunteers and the potential volunteers is reluctant to say no – however it is better that the volunteer indicates that it is not the right fit early – before the Organisation spends time training and doing the full induction. It does however mean that they are left without that new volunteer.

One of the solutions is for the Organisation to plan ahead – when there is an indication that you may need more volunteers – please contact us here at Volunteering New Plymouth as soon as possible. We can put a role up on our website, put a call in the Midweek, we can also put a post on our Facebook page and a 30second notice on Access Radio Community notices.



Flying High Project stand



Waitara Railway Volunteer Thanks You Event

Wendy's main role is to maintain our website database, add new roles and match volunteers with roles listed. She is also responsible for receiving the responses from the Midweek call and many other daily activities that are part of our Centre.

This all takes time and there may be several on the list already. – so please take time to send us a quick note- letting us know your needs and I can put you on the list sooner rather than later. "Be Prepared" as Baden Powell (Founder and first Chief Scout of the Scouting Movement)

Corporate or Team Volunteering is starting to become more popular here in the District and we are receiving more request by businesses to arrange an activity for the staff to volunteer as a team for an Organisation. I am always looking for more activities to support this. So, if you think that you could arrange a task for a group of volunteers (from 3 or more) to be involved in please contact me. See the photo and write up of WSP at Dress for Success as an example.

On another topic altogether our Annual Volunteer Awards – We are waiting for your nominations – which by the time this goes out nominations will have closed. I am hoping that you have got your nominations in. The Awards are to be held on Saturday June 26th starting at 10.30am at NP District Council Chambers.

You will see in this newsletter we are championing some Volunteers who have received other Awards, which is exciting to see that they are being recognized for their exceptional efforts. Ray – Top Gallant Award and Josh, Finalist in the New Zealander of the Year – Local Hero and Dorothy and Sunita received Local Hero Medals.

Also we are very excited to also include an article about the young volunteers of Park Run who were encouraged to take charge of the event for a day. Thanks to the Adults who have encouraged this.

We have had the pleasure of Paula Voice with us for a 6-month contract (which we extended

for a month), many of you may have spoken to her during her research; she recently completed that contract and has worked through our database and updated it and has completed an Op Shop list and map brochure – The launch will be at a function on June 23rd during National Volunteer Week and will be available for all Op Shops in the NPDC district as a e-version or paper version. This was the result of a phone call from a family member (who visited Nelson and was given one listing all their Op shops) and phoned to tell me that she thought it was a good idea for us – so Paula did the research and produced the brochure that we are now distributing.

Survey 2021: As you will see I am sharing some of the results of this survey. These are what you are telling me that are important to you the Not for Profit sector and what we are going to focus on for the year ahead. Also, those who completed the survey and gave us their names went into the draw for Dinner, Bed & Breakfast at The Devon Hotel A Heritage Hotel (Kindly sponsored by Rosemary & Peter Tennent) was won by Aylene Hall of Age Concern – AVS Accredited Visiting Service. Thanks to every one who took the time to complete the survey, it is going to be very helpful

Taranaki Computer Access Centre (TCACT) is closing after 21 years. You will also see the info sheet with details. This is very sad, however there are several other options that are offering similar, and we are working closely with Age Concern looking at more options. We are also working with those currently attending to look for an appropriate alternative.

(for more information contact admin2-ccac@xtra.co.nz)

Kindest regards

*Marie R*  
[Marie Riordan, Manager]



Maximizing Abilities Expo



Super Swop Shop visit



Presentation of Voucher



Age Concern Inglewood "In Tune"

### Computer Courses - Digital Step Modules

DS1 Computer Basics	DS16 Facebook	DS31 Online Newspapers
DS2 Word 1 (Text formatting)	DS17 Skype	DS32 Smartphones
DS3 Word 2 (Editing documents)	DS18 Intro to Publisher	DS33 Instagram
DS4 Email 1 (Setting up an account)	DS19 Digital Photos	DS34 e-Newsletters (Campaign Monitor)*
DS5 Email 2 (Using email)	DS20 YouTube	DS35 Online Research (Digital NZ)
DS6 Google and the Internet	DS21 Intro to Chromebooks	DS36 Digital Wellbeing (Digital Licence)
DS7 Internet Security and Safety	DS22 Intro to Tablets	DS37 Digital Banking
DS8 Intro to Social Media	DS23 Real Me & My MSD	DS38 Office 365 Online
DS9 Classroom e-Learning	DS24 Google Drive	DS39 SuperGold Card
DS10 Slideshows	DS25 Pinterest	DS40 Appy Seniors*
DS11 TradeMe	DS26 Photo Editing Basics	DS41 Online Streaming
DS12 Employment 1 (Preparation)	DS27 Ancestry.com (Library Edition)	
DS13 Employment 2 (Finding a Job)	DS28 Photo Books	
DS14 Intro to Spreadsheets	DS29 Skinny Jump	
DS15 Home Finances	DS30 Smartphone Apps	* module under construction



Tena koutou

We are writing to let you know that the Taranaki Computer Access Centre, Level 2, 44 Liardet St, New Plymouth will stop training clients from the end of May 2021.

We were established in 2000, under the umbrella organisation Taranaki Employment & Support Foundation Trust and are proud of the way we've helped tutor local people in digital literacy.

However, changes in funding expectations mean that we can't offer the same service we once did.

We would like to acknowledge WITT who we have partnered with to provide these programmes over the past 21 years.

Despite our closure we are heartened by the number of other organisations now offering digital training in the community. A list of them is below and we ask that you help spread this information among your networks.

We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge centre staff and previous board members – and thank any other individuals and organisations who have been supporters over the years.

The centre's last day of operation will be Friday May 28, 2021.

Nga mihi

Board trustees - Marie Riordan, Eileen Kiffin, Sarah Foy, Colleen Tipler, Nikki Truman, James Reo

Age Concern – Tea & Tech sessions matching over-65s with teenage volunteer trainers. 06 759 9196 or 0800 243 625 [projects@ageconcern.org.nz](mailto:projects@ageconcern.org.nz)

Literacy Aotearoa – free digital training as well as structured computer courses. 06 759 4650 [info.c5@literacy.org.nz](mailto:info.c5@literacy.org.nz) <https://www.literacy.org.nz/literacy-aotearoa-new-plymouth>

Stepping Up – Digital Skills for Life courses being run at local Taranaki libraries. 06 759 6060 <https://pukeariki.com>

GCFlearnfree.org <https://edu.gcfglobal.org>

WITT Contact - Nikki Truman 0800 948 869 - 06 757 3100 ext 8857 [n.truman@witt.ac.nz](mailto:n.truman@witt.ac.nz)

Banks – banks are offering help with online banking. See attached sheet. TSB contact Heather Douglas [Heather.Douglas@tsb.co.nz](mailto:Heather.Douglas@tsb.co.nz) or 06 968 3723

Contact banks directly for details.

BANK	PH	HRS	BANK	PH	HRS
ANZ	0800 269 296	6am-midnight	Kiwibank	0800 113 355	9am-4.30pm
ASB	759 0130	9am-4.30pm	NZCU	769 7144	10am-3pm
BNZ	0800 275 269	9am-4.30pm	Westpac	759 7882	10am-3pm
The Cooperative Bank	759 6540	10am-3pm	Rabobank	0800 500 933	8am-6pm

# Awards



**Presentation of TOP GALLANT AWARD to Ray Egarr Volunteer - 45 years -Spirit of New Zealand**

Ray has been the Port contact for the visits of the Spirit of NZ since the initial visit to Port Taranaki in 1975. Although it only visits Feb/Mar every 2-3 years his job is to liaise with the Port officials and arrange berthage and all gear that needs to be offloaded and new provisions loaded on.

Bruce Pilbrow – CEO Spirit of Adventure presented this award in late 2020.

This is a prestigious award for someone who has supported Spirit of Adventure as a volunteer for a significant number of years.

The Spirit of NZ is a 3 masted sail training ship for 40 16-18yr old students who spend 10 days at sea learning heaps about themselves while handling the sailing of the ship. They are nominated by their high school, and the Spirit of Adventure Trust ensures that each 10 day sailing includes trainees from all parts of NZ.

The 40 Trainees coming off the ship are dispersed to all parts of NZ plus the next 40 coming on for the next sailing need to be collected from airport/buses etc. All part of his job.

Prior to the lockdown of the Port area several years ago the ship was available at weekends for public sailings. The funds raised were used to help cover maintenance on the ship. This does not happen now as the ship is only in Port for 2 days and that could be mid week. Public sailings now are only available out of Auckland and sometimes other major centres.

Volunteering New Plymouth wishes to congratulate Ray on this prestigious award. We recognise the achievements of people in our Community who are doing great things. Thank you for the time and effort you have given to the great cause over such a long time.



**JOSH HICKFORD**  
Taranaki

After a diagnosis with Hodgkin's Lymphoma at age 27 turned Josh Hickford's life upside down, he has invested much of his life helping other New Zealanders impacted by cancer. Once in remission, he completed an Ironman event to raise funds for the Cancer Society and appeared on Survivor NZ.

He went on to raise \$32,000 in seed money for an app called

Ripple, a cancer support platform that Josh developed in conjunction with the Cancer Society of New Zealand Taranaki Centre. Ripple launched in late 2019 and is a place where people can ask questions, anonymously if they wish, or track down existing forums and read over them. It also allows people to get in direct contact with others in similar positions – something Josh wished he had had access to during his cancer diagnosis. As well as launching Ripple and working as a chartered accountant,

Josh is on a range of boards: he is finance chair of the Cancer Society Taranaki Centre and on several Cancer Society regional committees. He is part of the Taranaki leadership team and an NZ Councillor for Chartered Accountants Australia New Zealand (CA ANZ) while also being a young regional advocate. Josh is now Chief Executive of Taranaki Foundation, the community foundation for Taranaki, its community and its people.



**DOROTHY ANDERSON**  
Taranaki

Dorothy Anderson remembers fondly her first visit to New Plymouth's Pukekura Park in 1928, and now, at age 98, she gets to visit it regularly in her capacity as a volunteer of New Plymouth's TSB Festival of Lights, which runs for five weeks each summer. Dorothy is the longest-serving volunteer of the Festival, which was officially launched in 1993, although lighting

installations have been a feature of the park for more than 60 years. Dorothy has also been a member of the Friends of Pukekura Park, as well as a member of the Friendship Force of New Plymouth. Her volunteer work has been recognised with a Citizen's Award in 1998 and the Friendship Force Wayne Smith Medal in 2011.

Friendship Force is a voluntary organisation and its objectives of improving international relationships through cultural exchanges has been a passion of Dorothy's since joining the New Plymouth organisation as a Foundation Member in 1984. Since then, Dorothy has hosted forty exchanges involving more than one hundred Friendship Force Ambassadors and has been the Exchange Director for seven Inward and ten Outward exchanges. Many of these involved Third World countries where English was not spoken. Dorothy was President of the New Plymouth Friendship Force Branch for twelve years and also held the posts of Secretary (7 years) and Vice President. In recognition of her contribution to this organisation, Dorothy was made a Life Member of the New Plymouth Friendship Force Club in 2001 and is currently Patron of the New Plymouth branch. Dorothy has attended almost all NZ Conferences and was frequently involved in leadership roles as a panelist or workshop leader and has also attended four World Conferences.



**SUNITA TORRANCE**  
Taranaki

Sunita Torrance is an activist, advocate and critical ally for the LGBTQI+ community in Taranaki. She is best known for being the force behind Rainbow Storytime New Zealand which sees drag queens run storytime sessions for children in public libraries and other community centres.

The sessions have themes of self-acceptance, anti-bullying and diversity, and have been so popular that the two drag queens that front the sessions tour the rest of the country. In late 2019 Sunita was part of a group

that announced they would stage Taranaki's first Pride festival, a celebration of the region's LGBTQI+ communities that would include workshops, a parade, seminars and other events.



**DRESS FOR SUCCESS®**  
NEW PLYMOUTH

It was fantastic to see Louise, Gina and Marise from WSP volunteer for a day to help us in our dressing room. They had previously been the driving force behind a clothing drive in their office where they donated bags of wonderful clothes, shoes and handbags. When the opportunity arose at work to take a 'community day' they immediately thought of helping Dress for Success. Thank-you for your help ladies, it was wonderful having you in the office and helping sort through our donations.





## Is technology coming for our volunteer roles?

In 2018 I wrote two articles on my blog, "Technology & its impact on volunteer management to date" and "Technology and its impact on volunteer management in the future". Since then we've had a global pandemic, during which people have embraced new ways of using technology, both personally and professionally. But has this rapid adoption of technology transformed volunteering?

In some regards, the answer is a cautious yes. More attention has been given to virtual volunteering than at any time since this way of giving time first developed some thirty five years ago. More volunteers than ever have done some form of video calling via a platform like Zoom, either to do their volunteering and / or to attend support meetings, volunteer social events etc.. These changes are not really transformative though, they don't reflect the scale of change that could happen.

Consider the decision by Microsoft to replace human journalists with AI content curation. That's a massive change in the role of humans, way beyond those people communicating remotely whilst working from home or applying for their job online. It's also a shift that could be coming to volunteering. Yes, that's right, technology replacing volunteers!

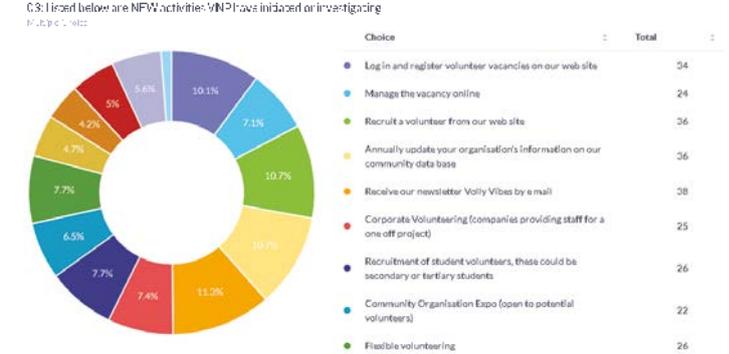
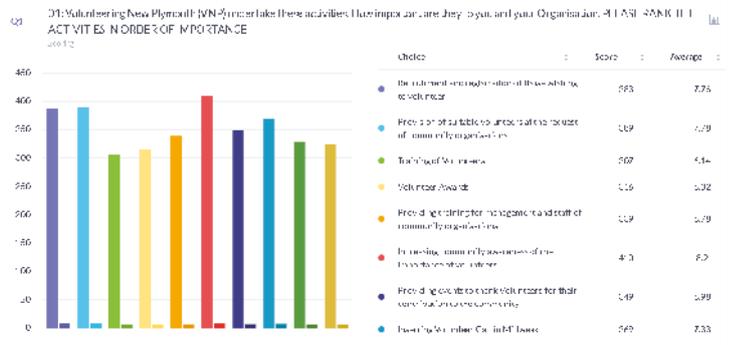
Consider the announcement in February 2020 that the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has developed a 'text generating system' that can accurately and effectively update content on Wikipedia. The AI even ensures the grammar and style of the text it adds matches what was there before. It's not a stretch to think that before long thousands of volunteer Wikipedia editors will no longer be needed.

Furthermore, in 2019, CNBC reported on the UK government investing in technology within the care system: "The scheme...could result in the development of sophisticated 'care robots' which would be deployed to assist the elderly. Actions that could potentially be taken by such robots include helping people up after a fall, making sure medication is taken, and delivering meals." In a world more aware than ever of the risks of disease transmission from human contact, it's not difficult to see human volunteers in the care system being replaced in favour of 'care robots'. Then there are delivery drones. These could be used today to replace volunteers who deliver food and medicine to vulnerable people during pandemic lockdowns. Drone technology could be transformative in the development of post-pandemic volunteering.

You may be thinking, "OK, I get it, but our organisations need volunteers, they are fundamental to our work, we can't just replace them with technology". I completely agree. But remember that organisations generally don't exist to give people an opportunity to volunteer. They exist to fulfil a mission and if they can do that in a different and potentially more effective (and cheaper?) way then why would they not embrace technology?

Put it all together and I have to ask, if we faced another global pandemic in ten years time, would volunteers be as needed as they were over the last year, or would technology have replaced them? Will it even be ten years and need a global crisis - is technology coming for our volunteers sooner than we think?

## Survey Results



Free, weekly and timed, parkrun is a 5K event that prides itself on inclusiveness for all abilities & ages and has gone on to become a global wellbeing phenomenon since its London launch back in 2004. Although only 13 people took part in the inaugural event at Bushy Park, there are now over 6 million parkrunners registered around the world.

The sun was shining brightly as participants lined up on the coastal walkway ready for the start of East End parkrun's 113th event. Parkrun is free, for everyone, forever - because it's event organisers are all volunteers. However, there was something a little different about the volunteers this week - and 'little' was the operative word! In recognition of International Children's day all nine roles on the volunteer roster were filled by children ranging in age from four to fourteen, with all but two being under ten. To emphasise the family nature of parkrun, four pairs of siblings were part of the team.

Eight year old Daisy Walmsley was Run Director for the day and had confidently given her briefing to over 100 people - welcoming new parkrunners and visitors, detailing the route and thanking her team of junior 'hi-viz heroes'. Our two mini-marshals, four year old Jasper and five year old Harry, were already in position out on the course with their parents when our 8am start time neared. Timekeepers fourteen year old Greer and seven year old Pippa started their timers and parkrun was underway. People expecting to run a fast time were encouraged to start at the front while eight year old Cassidy, accompanied by her Dad, took up last place in her volunteer role of tail-walker, it would be her job to always be in last place to make sure

that nobody was left behind. 17 mins and 30 seconds after the start Pippa and Greer clicked their timers as the first parkrunner crossed the finish line, twelve year old Tate handed out the first finish token and further along the finish funnel 8 year old Jack was ready to scan barcodes. An hour and 2 minutes after the start tail-walker Cassidy crossed the finish line completing another successful event at East End that had seen people walk, jog and run, push babies in buggies and walk dogs along our beautiful course that crosses the multi award winning Te Rewa Rewa bridge and affords stunning views of both ocean and Mount Taranaki. All the while volunteer photographer, five year old Teddy, had been snapping photos on his Mum's phone to later share with participants on East End's Facebook page ([facebook.com/EastEndparkrun](https://facebook.com/EastEndparkrun)).

Daisy gave out mini chocolates to all children taking part but none to adults - so unfair; but kids were in charge and that was the rule! Without exception all the children did an amazing job, doing their own designated tasks as well as helping out with setting up of the course & packing away of all equipment. Maybe more adults will have the confidence to volunteer now they've see how well the kids handled things. The future of parkrun is certainly in safe hands, kids love taking part and it's fabulous they are learning to recognise the need to contribute to our organisation. Some volunteers are runners or walkers themselves but volunteering can be a great alternative for kids and adults alike who may be a little daunted about the 5K distance. Perhaps more importantly kids like these will grow up with a taste for volunteering and go on to contribute to the wider community in general.

East End parkrun is held every Saturday morning starting at 8am. Location of start is close to the East End surf club on the small grass reserve at the bottom of Seaton Street. For more information and to register for free please visit: <https://www.parkrun.co.nz/eastend/>

**Children's volunteer day at East End parkrun, New Plymouth – ANDY WALMSLEY**