

WOLLY Vibes

"We support, promote, value and encourage volunteering"



Hi Everyone,
Wow we are almost at the end of 2020. Who would have believed that we could have had a year like we've had. There have been many unprecedented events for us all to learn to

deal with and there have certainly been many challenges for us to face.

Good has come out of this too and I am going to focus on the positive as we at Volunteering New Plymouth close off this year.

- 1) During COVID Lockdown we worked with CDEM Taranaki and helped those who needed extra support to get their groceries (criteria applied). This was an awesome way for us to support the community in a grassroots way.
- 2) Because we became the NPDC Photo for the COVID Funding promotion – this increased the community Awareness of Volunteering New Plymouth.
- 3) This also supported our application for the funding and we were given funding for new office equipment, increase volunteer and Organisational referrals, and new staff member and further website exploration.
- 4) This has allowed me to get out into the community more to introduce what we do

and how we can / do support our local Not for Profit community. If you want more volunteers for your Organisation/group/club contact us and we may have the person for you.

- 5) We have had another huge increase in people signing up to volunteer in fact 25 new people signed up last month and we are looking to match them – with the skills they have to volunteer roles that match their interests. We currently have 60 volunteer role vacancies listed and 320 volunteers signed up to volunteer.
- 6) We have taken on a new staff member Paula Voice who is on board for a 6 month contract to support our NPDC Covid fund work. She is great and is the one who you will probably talk to if you phone the office. We have also been able to increase Wendy's hours, many of you have probably spoken to her or have received emails from. She is also a great asset who came on for a 6 month contract and is still with us nearly 2 years later.
- 7) We are working on our alternative to the Christmas lunch- our Thank You to the volunteers in our Community – we have had a few ask what happened this year and because of COVID we changed our Awards Presentation to International Volunteers Day (our usual lunch day) – so this is a work in progress and I am looking at having it in late February or March – so again watch this space.

- 8) During lockdown Volunteering New Zealand and the 17 Volunteer Centres throughout New Zealand had twice weekly zoom meetings. This has enabled us all to support each other through the many challenges faced with share ideas, best practice and to work through strategies and goal that we previously worked on at our once a year Hui (with small project work happening between). This has led to some new and exciting developments that we will all benefit from.
- 9) Today I meet with CR Sam Bennett, we are looking at a very exciting new project that will add well-being to our tangata (people) of NPDC District. – watch this and other spaces.
- 10) Just today we have received confirmation that we have been successful in our Lottery COVID recovery application – which is a pilot Community Rebuilders – to support community Organisations that find they need to change their service or service delivery in a post COVID 19 environment.
- 11) As you will see this newsletter is dedicated to our wonderful Volunteers who were the recipients of our Annual Volunteer Awards – this year held on International Volunteers Day – we had a great day celebrating some awesome volunteers (as you will read) and a first were two Posthumous Recognitions which were received by their families. It is always fantastic to celebrate our unsung heroes. – A conversation I have after each Awards –

people love hearing about all the great volunteering that happens in our community.

- 12) As I write this I have a holiday in mind- we officially close our office for the Christmas break on Friday 18th, 2020 at 4pm and reopen in 2021 on January 18th, 2021 at 9am. So we the Board and staff of Volunteering New Plymouth wish you all the very best Christmas Season and a fantastic 2021

Looking forward to catching up again soon

Kindest regards

Marie R.
[Marie Riordan, Manager]

