



**SHIRLEY AND COLIN KELSEN** have been an integral part of Hearing Dogs NZ as volunteers for 15 years, which train and place Hearing Dogs with Deaf or severely hearing impaired people throughout New Zealand. Their Volunteering started with weekend minding dogs in training,

now they are expert puppy raisers, getting new puppies from 8 weeks old and raising them to be confident, happy and well behaved puppies ready for the training programme.

They give 24 hours / 7 days a week care for the puppies, toilet training, teaching basic commands and general good manners, socializing with other dogs, children, adults, exposing them to new situations in a safe manner. After 2 months they are transferred to another puppy raiser. Puppy raisers need to follow the guidelines to ensure the dog is ready for training and this is where Shirley and Colin excel.

They help with odd jobs, travel to collect new puppies from breeders, support other volunteers, help them to learn the job. Shirley sews "yellow service jackets" that Hearing Dogs wear in public.

Their nominators stated their support of our staff, care of the puppies and overall kindness is why these two deserve this award.



**ALISON RUMBALL** has been a volunteer for the Cancer Society's Taranaki Centre for 10 years and during that time has been involved in a variety of roles including on the Executive Committee for the entire decade, serving as Vice President,

Acting President and President and on the Finance Committee.

Alison has faithfully attended Central Districts Executive quarterly meetings in Palmerston North for many years as a Taranaki Centre Representative.

Her enthusiasm and assistance knows no limits. Alison has stepped into the gap when the Centre has been short staffed, doing reception duties. Her thoughtfulness and concern for the staff's wellbeing is very evident, she regularly pops in to the Centre to check that everyone is coping with their workload and helps if necessary.

Alison enthusiastically embraces annual fundraising events. Rattling a collection bucket on Daffodil Day has never daunted her and she willingly undertakes any tasks she's assigned at Relay for Life.

Alison is also very generous and has been known to fund little projects without wanting to draw any attention to herself.

Alison is loyal, reliable, wise and intuitive and her contribution to the Taranaki Centre has been steady and invaluable. She's a blessing to work alongside.



**REHAM ABUHARBID** came from Palestine where Red Cross assisted with her family's rescue. She now wants to give back, so joined New Zealand Red Cross where she has given an average of 8 hours per month, or more when needed, for the last 12 months.

Reham is an absolute inspiration, full of energy and passion for Red Cross and what she contributes. She has spoken to New Zealand Radio and Taranaki Daily News, and written about her life in Palestine and New Zealand and what she now does for Red Cross.

She is a valuable team member of the Taranaki Community Relief Team and has undertaken all necessary training required to be a part of the team. Reham has First Aid and Psychological First Aid skills. She attends regular training evenings and off site trainings with full commitment, she is a great communicator and brings great leadership as a team member.

She demonstrates incredible commitment to what she does for Red Cross at such a young age. (19yrs) and In the event of a disaster in



**LEANNE BLAKELOCK** is a valued member of Inglewood Rotary Club.

She also tirelessly devotes her time to support people, be it someone to talk to, someone to advise, someone to help with everyday chores as well as being able to connect people with the correct

organisations from her wide networks and see them through what can be a very daunting process.

A big part of LeAnne's voluntary work is supplying meals, groceries, clothes and furniture to people who have fallen on hard times. When LeAnne sees someone in need she supports them wholeheartedly and without judgment.

For the last two years she has been actively involved with;

Taranaki Retreat - Trustee,  
Volunteering New Plymouth - Treasurer,  
Vertical Horizon - Board.

She supports Kai Kitchen, Kai & Aroha, Take them a Meal and Inglewood Community Fridge and until recently was Treasurer for North Taranaki Art's Society.

LeAnne is a doer. She gets stuck in and won't back away until she has found a positive solution. She has the ability to recognise a cause or need and is able to encourage others to follow and help.

LeAnne is like an Eveready battery, she does not stop until the job is done.



**PAT AND THERESA TONGI** are very caring of the Autistic Community and a very deserving couple who are selfless, enthusiastic, empathetic and loyal leaders who saw a need and created ASD Connex – a support group for families with members with autism – which holds a monthly

relaxed afternoon tea where the children play in a safe and friendly environment. No one judges their kids behaviour and they can share experiences and ideas.

Their own two autistic boys find the group too overwhelming to attend, however Theresa is always there to help, support and encourage.

Pat runs a monthly men's breakfast- usually Dads, allowing them to chat and support each other. Theresa's involvement is a Mum's night out and monthly coffee group. Reaching out to parents who can't make the weekend support group gives them hope, they feel "at home" and greatly value the support.

Theresa applies for grants, organised a fundraising ball, an art exhibition fundraiser and ran a sausage sizzle, arranged information evenings with professionals and parents. She heads all marketing via Facebook and website and takes care of volunteers. ASD Connex is a charitable trust with 12 trustees, 30+ volunteers, 50+ families and growing monthly. (Award received on behalf)



**HELEN JOHNSON** has been a member of NZ Red Cross for 17 years joining in 2002, and in this time she has been totally committed and passionate about Red Cross. She has served as Branch President and is currently coordinator for Community Transport in Waitara and spends

an average of 15 hours a month. She organises drivers to pick up patients who need to attend hospital appointments in New Plymouth. Helen also helps out with event fundraising.

Helen has received 2 Red Cross Service Awards

Foodbank is another organisation that Helen has been involved with and a few years ago was the Coordinator.

The local Waitara Railway Preservation Society Inc has also benefited from Helen's skills as Treasurer. (Award received on behalf)





**TARANAKI RETREAT** is a community led suicide prevention initiative providing outreach and residential support for those in need. The Retreat provides an environment where people who have lost hope can experience the depth and reality of

the compassion of their community and connect with allied services that are resourced to make a difference in the long term.

We nominate our awesome team of Volunteer Support Workers, Cleaners, Maintainers and all those who make it possible for the community to offer this care. Their commitment, time, aroha and energy, and their compassion for those receiving support through the Retreat is exemplary and speaks highly of our community's care.

Guests are actively supported through the efforts of this volunteer team, including support workers, massage therapists, hairdressers, personal trainers, to name a few. There is flexibility, based on need rather than one-size-fits-all. A wide range of activities are available to guests including gardening, artistic pursuits, sporting activities, yoga, massage, Pilates, etc. Animals, gardens and walkways provide an environment that helps people find the space that they require. The environment and the activities are all maintained and provided by our amazing volunteers.

Guest feedback "I now have tools to grow as a person"



**THE WAITARA PROJECT INC COMMUNITY RECYCLING SHOP** CORSO Poverty recycling shop was established in December 1992. A second hand Book shop was established in 1993, both were combined in 2000 and in 2006

renamed The Waitara Project Incorporated, still called the 'CORSO Shop' by locals and is still affiliated to National CORSO Inc.

Twelve volunteers run the shop, open Wednesday to Friday and Saturday morning. Work entails sorting goods, general shop work and pickup and delivery of items. A retired mechanic checks bikes, scooters, etc so they are in a safe, sellable condition.

The Project sell items that conventional 'Op shops' don't so people can fix or repurpose. All merchandise is available at low and affordable prices.

Annually up to \$10,000 is donated to community groups and individuals in the Waitara area. Volunteer staff member nominates a group and local groups and individuals can apply for funds.

All unpaid, many volunteers have a long history with the shop and recycling project, it is the oldest serving recycling shop in Waitara and the only one that gives money directly to the Waitara community. We value 'community'. We value Team work and without this our Recycling project would not exist or 'work'.

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

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Blind Foundation (Event & Training Venue)  
The Wheelhouse (Event / Education Support)  
Taranaki Community Law (Education Sponsor)  
Thank You Payroll



**ALZHEIMERS TARANAKI DAY CLUB VOLUNTEERS** The Day programme provides support and time out for carers of family members who have dementia. It runs three days a week (60 members / 32 per day attend) in a warm safe environment a fun

filled day with a range of activities, cognitive stimulation, music, exercise therapy and socialisation, Volunteers encourage members participation as well as helping staff with serving morning, afternoon tea and a fresh hot lunch and cleaning up at the end of the day.

The Day Programme relies solely on the support of volunteers who choose us, "they volunteer because they want to make a difference". Volunteers enjoy their day and get a lot out of caring and interacting with Club Members, showing empathy, compassion, friendship and have all become friends of Dementia. They are never negative or complain and have become friends amongst themselves, Club Members and Staff.

This gives the Members a place they can call 'their own' without stigma. Members feel normal, accepted and amongst like minded peers, returning home happy and pleasantly tired from a busy active day. It enables carers to retain their loved ones at home longer and provides peace of mind for the carers.



**PHILIP MARCHANT** volunteers each Monday and Wednesday as Storeman for the New Plymouth Community Foodbank, he collects donations, makes trips to the dump and helps whenever required. He attends regular board meetings having missed only one meeting since 2015.

Philip brings years of knowledge and experience to the Trust; his skills include: Adaptability, Teamwork, Organisational ability, Integrity, Dependability, Empathy and Professionalism.

Philip is a community minded person who holds strong family values and has a genuine desire to help others.

Philip contributes by giving his time and sharing his knowledge. The organisation benefits greatly from his past experience as a committee and board member and a former rural sector business owner. Philip has had, and continues to have, a positive impact; he is welcoming and supportive towards the volunteer team, enthusiastic in his role as storeman keeping the shelves stocked and donations in order and is dedicated and efficient as a Trustee.

As storeman Philip plays a pivotal role during the Christmas Food Drive, ensuring donations are organised and stored safely in the foodbank. Philip works closely alongside the Manager to further enhance the service provided, ensuring that foodbank is organised and ready to support the community.