

VOLLY *Vibes*

"We support, promote, value and encourage volunteering"



Hi Everyone

Wow! we have made it to the end of the year and what a year it has been.

This newsletter I am going to include photos of the last couple of months activities.

New Branding – We have needed a new pull up sign for a long time and have been nursing our old one along for over a year – so we finally have a new much larger version with the future in mind. I also have new business cards that match and soon other portable signs and rack cards will follow.

Razz Print – they have been responsible for the design of our rebranding. Razz is the go to business for our printing and design. They support us with discounts as Sponsorship which we really appreciate. Check out the photo of the old and new pull up sign. (Photo 1)

Landlords – Our Landlords Jenny & Doug Telfer have been incredible this year and supported us with the storage of the surplus furniture that we have been re homing to the community. They have allowed us to store this for free in offices and the shop that is temporarily not rented – we have moved it a few times and the last move was the very best as it saw us in the vacant shop on the ground floor of the Devon Centre – this allowed passers by to see what was available and also was easier to move to the vehicles.

Office Space To Rent – we are going to have extra space in February as our Sister Project – Dress for Success has been successful in receiving funding for rent from District Council so they are moving down to Level 2. We will therefore have at least two offices available to sublet. We are currently looking at how that will look and what potentially will be on offer - ie services – these could be tailored to the needs of the group / organisation – if you think that this could work for you or are interested in investigating this more please give me a call on 027 541 0577 or email manager@volunteeringnewplymouth.nz We are interested at looking at options.

Sacred Heart Girls College – we have been involved with Sacred Heart Girls College for many years, this year has seen us working closer with the Teachers to incorporate more volunteering in the girls activities outside of the set Curriculum. We have had sew-a-thons as part of the Feast Day activities and finally at the end of November we worked on a new project to help use some 1.25L Soda bottles to make a seed raising pod to grow vegetables for the school garden. This will be completed in 2020. We are hoping to expand these and other Volunteer activities to another school next year.

New Plymouth Girls High – During first week of December and the last week of school term some of the girls chose not to be involved in the outdoor activities and instead became part of the sew-a-thon over three days and they made 30 plus carry bags and 20 plus produce bags. For many of these girls it was the first time that they had experienced using a sewing machine and some also had a support person with them so this was an incredible achievement and we are very grateful to them for this. Some of the bags have been gifted our Board members and VIP's who attended our Volunteers lunch. (Photo 2)

TIL Logistics Group – Corporate Volunteering.

As an end of year activity the TIL staff chose to volunteer an afternoon of their time and contacted us to learn about options. We arranged for them to paint the old Tariki Hall that was purchased and now resides at Vertical Horizons Adventure Centre on Everett Road Inglewood; from comments made when I joined them it was a great activity and they enjoyed the experience of giving time to our community. (Photo 3)

Waitara Age Concern – Earlier in the year there was a call for help which started with an article written by Deena Coster (A local Waitara born journalist with Stuff) about the possibility of this group looking at closing their fortnightly entertainment event due to lack of volunteers – since then Age Concern Taranaki has stepped up and said that they will have one of their staff Pauline Julian (who is the Social Programme Coordinator for Taranaki), organizing activities and next year there will be something happening every Friday. The first and third Friday there will be a programme similar but different to previous programmes called "In Tune" this will be a fun, music sing-along. On the second and fourth Friday there will be a "Drop in Café" and this will be a great opportunity to pop in for a cuppa and biscuits and enjoy great company with a quiz, a game or a social and relaxing time with new and old friends from the Waitara community at the Waitara Senior Citizens Hall in Warre Street, Waitara from 1.30pm – 3.30pm. So if you know any people in Waitara who would enjoy an afternoon outing please pass the information on. Also if you know anyone who could be available to help with the activities please contact Pauline on 06 759 9196 or email Pauline@ageconcerntaranaki.org.nz Photos of the last entertainment day on December 6th and of some of the Founding Members and also new volunteer and Age Concern Taranaki representatives. (Photo 4)

Local Heroes

It was wonderful to see 11 people from our Annual Volunteer Recognition Awards were recognized at a Local Heroes Special Medal Presentation Ceremony at the Devon Hotel on November 21st, 2019 as part of the Kiwibank's New Zealander of the Year, they were:

Hamuora Kinera – Merchant Navy
Philip Marchant – New Plymouth FoodBank
Alison Rumball – Cancer Society of NZ Taranaki Branch
LeAnne Blakelock – Inglewood Rotary
Ross & Anne Smith – St Mary's Cathedral Church
Colin & Shirley Kelsen – Hearing Dogs for the Deaf NZ
Sarah Foy – Taranaki Computer Access Centre Trust
Helen Johnson – NZ Red Cross

continued...

Noeline McCready – NZ Red Cross

This is a wonderful achievement for these and 10 other Taranaki heroes who were recognized. These recipients together with recipients from 14 other Regions throughout New Zealand will now be put forward for a National Award being announced sometime in December. (photos 5)

Picnic in the Street - This was a great event before the Christmas Parade.

We were asked if we would participate in this event by the Council's Let's Go Fun Facilitator with several other Not for Profit Organisations there also. In the same block as us were Sustainable Taranaki, Pride Taranaki, Taranaki Retreat and Big Brothers Big Sisters. We came up with the idea of engaging the young ones in volunteering by getting them to write a Christmas card for people in Rest Homes with no local family – this went well and we had 42 cards to take to the homes and these were really well received. We also offered all passers by Christmas cake and lollies. We had five young adults volunteering for us helping the little people to write the cards and give away the lollies and cake. It was a beautiful day and a great activity to share the festive spirit of Christmas. (photo 7)

International Volunteers Day – December 5th is the day, however we celebrate this with a lunch on the closest available Sunday. For the third year we have held this at the New Plymouth Club and this year we had a wee survey and the results were 95% of those who completed the survey were very happy with the day. We had Les Swete and his mate Cliff Whitmore entertain with background music and this was well received. It was wonderful to have most of the newly elected and re-elected Councilors join us. This we really appreciate as it is an opportunity for them to see and meet people who are making a difference in our community. They are also volunteering their time to join us, as this is not part of their duties as Councilors. (Photo 6)

Name Badges Return

We request at each Lunch that people give back their name badges, so that we can reuse them, and for those who do they go into the draw for a reusable pack produced by Alzheimers Day programme. The winner this year is Denise Wilson of Cue Theatre Inglewood – congratulations and thank you Denise. (photos 6)

Volunteer Sprinkles

I have been asked by Access Radio Taranaki 104.4FM to put together some volunteer voices, Alessandra and the team at Access have asked that I get as many voices of people who volunteer in the community as I possibly can, as a way of promoting volunteering to let those who don't yet volunteer hear some of the joys and benefits of volunteering in our community.

It is to be short and sweet- just a few seconds perhaps 10- 20 and it is

"I am: (your name) and I volunteer because: (and the reason you volunteer).

We received a great response and have the names of 76 people who are happy to be part of this, which is very exciting. If you read this you think "I could do that too", please contact Marie or Wendy - we will be working on that in the new year

Volunteer Stories - Next year we are looking to gather great news stories of volunteers in our community – If you know someone or you are that someone who would like to share your great experiences of volunteering; we are very interested in talking with you – please email or phone us.

Youth Activities – If any Organisations, clubs or groups have any activities that they would like help with during the holidays we have had a good number of young people from Schools, Tertiary Education Institutions and Universities who are keen to help volunteer during their break – these young people have a variety of skills and it is a great opportunity to have an extra pair of hands and some fresh ideas.

Volunteering New Plymouth Bags – for the last couple of years we have been involved with Taranaki Enviro schools and having sew-a-thons making Boomerang Bags. Between 25th January, 2018 and 6th December, 2019 we have had approximately 450 bags produced. From January 2020 we are going to be having bags produced with our Volunteering New Plymouth logo on them, so we are recruiting more sewers to do this. This can be sewing in the comfort of your own home or being part of a pop up sewing event. If interested please contact us.

Finally before I sign off – yesterday we were delighted to have the guys from Primo Wireless install our Wireless network – Matthew and his team are awesome and we are excited to be sponsored by Primo Wireless. This is a locally owned business and they are responsible for the free WIFI at the Hospital and Te Rangimarie Hospice and Access Radio Taranaki 104.4FM among others. Their latest sponsorship is free WIFI during the Festival of Lights at Pukekura Park. Thank You so much Primo Wireless for being there for our Taranaki community. YOU ARE PRIMO (Photo 8)

Looking forward to catching up again Next Year – so until then I hope that you have a fun filled Happy Christmas and a fantastic relaxing New Year and ready for an exciting 2020.

Kindest regards

Marie R [Marie Riordan, Manager]

