



# RIPPLES



Volunteers create the Ripple Effect

The **LEADER'S** job isn't to have all the ideas.

It's to make sure all the ideas are **HEARD** and that the **BEST ONE** wins.

CHRIS HAWKER

## MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

I am thrilled to welcome you to the first Ripples newsletter of 2024. I hope this message finds you well & already hard at work on another year of making a difference in the community.

As we move further into 2024, our mission is to continue to connect passionate individuals with individuals with meaningful volunteer opportunities and to support you, our member organisations, in your endeavours. We understand the importance of collaboration and the power of collective action, and we are here to facilitate and enhance that process.

We have an exciting lineup of events, workshops, and initiatives planned for this year - training sessions, networking events, awards, and community projects.

We believe that by working together, we can achieve even greater impact and bring about positive change in the Marlborough communities.

Whether it's assistance with recruitment, advice on volunteer management, or help with project planning - our team is here to lend a helping hand. We encourage you to reach out to us whenever you need, we are here to support you every step of the way.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to this community, your own causes, and the volunteers who support you. Your passion and dedication serve as an inspiration to all of us. Together, let us make 2024 a year of even greater impact and transformation.

Meg



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**TRUE  
TEAMS  
ARE MADE  
WHEN YOU  
PUT ASIDE  
INDIVIDUAL  
WANTS FOR  
COLLECTIVE  
GOOD.**

Chiney Ogwumike,  
Stanford WBB

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Microvolunteering Day 15 April



Microvolunteering is bite-sized, on-demand, no commitment actions that benefit a worth cause. Microvolunteering Day is also a unique opportunity for microvolunteering platforms, volunteer involving organisations, and individuals to join together in a synchronised effort to demonstrate the empowering potential of the microvolunteering concept.

It allows people to give back to their community and complements, rather than replaces, traditional forms of volunteering. A key benefit of microvolunteering is that it provides a space for those who wouldn't otherwise consider volunteering, or be able to.

Read more about it [HERE](#).

**Sunday 21 April 10am - 3pm**  
**Baden Powell Reserve, Pollard Park**

**FREE!!!!**

EnviroHub Marlborough is once again hosting their annual Earth Day: Picnic in the Park at Pollard Park to celebrate International Earth Day.

The event will feature live entertainment, a sustainable / climate friendly market, 100% zero waste food vendors in a glamping style picnic area, conservation displays, activities, and so much more!

The aim is to provide a free, fun, and family-friendly event while educating the community on how to tread a little lighter and improve our local impact.



## WHAT WE'RE LISTENING TO

EPISODE 97

**Transforming  
How We Lead  
Volunteers**

**with Martin J. Cowling**



In this podcast global change management expert and friend of Volunteer Marlborough, Martin J. Cowling, is interviewed on how we can transform how we lead volunteers.

In this episode, they discuss the transformative shifts happening in volunteer management, and the need for 21st-century organisations to rethink their approach to volunteers. Martin shares his insights on how organisations can better leverage their volunteer talent by selling the impact of volunteering, reconstructing roles for wider engagement, maximizing flexibility, and embracing diversity. Tune in for an insightful look into the future!



[Listen Now](#)

# USEFUL RESOURCES

## Need to write a policy or create a template? Not sure where to start?

CommunityNet Aotearoa focuses on providing the right tools to build and develop community organisations. It has a wealth of resources available to you for policy writing and governance to finances and more general volunteering.

Create your own 'Toolkit' within the site to keep all your favourite resources in one place.

[Check it out](#)



COMMUNITYNET  
AOTEAROA

An online hub of resources designed to strengthen organisations



# TRAINING

## wellbeing webinar series

2024



Tūao Aotearoa  
Volunteering New Zealand

UMBRELLA®

perpetual  
guardian

Series delivered by UMBRELLA | Series sponsored by Perpetual Guardian

## Last one in the series! - "Shifting the Frantic" - 2 May

Staff and volunteer wellbeing in the community and voluntary sector has taken a hit in recent years due to increased demand for services, lack of funding, and difficult issues facing communities. Volunteering New Zealand's Wellbeing Webinar Series is coming to an end with this last session: "Shifting the Frantic". Facilitated by a registered psychologist from Umbrella, the session will help you identify issues and make positive changes.

[Register Here](#)

## Health & Safety\_ 16 May 2024 10:00am - 12:00pm

Ensure the safety and well-being of your staff and volunteers. Join us for this free workshop to discover how the Health & Safety at Work Act impacts your organisations; learn about your responsibilities and how to create a safe environment. Gain insight on creating a culture of safety & well-being; engaging your workforce; implementing effective safety policies & procedures; identifying hazards & assessing risks; and more!

[Register Here](#)



# TRAINING WORKSHOP

DON'T EVER QUESTION THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS. NOAH'S ARK WAS BUILT BY VOLUNTEERS. THE TITANIC WAS BUILT BY PROFESSIONALS. ~ DAVE GYNN



# VOLUNTEER MARLBOROUGH

# APRIL 2024

# SEEKING FEEDBACK...



The Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS) provides government funded grants to non-profit organisations delivering community based social services and projects that contribute to locally determined priorities. The COGS Marlborough Distribution Committee wants to hear what's important in the region to help determine local priorities. They would be grateful if you could take 5-10 minutes to complete a survey.

Complete the survey [HERE](#)

Recreation Aotearoa and the Department of Conservation (DOC) are conducting an online Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Survey to understand the experiences of people with disabilities in the outdoors. People with disabilities, tāngata whaikaha Māori, whānau and support persons are asked to complete the survey and provide valuable insight.

Complete the survey [HERE](#)



The Marlborough District Council is considering making upgrades to improve travel routes / access to and from Wairau Hospital. Te Whatu Ora would like to hear your thoughts on: the proposed options for the upgrades and your travel to and from Wairau Hospital.

Complete the survey [HERE](#). (Open until 9th April)

Volunteering New Zealand is seeking feedback from your organisations! They hope to gain a better understanding of the current state of volunteering in Aotearoa New Zealand. Completing their survey enables VNZ to be the national voice on volunteering. Your voice and experience matters!

Your input will help VNZ identify key issues and trends affecting volunteering. The resulting State of volunteering report on the findings will be published in 2024.

Complete the survey [HERE](#)



## VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

DON'T WING IT

POSITION IT AS THE KICK-OFF TO A LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP THAT MAY GROW ALONG MANY BRANCHES

## SOCIAL MEDIA POST IDEAS

- VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
- TOP 3 THINGS YOU NEED
- 'HEART-STRINGS' STATS
- THANK YOU TO...
- BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
- SOMETHING YOU LEARNED
- 12 MONTHS IMPACT STORY
- DAY IN THE LIFE

# SEEKING FEEDBACK...

## VOICES OF VOLUNTEERISM: YOUTH PERSPECTIVES SURVEY

"HERE'S WHAT I THINK  
ABOUT MAHI AROHA."



We believe that everyone has a role to play, no matter their age. We meet a lot of passionate & enthusiastic young people who face barriers to their involvement in volunteering or mahi aroha. We value and respect the opinions of young people and believe they can bring exciting new ways of thinking. We also recognise their voices can help build awareness, fight stereotypes, and improve policies to remove those barriers.

**We are beginning 6 months of research as part of our Youth Connect project. The aim of this project is NOT to duplicate work being done by any existing youth-focused organisations and will instead complement what they do**

Our aim is increase youth engagement through the empowerment of young people to actively participate in ways that work for them. We seek to address the current lack of youth-ready volunteer opportunities, and other barriers, by collaborating with community organisations and involving youth in decision-making processes. Through research first, followed by youth consultations, workshops, resources, and other events, we will work to create a supportive environment that encourages meaningful youth engagements and promotes positive social change.

**We ask that you encourage any service users, volunteers, or staff between 12 & 24 to complete the survey which can be found [HERE](#)**

## NEW YOUTH INFORMATION TOOL



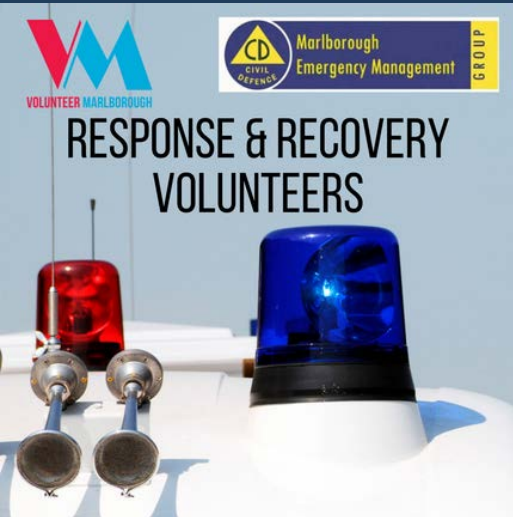
Our friends at Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) have launched an exciting new website for youth - the CAB Youth Tool Kete!

It contains info and support for heaps of the issues rangatahi face in dealing with 'adult' life in Aotearoa - starting tertiary study, getting a job, going flatting, buying a care, getting ID, and so much more.

Using this Youth Tool Kete can empower young people to know about their rights & responsibilities. It also connects them into the CAB service for those times when help from a real person is what they really need. Access to CAB is free, independent, and confidential. Contact 0800 367 222 or 03 578 4272, email [marlborough@cab.org.nz](mailto:marlborough@cab.org.nz), or pop into 25 Alfred Street, Blenheim.

[Check it out HERE](#)

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE VOLUNTEERS



Volunteer Marlborough and the Volunteer Centres Network Aotearoa (VCNA) have been discussing the vital role of Volunteer Centres and volunteers in emergency response and recovery. Last year VM signed an MOU with Marlborough CDEM to work with volunteers, alongside the CDEM team, in the event of an emergency.

Through our website, individuals can sign up to help out should they be needed. They have the opportunity to share what skills they have that may prove useful in such an event. We do, of course, ask that any volunteer not self-deploy and, instead, wait for VM and Marlborough CDEM to work together and with other key organisations to send volunteers where they are needed most.

In the future, we will be working with CDEM to run many of these volunteers through the basic training on offer so that they are best equipped in an emergency situation to help out when asked.

Additionally, the VCNA has begun communications with NEMA to, hopefully, eventuate in a national MOU between the Volunteer Centres and NEMA for national support when needed.

In the meantime, any individual who would like to sign up locally is encouraged to visit our website to sign up:

<https://volunteermarlborough.org.nz/volunteer/emergency-volunteering>

## SHOUT OUT TO AN ORGANISATION



The Kārearea Falcon Trust was established in late 2008 by passionate individuals who realised that by acting now, we could positively change the outcome of survival for our last remaining endemic bird of prey: the Kārearea / NZ Falcon.

Their goals are threefold:

To rehabilitate sick and injured kārearea so they can be returned to the wild

To care for and breed chicks for release to the wild from Kārearea with permanent injuries

To educate the public through Education and Advocacy programmes, highlighting why Kārearea are special and how we can ensure a thriving future for them.

The Trust is a small, but dedicated, group of volunteers and an even smaller staff team of just two! They are very welcoming of any clubs, groups, and individuals who would like to donate their time and expertise to support the goals of the Trust and creating a future where the Kārearea is no longer a threatened species.

[Find out more](#)

# VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH (MARCH)

The **Volunteer of the Month Award** for **March 2024** was awarded to the **team of volunteers at Alzheimers Marlborough**.

At the southern end of Blenheim, a remarkable team of volunteers at **Alzheimers Marlborough** has been tirelessly serving individuals and families affected by Alzheimers Disease. Their dedication and compassion have recently earned them a group award for Volunteer of the Month, recognising their valuable contributions to the community.



"After my husband was diagnosed with Alzheimers, it would have been a very stressful time without the facility here," shared Maureen Powell, one of the sizeable team. "It's such a great resources, and a support system for clients and family."

At Alzheimers Marlborough, volunteers like Maureen embody the organisation's mission to enhance the quality of life for individuals living with Alzheimers and dementia. Whether providing companionship, assisting with daily tasks, driving the van to transport clients, or offering emotional support, their impact is profound and far-reaching.

"All the clients have so much to give and are always so appreciative of the time we spend here," says Jeanette Vervaart. "My husband was one of the drivers here for more than 20 years and somehow I became the Treasurer. Now I come along when I'm needed and do whatever is asked of me."

In addition to their hands-on care, the volunteers at Alzheimers Marlborough are passionate advocates for education and awareness surrounding the disease. Through their own and shared experiences, they strive to empower individuals with knowledge and resources to navigate the challenges of memory loss. The volunteers' collaborative spirit and tireless efforts exemplify the power of unity in effecting positive change. Together, they form a network of support and solidarity, dedicated to making a meaningful difference in the lives of those they serve.

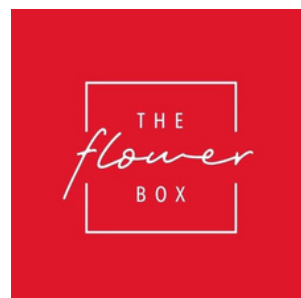
Bridget George says that whether it's the everyday activities like the Wither Road Club, the one-off events like the fundraising book sale, or going out with the van driver to collect clients to come to the centre, they all chip-in. "It was something I started volunteering my time for after my husband passed from Alzheimers. I got so much support and now it's my turn to give back," she says.

As we celebrate the team of volunteers of Alzheimers Marlborough as recipients of the Volunteer of the Month Award, we express our gratitude and admiration for their dedication, compassion, and efforts. Their impact extends far beyond words, leaving a lasting legacy of kindness and support in the fight against Alzheimers.

(Photo [L-R]: Catherine Donnelly (Manager - Alzheimers Marlborough), Sylvia Ashdown, Bridget George, Alison Bishop, Jeanette Vervaart, Linda Robbins, Margaret Boyce, Jennifer Scott, Joyce Marsh, Graeme Faulkner, Maureen Powell, Allan Johnston, Paul Gunningham, Alistair Sowman, Euan McLauchlan)

[Nominate someone here](#)

**Thank you to New World Blenheim for sponsoring our Volunteer of the Month Award**



# HARAKEKE HUBS



**FREE COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS HARAKEKE HUBS**

**HAVE A CUPPA, CHAT, & MEET NEW PEOPLE**

**DISCOVER GROUPS & SERVICES**

**Te Kahu o Waipuna Blenheim Library**  
(15 High Street, Blenheim)  
Tuesday 23 April 24  
10:30am - 12:00 noon

**Te Kahu o Waipuna Blenheim Library**  
(15 High Street, Blenheim)  
Tuesday 21 May 24  
2.00pm to 3.30pm

**Pelorus Community Lounge**  
(Behind Havelock Takeaways on Main Road)  
Second Tuesday of the month  
3:00 - 4:30pm

More info?  
[harakekehubs@gmail.com](mailto:harakekehubs@gmail.com)

**EVERYONE WELCOME**



**Harakeke** is a local & community led project arising from an identified need in Marlborough. The aim is to empower people to make meaningful connections and gain support to access a directory of local services, community groups and organisations, including health care and support services.

The **Harakeke Hubs**, held at venues like libraries and cafes, are a welcome place to foster meaningful connections. People can chat, gain social interaction, and be supported to access the Marlborough CAB Directory. Hubs will be hosted by trained, community-minded volunteers.

The **Marlborough CAB Directory** is an up-to-date 'one stop shop' for people to access the local services and support they need. Established and managed by the Citizens Advice Bureau, they also provide face-to-face assistance and over the phone advice.

## Next Harakeke Hub dates:

Every second Tuesday 3:00 - 4:30pm

**Pelorus Community Lounge**  
(Behind Havelock Takeaways on Main Road)

Tuesday 23 April 10:30am - Noon  
**Te Kahu o Waipuna | Blenheim Library**  
(15 High Street, Blenheim)

Tuesday 23 April 10:30am - Noon  
**Te Kahu o Waipuna | Blenheim Library**  
(15 High Street, Blenheim)

Each Harakeke Hub Host or Signposter is a friendly, community-minded volunteer. We need more people in the community to direct people to the Hubs, and hand out information about the hubs and the Marlborough CAB Directory. Whether you're at the supermarket, at work, out for a walk, or with family & friends...you can do this!

If you have good communication and listening skills, empathy, adequate technology skills, and a willingness to learn, we invite you to invite an information session!

Signposting can be done on your own time. Hub dates and locations will be set periodically but are held for up to 2 hours.

iPads, resources, etc. will be provided.

## Next Info Sessions:

26 March	10am - 11am
23 April	10am - 11am
28 May	10am - 11am

One-on-one info sessions can be arranged. Just in touch with [harakekehubs@gmail.com](mailto:harakekehubs@gmail.com)



# EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERING



## Group volunteers can help with your 2024 dreams!

Do you have a 'to-do' list or a wish list for your organisation? Imagine having groups of people that could help tackle those lists! How great for some of those one-off or short-term projects!

Even better to know that the extra effort from outside parties is helping you get that little bit closer to achieving your goals. This means you can work on the essential tasks while these volunteers take care of the important but potentially distracting tasks on your wish list!

Volunteer groups can be a crucial part of your work programme or engaged to support special events. Planning is key, though! Start early and have a chat to us about what you might have coming up, what you have on those lists, and we will do our best to match you with a team of enthusiastic volunteers to support you.

Volunteer Marlborough works with a number of employers in the community who offer their staff one or more 'volunteer days' throughout the year.

**If you would like to know more about what is involved in getting support from employee volunteer teams, please contact [group@volunteermarlborough.org.nz](mailto:group@volunteermarlborough.org.nz)**

## SUPPORTING YOU AND YOUR TEAM

We know that things can get busy at work, and we know that sometimes things fall further down the to-do list than we'd like.

We also know that when a volunteer makes contact with you to express an interest in your role and your organisation, that if you get hold of them within the first 48 hours, it is more likely that you can keep that lead 'hot'. We encourage you to do just that!

But how can we make sure this happens when things get busy?

Maybe setting up an automated response could help - or, even better, having a dedicated volunteer to help with your recruitment would make the process more personable for new volunteers and create more space for you. Volunteers usually love to encourage other volunteers into your organisation, and who better to advocate for your organisation?!

**Need help creating this type of role? Reach out to one of our team at the office at [vm@volunteermarlborough.org.nz](mailto:vm@volunteermarlborough.org.nz)**





We love hearing what our member organisations are up to.

So, introduce us to your new team members, tell us about your initiatives and events you're holding, send us pictures of your celebrations, sign us up to your newsletter, tell us about your research, etc.

We also love coming out to meet you and putting faces to names. If you'd like to arrange a meeting, get in touch!

You can always contact us by email or follow us on our social media channels (and ask us to follow yours too!) [vm@volunteermarlborough.org.nz](mailto:vm@volunteermarlborough.org.nz)



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