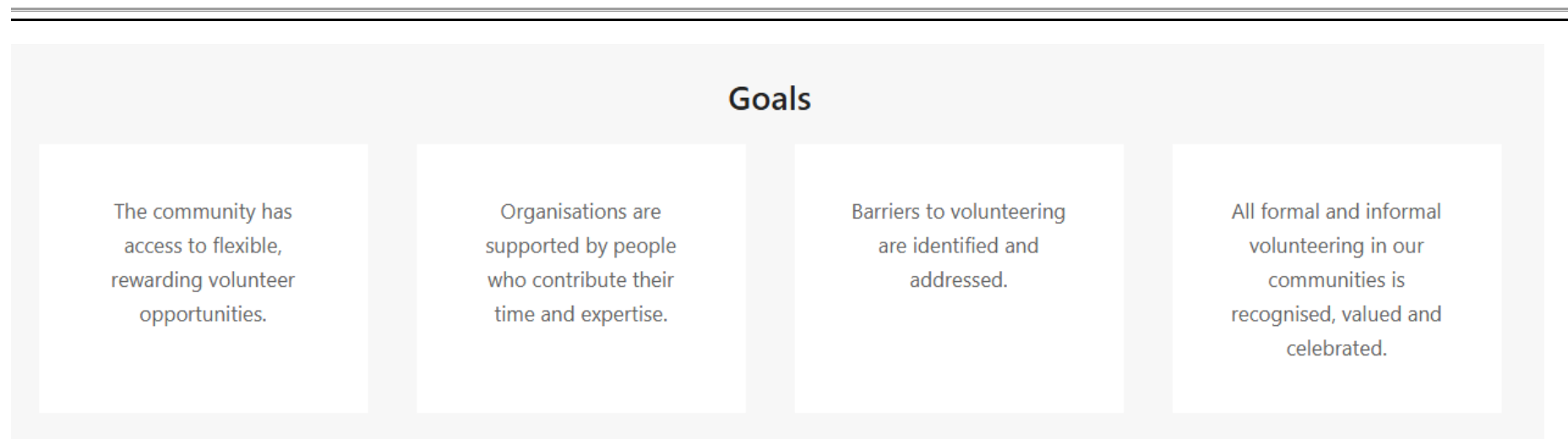


**Progress on Action Plan
for Nelson Tasman
March 2026**

The Te Taihū Volunteer Strategy was developed by community organisations, local Councils, inter-agency staff and the wider community. The vision is that the people of Te Taihū have access to a broad range of volunteering opportunities to enrich their lives, and the lives of others, by contributing and connecting to their community.



This action plan focuses on actions for Nelson Tasman which are high impact for low costs. Several actions can be progressed in the short term. Other actions may require a longer-term approach, which may include an increase in capacity such as community action or funding.

We have also listed additional actions, marked as 'aspirational'. These aspirational actions would require more resources than what is currently available.

KEY

VIO – Volunteer-involving organisations
 VN - Volunteer Nelson
 YIO – Youth-involving organisations
 VNZ – Volunteering New Zealand / Tūao Aotearoa

Goal 1 Actions – What new volunteers want

Reimbursement

	Who	When	Feb 2026
Raise awareness that buses are free for people aged 65+ between certain hours of the day (SuperGold Card holder)	VN & the councils	Periodic and ongoing e.g. VN every 3 months on social media.	21.1.26 First post from VN on social media (Facebook)
Migrants/former refugees – English Language Partners (ELP)group to have four sessions per year on volunteering talks	VN – funded in part from Nelson City Council	Start scheduling from July 2025	2 sessions for 4 classes have been provided, 2 sessions will be planned between Feb and June 2026 to suit student cohort.
ASPIRATIONAL			
PROJECT: lobby, raise awareness and develop a volunteers’ bus pass for free travel to and from volunteering engagements.	Organisation/Individual to develop and promote idea to the councils		
PROJECT: Set up a fund to help small and medium-sized organisations to reimburse volunteers for car travel, such as an annual petrol voucher.	Organisation/Individual to develop and promote idea to the councils		

Volunteering for young people

	Who	When	Jan 2026
Encourage and support young people to develop their own volunteer actions (informal volunteering), as well as have awareness of more formal opportunities. This can also be through schools and partnerships with the Student Volunteer Army.	Community & VN	Episodic, leading to ongoing	Promotion of SVA Service Awards on social media (with boosted posts of social media subject to VN budget)
Develop and implement Rangatahi in the Community. Rangatahi in Community is a collaborative initiative to find a range of volunteering opportunities to help rangatahi explore their interests, develop skills, and make contacts that will aid them on their career path.	VN, YIOs and VIOs to pilot a programme, evaluate and plan for ongoing	Initiated June 2025	Rangatahi in the Community Volunteer Nelson successfully launched the <i>Rangatahi in the Community</i> programme on 4th November at the Brook Waimarama Sanctuary, in partnership with Nayland College. Building on the positive response, we will offer further volunteering taster sessions in 2026, with five new host Volunteering-Involving Organisations joining the programme alongside Nayland College.
Encourage family-friendly volunteering to encourage children to volunteer	VN & VIOs	Episodic volunteer, which may lead to ongoing volunteering at some stage	Developing family profile for volunteering; opportunities on SEEK Volunteer as a category (ongoing)
ASPIRATIONAL			

Investigate potential 'Uni Club' of SVA volunteers at NMIT	VN	Investigation initiated in May by SVA	SVA had made initial enquiries. Support SVA.
Investigate alternative funding for Youth into Governance.	VN	Initiated and ongoing	No funding secured to date.

Goal 2 Actions: How organisations can attract new volunteers

Connecting volunteers and organisations

	<i>Who</i>	<i>When</i>	Jan 2026
VN to be a volunteering hub by providing a user-friendly platform for volunteer referrals.	VN	Initiated November 2024	SEEK Volunteer is a user-friendly platform for opportunities, Drop-in sessions are regular and accessible, also increasing awareness of VN; Microsoft forms, phone calls and email via web also connect people to opportunities. Seek Volunteer users are growing – both referrals and VIOs.
Widely advertise to the public where to find volunteer opportunities, such as through libraries, large community events, outreach, and general promotion.	VN, VIOs & Community	Ongoing	Ongoing
Provide training for people who support volunteers for best practice.	VN to continue to work with VNZ regarding training	Planning for September	Completed Sept 17, 2025 – 22 attendees, with funding from VNZ. Future sessions will depend on funding from VNZ.

		2025 and annually	(Online individual sessions are sometimes offered by VNZ.) Tools and training resources are available on their website. VNZ mentorship programme actively promoted.
Volunteer organisations to support volunteers next volunteer experience through other organisations or referring them to VN.	VIOs/VN	Ongoing	Discussed briefly at the Best Practice Workshop (Nelson).
ASPIRATIONAL			
Investigate options for reverse volunteer recruitment where skilled volunteers offer their services to VIOs.	VN to investigate options.	Ongoing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not possible on SEEK Volunteer. • Help Tank and Comms Collective are recommended platforms on VN's volunteer page.

Help organisations to recruit volunteers

	Who	When	Jan 2026
Set up 'SEEK Volunteer' as an engine sitting behind the VN website, providing access to a wide range of volunteer opportunities with many organisations.	VN	Established and expanding	Well-established and growing in organisations and opportunities, as well as applications. VN is working to increase organisations and opportunities listed. ONGOING.
Support organisations in marketing volunteer opportunities by providing advice on the wording of opportunities available through SEEK Volunteer's platform.	VN/SEEK Volunteer	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support is available within SEEK Volunteer platform which powers VN's online referral service

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to organisations as required – ongoing.
Provide clear information on what support VN can provide for member organisations – including help with Facebook posts and boosting them beyond their existing followers.	VN– revamp website and finish flyer with updated services	August 2025	<p>VN still seeking funding for website revamp; email info template; flyer needs revamping to update changes.</p> <p>VN planning to revamp website; email info template; flyer needs revamping to update changes.</p>
Organisations with a high public profile can be encouraged to refer potential volunteers to VN. VN to promote the benefit of volunteering to those organisations and to be the public. This may include Citizens Advice Bureau, Councils, MSD, Employment Support Services, Multicultural Nelson Tasman and so forth.	High profile orgs &VN	Periodic becoming ongoing	New information to be developed by VN as promotional material, including Drop-in Sessions at the libraries (including volunteer profiles) when have capacity. From February 2026, a change in staff roles means we will have a few hours each week dedicated to updating and focusing on our marketing and communications.
ASPRIRATIONAL			
More streamlined recruitment of volunteers for events through prior knowledge of events. Advance notice of a calendar of events that require volunteers on SEEK Volunteer and social media. VN to raise awareness of services with event organisers.	VN and event organisers	Periodic becoming ongoing	

Enhance the experiences for volunteers

	Who	When	Jan 2026
--	------------	-------------	-----------------

Continue to promote the Best Practice Guidelines (tools and resources) developed by Volunteer NZ and other relevant resources.	VN	Ongoing	Ongoing via newsletter and VN website
VN to promote National Volunteer Week (and similar events and promotions) for informal and formal volunteers. VIOs to host events for volunteers across Nelson and Tasman to socialise with each other, enhancing social benefits.	VN	Ongoing	Mayor's Morning Tea held; promotional material sent to network; social media promotions for National Volunteer Week, International Volunteer Managers Day and International Volunteer Day

Goal 3 Actions: Removing barriers

	Who	When	Jan 2026
Encourage opportunities that require limited shared language/English (such as gardening, planting, art)	VN and VIOs	Periodic leading to ongoing	Yes, through ELP (and Drop-in sessions as appropriate)
Encourage people who have received services targeted at migrant and former refugees to become volunteers, including volunteering in the services they received (e.g. peer support) and provide training for the opportunity. VN to promote the benefits of volunteering.	VIOs & VN	Periodic/ongoing	Yes, through ELP talks
Investigate comms (e.g. brochure) in different language to encourage people from various ethnic communities to volunteer	VN	Investigate funding	
Investigate resources to support VIOs to recruit, train and retain volunteers from various backgrounds (including youth, Māori, Pacific and ethnic communities, people with a disability or mental health challenges).	VN	Investigate funding and/or existing resources	

Encourage and support VIOs to consider episodic and flexible, microvolunteering opportunities.	VN	Ongoing	Periodic in newsletter;
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----	---------	-------------------------

Goal 4 Actions: Valuing volunteers – and recognising their impact

	Who	When	Jan 2026
Increase public recognition of volunteering diversity, impact and contribution to social cohesion, wellbeing, and communities.	Councils & VN	Ongoing	
Continue to communicate the recognition and value of volunteering to volunteers and stakeholders through newsletters, meetings, social media and in-person feedback.	VN, Councils, high profile orgs	Ongoing	VN ongoing
Promote Census data on volunteering in Nelson, Richmond & Te Taihū.	VN /Councils	Ongoing	
Councils to determine how they will recognise volunteers, such as events or awards or other (Nelson City Council & VN to hold Mayor's Morning Tea for Volunteers during National Volunteer Week	NCC, TDC and VN	June 2025 and annually	NCC – Mayor's Morning Tea for Nelson volunteers; Youth Volunteer Awards e.g. Nayland College Senior Award prizegiving. NCC to restart Civic awards for volunteers in several categories.