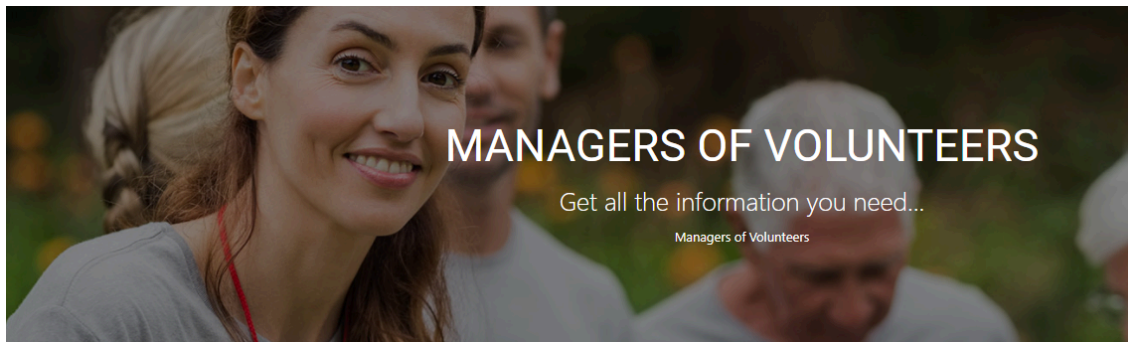




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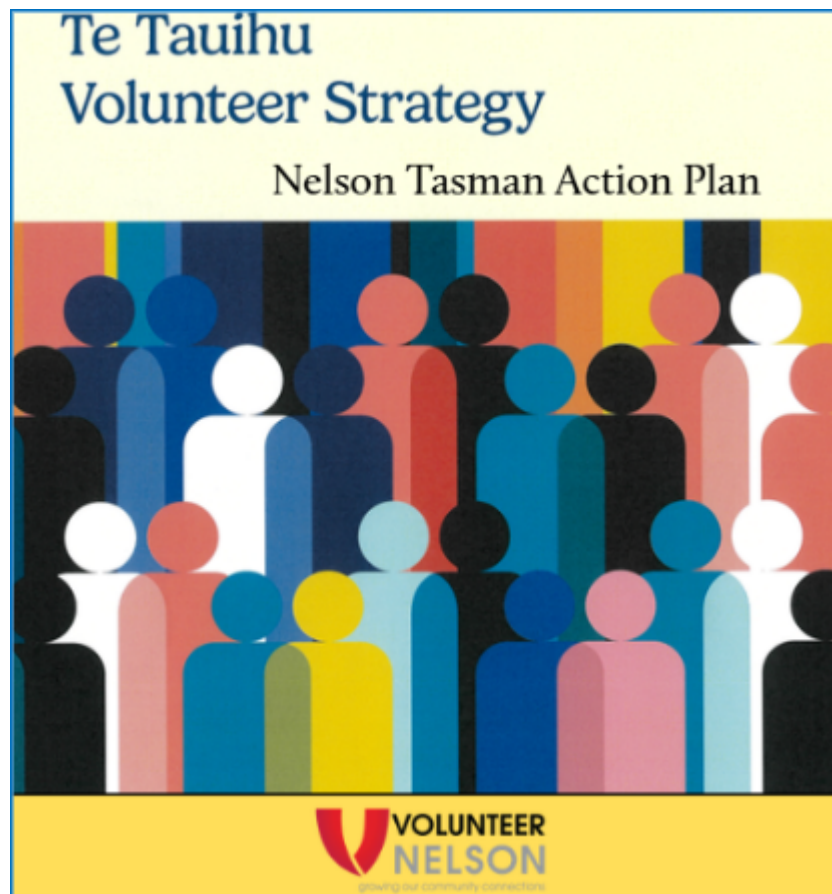
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Kia ora <<First Name>>

Welcome to the exciting March edition of Volunteer Nelson's Panui. We're thrilled to share the Te Taihu Volunteer Strategy's Action Plan updates with you. Plus, learn more about the inspiring International Volunteer Year 2026 (IVY 2026). Grab a warm cuppa and enjoy!

Dates for your diary

- 2026 UN International Year of Volunteers (IVY)
 - Training: Leading volunteers through complexity - March 10
 - Training: How to write a great volunteer story - March 12
 - Training: Best Practice Guidelines 5: Feedback and Recognition - March 27
 - Youth Week 18-25 May
 - Big Shout Out - whole month of June
 - National Volunteer Week 14-20 June
 - International Volunteer Managers Day - November 5
 - International Volunteer Day - December 5
-



Progress on the Te Taihū Volunteer Action Plan – Nelson Tasman

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Across Nelson Tasman, Volunteer Nelson is working together with community organisations, councils and partners so people of all ages and backgrounds can easily connect with meaningful volunteering. Here are some of the ways we have been doing this:

Making volunteering easier to access

- Volunteering Information Drop-in sessions alternate between Elma Turner (Nelson) and Stoke Libraries (funded by Nelson City Council) often attracting in-depth conversations about volunteer opportunities with over 30 sessions and 84 visitors since they started in July 2026.
- Promotion of free bus travel for SuperGold Card holders has started, with the aim to raise awareness that helps remove transport barriers for mature volunteers to get to their opportunities.
- English Language Partners classes now include dedicated sessions on volunteering, supporting migrants and former refugees to get involved.

Creating more opportunities for rangatahi and families

- The new Rangatahi in the Community programme launched in November with Nayland College and Brook Waimārama Sanctuary, giving young people taster experiences. This will broaden for sessions across several volunteer-involving organisations, with more hosts coming on board in 2026.
- Student Volunteer Army Service Awards and family-friendly roles are being actively promoted, including via SEEK Volunteer, to encourage both youth and whānau to get involved together.

Strengthening the volunteer hub and referral pathways

- Volunteer Nelson's online hub, powered by SEEK Volunteer, is well established, with growing numbers of organisations listing roles and more people being referred into opportunities through drop-ins, phone, email and online forms.
- High-profile agencies such as councils and community services are being encouraged to refer people to Volunteer Nelson, supported by refreshed promotional materials and regular outreach.

Building capability in volunteer-involving organisations

- A regional best practice workshop was held in September 2025, with 22 participants, and tools and training from Volunteering New Zealand continue to be promoted, including mentoring and online resources.
- Newsletter content, guidelines and shared resources support organisations to design more flexible, episodic and inclusive volunteer roles.

Celebrating and recognising volunteers

- National Volunteer Week (14-20 June) and other key volunteer recognition events, such as the Mayor's Morning Tea and youth awards, are supported as well as promoted through media campaigns highlighting local volunteering stories.
- Nelson City Council is restarting the Nelson Civic Awards.
- Ongoing communications through newsletters, meetings and social media continue to promote the value and impact of volunteering across Nelson Tasman.

Download the March Action Plan Update [here](#)

Further information on the Volunteer Strategy



International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IVY 2026)

In addition to the Te Taihū Volunteer Strategy Action Plan, the declaration of 2026 as the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IVY 2026) by the United Nations provides significant global context for volunteering initiatives in Nelson Tasman (see the Call To Action in the [January edition](#)).

IVY 2026 recognises volunteerism as a cornerstone of sustainable development and humanitarian action, highlighting its essential contribution to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Volunteers play a critical role in strengthening communities during times of both crisis and stability, reinforcing social cohesion and resilience.

Launched on International Volunteer Day (5 December 2025), IVY 2026 serves as a global call for governments, organisations, and communities to actively champion volunteerism in all its forms — formal and informal, local and global — while ensuring volunteers are supported, recognised, and valued.

Volunteering New Zealand has endorsed this global initiative and is leading the national response in Aotearoa New Zealand. IVY 2026 presents a strategic opportunity to elevate the visibility and impact of volunteering across New Zealand.

For Nelson Tasman, IVY 2026 aligns strongly with the objectives of our Te Taihū Volunteer Strategy, providing a platform to highlight our regional volunteering programmes and build on opportunities to strengthen inclusive, sustainable volunteering practice through our collaborative relationships across the Nelson Tasman community sector. This global momentum offers a timely opportunity to position Nelson Tasman as a proactive contributor to the future of volunteering in Aotearoa.

Support the Global Call to Action for the future of volunteering



Volunteering New Zealand supports the global [Call to Action](#) for the future of volunteering, launched on International Volunteer Day, 5 December. Volunteers and volunteer managers in New Zealand were among those who responded to the global consultation which led to the Call To Action.

More information

Resources for IVY 2026

Volunteering NZ's Calendar of Events



Volunteering New Zealand maintains a curated list of [training and development](#) events – many are free and often online.

Read on for some upcoming training opportunities!

Leading volunteers through complexity



Webinar

Tuesday 10 March, 12 - 12.30pm

Featuring: Timothy Roberts,
Director of Program Delivery at Juno
Institute

Host: Kelsey Mulcahy, Volunteer
Systems Specialist at Rosterfy

A discussion about adaptive
strategies and technology for today's
volunteer sector.

[Register](#)

How to write a great volunteer story



How to write a great volunteer story

Join Amanda Ashby for a deep dive into volunteer storytelling

Webinar
Thursday 12 March, 2 - 3.30pm

Free webinar

Thursday 12 March, 2 - 3.30pm

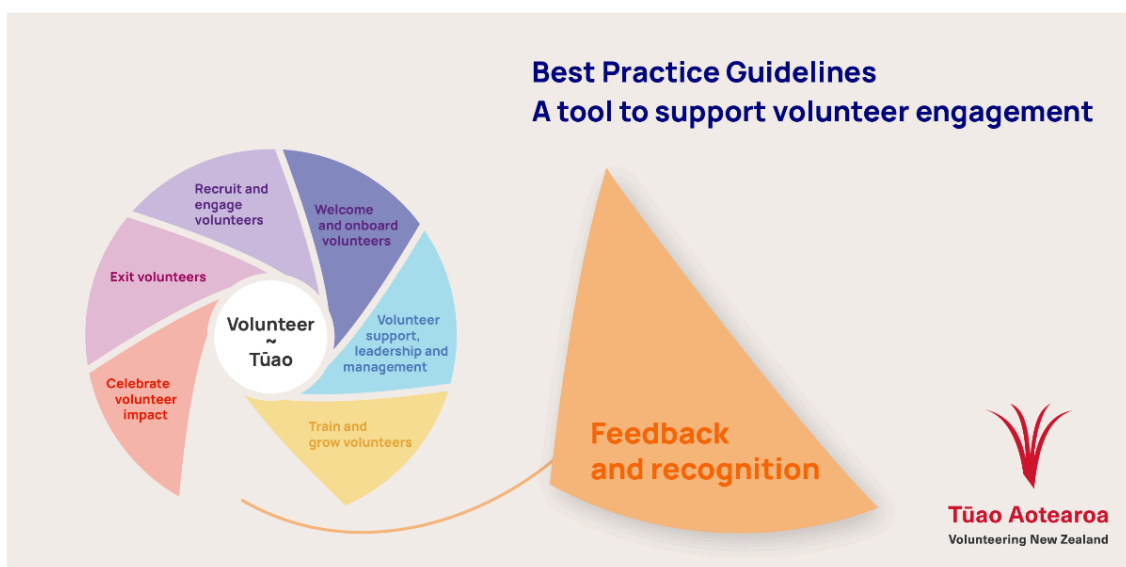
We are often told that storytelling is important for the community sector, especially when it comes to communicating the impact that our mahi has. But... how do we know if our stories are working?

This workshop, with writer and storyteller Amanda Ashby, takes you behind the scenes of what makes a good story and will give you some practical tools that can be applied to your own storytelling. It will dive deep into character, story structure, writing tips and tricks as well as some pitfalls to avoid.

This webinar ties in with Volunteering NZ's IVY26 focus for March which celebrates the diversity of volunteers.

[Book now](#)

Best Practice Guidelines 5: Feedback and Recognition



Free Webinar

Friday, 27 March

2 - 3PM

The Volunteer Best Practice [Guidelines](#) provide a framework to consider and review your own volunteer management practice.

In this interactive session, you'll hear more about the Best Practice Guidelines Practice Area 5 - Feedback and Recognition

We will share useful ideas and resources, and you will have the opportunity to meet and learn from each other.

[Book Now](#)

Find training and events

Need volunteers for your mahi?

Connect with Volunteer Nelson
on the SEEK Volunteer platform
now!

Connect now

Access [Past newsletters](#)



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