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Kia ora Kaiarataki!

The main focus points of August newsletter tie in with International Volunteer Year (IVY2026) which recognises and promotes volunteerism as a key driver of sustainable development. To create a sustainable nation and region, we need to Strengthen Community Development, this month's IVY26 theme. A very important aspect of this is recognising, sharing our knowledge with, and developing our youth, Aotearoa's future leaders. And, of course, connecting our communities towards greater resilience and wellbeing. Here are this month's topics.

- **Volunteer Nelson business as usual** during Habitat Hub office renovations
- **Important dates to diarise**
- **Youth Volunteer & Community Awards** - get your nominations in!
- Youth Volunteering - **Become a host organisation** for Rangatahi in the Community Programme
- Youth Volunteering - **Creating great volunteer experiences** for young people
- **IVY26 Resources**
- **News and updates** affecting volunteer-involving organisations

- Make volunteer recruitment easier with **Seek Volunteer**
- **Leaders of Volunteers - Your Voice Matters**
- **Hub for environment groups** - Share to strengthen community initiatives
- **Events and webinars** coming up!
- Get connected to your community - **Wellby Talking Cafes** and the **Found Directory**
- **Share your stories: Get in touch** if you want to share what you are doing

Volunteer Nelson Temporary Office Arrangements During Habitat Hub Renovations

Volunteer Nelson has been operating from Habitat Hub, a shared office space for community organisations, since 2021. Habitat for Humanity will shortly begin extensive renovations to the Hub, creating a modern and improved workspace for all tenants.

While these renovations are underway, the Volunteer Nelson team (of busy bees) will be working remotely. **We remain fully operational and committed to supporting volunteers, volunteer-involving organisations, and the wider community throughout this period.**



You can continue to contact us as usual:

- **Phone:** (03) 546 7681
- **Email:** admin@volunteernelson.org.nz

If you would like to meet with a member of the Volunteer Nelson team in person, we will be available every Wednesday from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm at a local library. These **Library drop-in Volunteering Information sessions** will alternate weekly between Elma Turner Library and Stoke Library. Find a date for the next one coming up on [Nelson Public Libraries Ngā Whare Mātauranga o Whakatū](#) Facebook Event Page or follow our [Volunteer Nelson](#) Facebook page.

Although our team will be working remotely, we will continue to have access to meeting rooms at Habitat Hub when required, allowing us to meet with community organisations and partners as needed.

The **renovations are expected to be finished towards the end of the year**, after which Volunteer Nelson will return to Habitat Hub alongside the other tenant organisations. We look forward to welcoming you back to our new and improved premises and, in the meantime, remain committed to providing the same high level of support to our community.

Dates for your diary

- 2026 UN International Year of Volunteers (IVY)
- IVY2026 August theme: Strengthening community development
- Kiwi Bank (Community) Awards - nominations by 18 August.
- National Youth Volunteer Awards - nominations by 30 August
- Accessibility Expo, Trafalgar Centre, Nelson - 13 September

- Volunteering NZ conference in Rotorua - 16 October
- International Volunteer Managers Day - November 5
- International Volunteer Day - December 5

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Volunteer & Community Awards



Shining a light on young volunteers – National Youth Volunteer Awards now open

Nominations close on 30 August 2026. Let's work together to ensure the incredible young volunteers of Te Taihuhu receive the recognition they deserve.

Young volunteers are already making an extraordinary contribution to our communities, and now there's a new opportunity to recognise and celebrate their impact.

Volunteering New Zealand, with support from the Department of Internal Affairs, has launched the **National Youth Volunteer Awards**. The awards recognise rangatahi aged **12–24** whose mahi aroha, service and volunteering are making a positive difference for people, communities and the environment across Aotearoa New Zealand.

As Managers and Leaders of Volunteers, you have the privilege of seeing firsthand the passion, generosity and leadership that young volunteers bring to your organisation. Whether they're organising events, mentoring peers, restoring natural environments or quietly helping behind the scenes, these awards are an opportunity to acknowledge their contribution and inspire others to get involved.

The four award categories recognise a wide range of volunteering:

- **Youth Group of the Year** – celebrating youth-led groups, committees, clubs or collectives working together for a shared cause.
- **Kaitiakitanga Award** – recognising environmental leadership through conservation, restoration, climate action and sustainability initiatives.
- **Future Leader / Tuakana Award** – celebrating young people who encourage, mentor and support others.

- **Unsung Hero Award** – honouring those whose quiet, consistent service helps organisations, whānau and communities to flourish.

At Volunteer Nelson, we're proud to support youth volunteering through our **Rangatahi in the Community** programme, which introduces young people to meaningful volunteer experiences across Nelson Tasman. Time and again, we see how volunteering helps rangatahi build confidence, develop employability skills, strengthen their sense of belonging and become active contributors to their communities.

We encourage all volunteer-involving organisations to consider nominating an outstanding young volunteer or youth-led group, and to share this opportunity with your volunteers, staff and networks. Recognition not only celebrates individual achievement but also helps raise the profile of youth volunteering and inspires the next generation of community leaders.

Nominations close on 30 August 2026. Let's work together to ensure the incredible young volunteers of Te Taihū receive the recognition they deserve.

[Find out More and nominate!](#)



**Kiwibank New Zealander
of the Year Awards**
Ngā Tohu Pou Kōhure
o Aotearoa

Celebrate your volunteers with a Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year Award nomination

Volunteer recognition doesn't always have to happen during National Volunteer Week. Sometimes, the greatest acknowledgement is sharing a volunteer's story with the rest of Aotearoa.

The **Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year Awards – Ngā Tohu Pou Kōhure o Aotearoa** are now inviting nominations for the **2027 Awards**, and we'd love to see volunteers from Nelson Tasman recognised for the remarkable difference they make in our communities.

As a volunteer-involving organisation, you may wish to:

- Nominate an outstanding volunteer from your organisation.
- Share this opportunity with your volunteers, members and supporters.
- Encourage others in your community to recognise someone whose contribution deserves to be celebrated.

The Awards recognise New Zealanders from all walks of life, including those whose quiet dedication often goes unnoticed. Whether your volunteer has spent decades supporting others or has made a significant impact through a recent initiative, their story could inspire communities across the country. The nomination process is simple, taking only a couple of minutes to begin, and the Awards team is available to help if you'd like support in telling your volunteer's story.

Nominations are open until 18 August 2026.

Volunteer Nelson encourages organisations across Te Taihū to consider who within their volunteer whānau deserves this special recognition. Celebrating volunteers not only honours their

contribution but also shines a light on the vital role volunteering plays in strengthening our communities.

🌟 **Nominate someone here** — it only takes 2 minutes: nzawards.org.nz/nominate

✍️ **Check out the NZ Awards guide on how to write a great nomination at**
<https://nzawards.org.nz/how-to-write-a-great-nomination/>

🔔 **Nominations are open from Tuesday 21 July – Tuesday 18 August.**

Inspire the Next Generation of Volunteers



Spotlight on Volunteer Nelson's Rangatahi in the Community Programme

How can your organisation get involved?

Every young person has something valuable to offer. Every community organisation has a story worth sharing. **Rangatahi in the Community brings these two together — creating connections that inspire, empower and strengthen our communities.**

Across Nelson Tasman, volunteer-involving organisations are making a difference every day. From protecting our environment and supporting community wellbeing, to caring for animals, strengthening food security, and enriching arts, culture and sport, local organisations are creating positive change through their mahi.

Volunteer Nelson's **Rangatahi in the Community Programme** invites organisations like yours to inspire young people aged 16–24 through meaningful volunteering experiences.

Through the programme, rangatahi connect with local organisations where they can discover new causes, explore future pathways, build confidence, develop skills and experience the reward of contributing to something bigger than themselves.

For your organisation, this is an opportunity to welcome fresh perspectives, share your passion and help nurture the next generation of volunteers, advocates and community leaders.

Interested in becoming a Rangatahi in the Community Host?

[Read more](#)



Creating Great Volunteer Experiences for Young People

Looking to attract the next generation of volunteers? It starts with creating an experience they'll want to be part of.

Young volunteers bring energy, fresh perspectives, digital skills, and a genuine desire to make a difference. They can strengthen your organisation today while becoming the committed volunteers, leaders, and advocates of tomorrow. The key is creating volunteer experiences that are welcoming, flexible, and meaningful.

Organisations that understand what motivates rangatahi are better placed to recruit and retain young volunteers. Small changes—such as providing clear communication, offering flexible opportunities, recognising contributions, and creating pathways for learning and leadership—can make a significant difference to the volunteer experience.

In this article, you'll discover practical tips to help your organisation engage young people, remove common barriers to participation, and build rewarding volunteer roles that benefit everyone involved.

Read the full article to explore practical ideas that will help your organisation attract, support, and retain the next generation of volunteers.

[Read more](#)

International Volunteer Year 2026



'Strengthening community development' is the focus this month!

International Volunteer Year 2026 is International Volunteer Year (IVY26) – as declared by the UN General Assembly. Volunteering New Zealand invites everyone in the Community and Volunteer Sector to get involved. Together we can leverage our activities to have greater impact on volunteer recognition and support. Do you have an event or activity to share? You can submit your event on VNZ's website - www.volunteeringnz.org.nz.

Focus areas for the year: VNZ has an ongoing campaign to make 2026 a year of volunteer storytelling by encouraging volunteers and organisations to find and share the impact of volunteering. The calendar below outlines their themes (more information and links on their website). Volunteering NZ welcomes your input. For more information or to provide feedback, email: VNZ

The following Volunteering NZ's list of monthly themes can help inspire your own volunteer communications (and local activities) during International Volunteering Year 2026.

IVY 2026 themes:

- **May:** Empowering *young volunteers*
- **Jun:** Championing *volunteer recognition*
- **Jul:** Leading in *environment & conservation*

- **Aug:** Strengthening *community development*
- **Sep:** Building *collaboration & wellbeing*
- **Oct:** Highlighting *health volunteering*
- **Nov:** Connecting *globally*
- **Dec:** Reflecting & *looking ahead*

Useful media resources for IVY 2026 are free to use on Volunteering New Zealand's website: [IVY 2026 Resources](#)

Find out more about Volunteering New Zealand's support of the global [Call to Action](#) for the future of volunteering.

More NZ IVY 2026 information

IVY 2026 Call to Action

NEWS UPDATES affecting volunteers - Find out More



What practical support does your organisation need?

Is your organisation navigating something hard right now or thinking about how to build for the future?

Kōtuitui and the Strengthening the Sector Rōpū want to hear from you. They are designing practical, free or low-cost support for for-purpose organisations in Te Taihū and they need to know what would actually be useful before they build it.

Please give your feedback to them so they can support you better. Fill out the short, 5-min survey below. Thank you in advance!

You don't need to have your challenges figured out to fill this in. If something is feeling hard and you're not sure what kind of help you need, that's exactly what they want to hear. Just jot it down.

Quick Survey



Proposed changes to Police Vetting Fees

New Zealand Police is seeking your views on proposed changes to the charging of fees for the Police Vetting Service (PVS). Police wants to gain an understanding of how the proposed changes may impact on your organisation, how much should be charged for a Police vet, and whether PVS should offer optional faster processing of vetting requests at a higher fee.

For charities, the options include the current state of no fees charged, to no free vetting - all agencies would pay \$17 per vet, or \$24 for the urgent service.

See the Discussion document: [Proposed changes to the Police Vetting Service](#).

Then: [Answer the questionnaire](#)

Consultation is open until **25 August**.



What does New Zealand's proposed Emergency Management Bill mean for your volunteers?

The proposed Emergency Management Bill (No. 2) is set to modernise New Zealand's emergency management system, with a stronger focus on community resilience, preparedness and coordinated responses. While much of the attention has been on emergency services, the changes could also have important implications for volunteer-involving organisations.

What should volunteer managers be thinking about now? From emergency planning and volunteer safety to training and communication, there are practical steps every organisation can take to ensure they're ready when their community needs them most.

Find out what the proposed changes could mean for your organisation and how you can strengthen your volunteer programme's emergency preparedness.

[Read More](#)



Are your volunteers 65+ and feeling the petrol pinch?

Two e-Bus information sessions coming up in August

The e-bus is a great way to get around and stay connected to your community. Age Concern has two e-Bus *All on Board* information sessions running in August to help older volunteers feel confident using the eBus service, helping them save money while staying connected. Several of Volunteer Nelson's Wellby Talking Cafe participants use the e-Bus so volunteers and anyone interested can also pop along to a Wellby Talking Cafe and ask one of the hosts about it. Or they can chat to other Cafe visitors who are active e-Bus users and who can also share how they stay connected in the community. Find out more about Wellby at the end of this newsletter or visit www.wellby.org.nz

Who is e-Bus for?

Although anyone can use the e-Bus, these particular sessions are for older people who:

- Feel unsure about using the bus
- Are no longer driving, or driving less
- Have not used public transport for a while
- Would like support to build confidence

There are two sessions coming up in August. No bookings, drop by any time between 10am and 11:30am

● Tuesday 4th August at The Suter Cafe, Nelson

● Monday 24th August at The Coffee Factory, Stoke



Need More Volunteers? Make Recruitment Easier with SEEK Volunteer

Finding the right volunteers doesn't have to be difficult. Volunteer Nelson can help you reach thousands of people actively looking for meaningful volunteer opportunities through **SEEK Volunteer**—New Zealand's leading volunteer recruitment platform.

Listing your opportunities on SEEK Volunteer is free, simple to manage, and one of the most effective ways to connect with motivated volunteers.

If you're looking to attract new volunteers and build a stronger volunteer team, now is the time to get your opportunities online. Contact Volunteer Nelson today and let us help you make volunteer recruitment easier.

[Request Connection - SEEK](#)

If you have any questions or would like support getting started, we're here to help. We look forward to working alongside you to grow volunteering in our region. Contact ellie@volunteernelson.org.nz

[More information](#)

Leaders of Volunteers – Your Voice Matters



Helping to shape the future of volunteering in Aotearoa New Zealand

As a leader of volunteers, you have valuable insights into what helps volunteering thrive—and what needs to change. Thank you to all of you who participated in Volunteering New Zealand's Survey aimed at developing a strong advocacy agenda to improve volunteering across Aotearoa, including here in Nelson Tasman.

Advocacy priorities ahead of General Election

The feedback received will help shape the volunteering priorities presented to political parties ahead of this year's General Election. Current priorities include:

- Increasing funding for volunteering infrastructure.
- Ensuring volunteering and unpaid work continue to be measured as part of the modernised Census.
- Providing free Ministry of Justice checks for community organisations that choose to use them when vetting volunteers.
- Extending ACC cover for mental health and long-term psychological injuries (including PTSD) for all emergency volunteers.

Volunteering New Zealand will be adding other issues you have raised to this agenda. Together, we can help create a stronger, more sustainable future for volunteering in Aotearoa.

[Get in touch with VNZ about this Advocacy](#)



Environment Hubs Aotearoa (EHA) keen to work with environment groups

The challenges facing our environment are too significant for any one organisation to tackle alone. EHA is interested in a louder, more connected voice for climate and resilient communities across Aotearoa.

As we head towards the General Election, EHA is reaching out to organisations across the environmental movement to see what opportunities there might be to work together. Environment Hubs Aotearoa represents 24 community environment centres and hubs across Aotearoa. Collectively, members work alongside communities, iwi, local government, schools, volunteers and thousands of environmental groups every day.

Many national organisations will be developing campaigns, events and advocacy initiatives over the coming months. Rather than duplicating effort, EHA would love to explore ways to strengthen these initiatives by, for example:

- promoting national campaigns through trusted local networks
- hosting or co-hosting community events
- connecting national messaging with local issues and stories
- engaging local media and community leaders
- providing on-the-ground perspectives from across Aotearoa.

To help identify opportunities for collaboration, EHA would like to chat with organisations across the environmental sector to share what each organisation is planning in the lead-up to the election, identify opportunities to align where it makes sense, and explore how national advocacy and locally connected community organisations can reinforce one another. If this interests you, they would love to hear from you.

For more information, contact: Georgina Morrison, Executive Officer **by** emailing eo@environmenthubs.nz or visit their website - [Environment Hubs Aotearoa](https://environmenthubs.nz)

TRAINING & EVENTS



Te Tauihu Accessibility Expo

13th September

10am - 3pm

Trafalgar Centre, Nelson

For disabled and neurodivergent people, their whanau, and
the people that support them to access information, support,
connection and fun!

**Stalls, Speakers, Entertainment
& much more!**



**Free
Entry**



Tūao Aotearoa
Volunteering New Zealand

Resources 
Rauemi

Volunteering New Zealand has a range of resources on their website

[Find or share training for the sector](#)

If you miss any of Volunteering NZ's workshops, you can find their videos and webinars on their Training and Development section of their website. They also maintain a curated list of [training and development](#) events – many are free and often online. Read on for some upcoming training opportunities!



Volunteering New Zealand Conference 2026

15-16 October, Rotorua, in-person

Real Voices. Real Impact. Real Change.

Step into International Volunteer Year with the conference built for leaders who are changemakers. Powered by fresh research, bold ideas, and the real stories shaping volunteering in Aotearoa, this is where insight becomes action. Discover what's next. Strengthen your practice. Champion the future of volunteering.

[Find out more and Buy Tickets](#)

Find VNZ training and events



Sustainable Funding Workshop (online - two parts, via Zoom)

Part 1: Tuesday 18 August 2026, 9.30am-12.30pm

Part 2: Tuesday 25 August 2026, 9.30am-12.30pm

[Find out More](#)



Reminder: Get Found in Your Community

If you haven't listed on the Found Directory yet, this is a fantastic opportunity to connect with your local community and make your services easier to access. Volunteer Nelson curates the directory

across Nelson Tasman with funding support from the Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council. By joining the Found Directory, you help people quickly discover the support, resources, and services they need—right when they need them. List your organisation and get found: <https://www.found.org.nz>

Get Found

Find it on Found



Print Copies

Volunteer Nelson team members have been sharing the printed Found Directory at various events and with a variety of organisations who regular connect with our community. Large print copies have also been made available through the positive ageing forum, local retirement homes, libraries, etc. and on request. Ask at your local [Citizens Advice Bureau Nelson Tasman](#), [Age Concern Nelson Tasman](#) office, [Nelson Public Libraries Ngā Whare Mātauranga o Whakatū](#) and [Tasman District Libraries](#).

👉 The Found Directory is a wonderful way to stay connected to what is happening around our community of Nelson Tasman - it holds a fountain of information on community services and local groups and activities. Our curator updates the directory every month, updating, adding new and removing dormant listings. Find out more at www.found.org.nz

If your organisation or volunteers refer people to **Wellby Talking Cafes**, please note there have been some recent changes to dates and venues. Find out all you need to know about Wellby Talking Cafes on our website, www.wellby.org.nz or on our [Wellby facebook](#) page.



Everyone belongs

Wellby is a community-led initiative that's helping the people of Nelson Tasman to better connect to their communities, improving their wellbeing.



Need volunteers for your mahi?

Connect with Volunteer Nelson
on the SEEK Volunteer platform

[Connect now](#)



Share your knowledge and news

If your organisation would like to share something with other leaders of volunteers - your knowledge, a useful resource, a shared learning event or your volunteer stories, please get in touch with lindsay@volunteernelson.org.nz (Volunteer Nelson communications)

Access [Past newsletters](#)



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