



Info for Leaders of Volunteers

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Kia ora Kaiarataki

April's newsletter is one meaty issue! Topics include:

- Important **dates to diarise**
- The **State of Volunteering in the last decade**
- **Volunteering advocacy** in lead up to our general election – **share your views**
- **Workshops and webinars**, including free governance training for board volunteers
- The **Mayor's Morning Tea** during National Volunteer Week to recognise volunteers
- Great **resources** for leaders of volunteers to use for **IVY26** and **NVW26**
- **Micro-volunteering** ideas – small bites to get the work done
- Links to resources to **list your services and volunteer needs**
- **Profiles of volunteers offering specialised free help!**

Dates for your diary

- 2026 UN International Year of Volunteers (IVY)
- Micro-volunteering Day - 15 April
- Training: Collaborative Volunteer Recognition - April 14

- Training: Celebrating Volunteer Impact - April 28
- Training: Governance Sessions for Board Volunteers - Beginning May
- 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



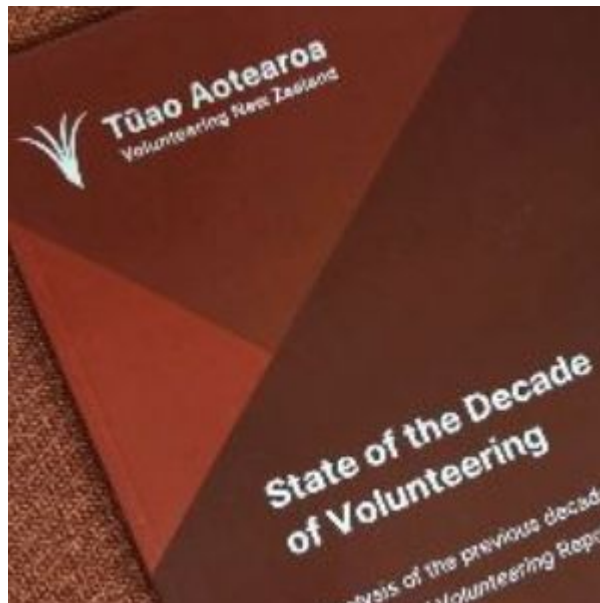
International Volunteering Year for Sustainable Development (IVY26)

Here are Volunteering NZ's list of themes to inspire you and help guide your own volunteer communications during International Volunteering Year 2026. Each month spotlights a key theme—celebrating the diversity, impact, and future of volunteering across Aotearoa and beyond.

- **Feb:** Shaping the *future of volunteering*
- **Mar:** Celebrating *diversity & volunteer stories*
- **Apr:** Supporting *sport & micro-volunteering*
- **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*

Find out more about Volunteering New Zealand's Volunteering New Zealand supports of the global [Call to Action](#) for the future of volunteering, launched on International Volunteer Day, 5 December. A big shout to you! Volunteers and volunteer managers in New Zealand were among those who responded to the global consultation which led to the Call To Action.

More NZ IVY 2026 information



Report: State of the Decade of Volunteering (Volunteering NZ)

The *State of the Decade of Volunteering* report, launched on 24th of March by Minister Louise Upston, provides a comprehensive review of volunteering in Aotearoa New Zealand of the previous decade of reports 2015 to 2025. The report's data and insights will help organisations to think about how they involve volunteers.

[Read more](#)

HELP LEAD - The Future of Volunteering!

A call to action for the future of volunteering in NZ

Volunteering NZ would like to use International Year of the Volunteer to call for change to improve volunteering in New Zealand. What do you think would make the most difference? Please share your views in this survey.

[Take the Survey.](#)

Advocacy goals in lead up to the general election

Volunteering NZ is developing volunteering advocacy goals to put to political parties in the lead up to the general election later this year. They include:

- **Increasing funding** for volunteering infrastructure
- In the Modernising the Census transition, ensure **data collection** on volunteering and unpaid work is protected.

- Provide **free Ministry of Justice checks** for community organisations wishing to use this as part of vetting volunteers
- Call for extending ACC compensation for mental and long-term (PTSD) injuries for **all emergency volunteers**

Get in touch with your views on these issues and others that leaders of volunteers would like to include.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION



Mayor's Morning Tea – Volunteer Recognition

Recognition of volunteers is incredibly important – to show appreciation for all they do, but also to ensure sustainability of our organisations. Where would we be without our volunteers? A heads-up that Volunteer Nelson is hosting the Nelson's Mayor, Nick Smith's **Mayor's Morning Tea** in recognition of our volunteers on 16 June during National Volunteering Week. Organisations registered on SEEK Volunteer will be sent the first invitations (due out next month). So if you are not registered on SEEK, we encourage you to do this. More information in Resources & Toolkits below.

Or, [Request Connection - SEEK](#)

RESOURCES & TOOLKITS



Make volunteer recruitment easier with SEEK Volunteer

Looking to reach more volunteers? Volunteer Nelson is here to support you in recruiting volunteers and strengthening your organisation. One of the easiest ways to do this is by connecting with us through **SEEK Volunteer**—a free and powerful platform for promoting your opportunities.

[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](#)



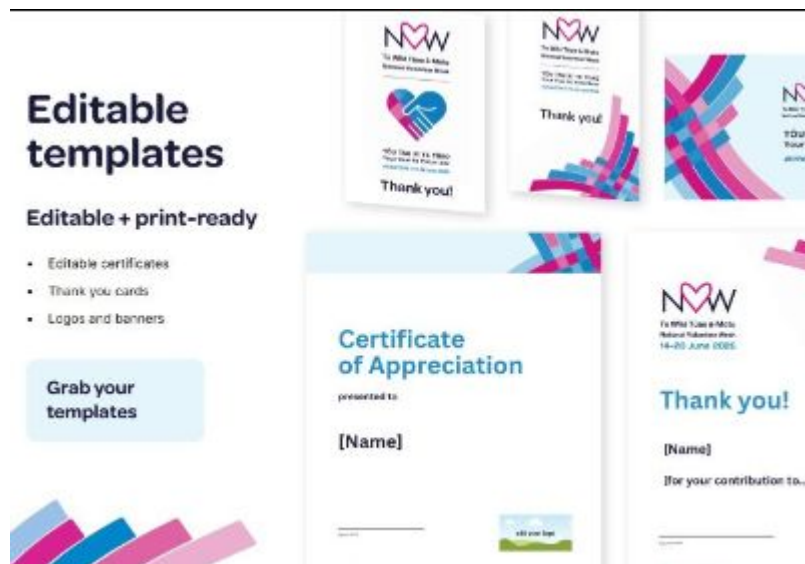
Micro-volunteering Day is coming up on 15 April – a great opportunity to think of small ways volunteers can help you (in under 30 minutes per task) take that once small step at a time. These could be great tasks to add to Seek Volunteer too!

[Exult's Tonic Magazine, Issue 63](#) (exult.co.nz) offers some great ideas on pages 28-29.

Here's a sample: Sort out the stationery cupboard, find and book venues, drop off e-waste, write thank you notes, organise the photo library, brighten up the reception area, pop events in calendars, proofread, put of posters.

Here are some more ideas from Volunteering NZ

[Micro-volunteering](#)



The **National Volunteer Week Resource Toolkit** is here! Thank you, Volunteering NZ. NVW (14-20 June 2026) honours the collective energies and efforts of volunteers across Aotearoa New Zealand. It's a time to recognise and thank the millions of people who give their time and skills to our communities. 2026's theme – **Your Year to Volunteer – Tōu tau ki te tūao**. Volunteering weaves us together, strengthening the fabric of our communities for a stronger, more inclusive Aotearoa New Zealand. Click the link to find fabulous resources to help you share volunteer stories, celebrate what you have achieved together and show your appreciation!

[NVW Resources](#)



Useful media resources for IVY 2026 are free to use on Volunteering New Zealand's website.

[IVY 2026 Resources](#)



Reminder: Get Found in Your Community

If you haven't listed on the Found Directory yet, don't miss the 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. 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: www.found.org.nz

Get your print or larger print copy from Volunteer Nelson. Send an email to admin@volunteernelson.org.nz



The Kōtuitui Event Directory is Live and ready for you to add your events. The purpose is to help community organisations find and share everything event-related in one place. This will help you avoid clashing dates, find opportunities to collaborate and ensure that the incredible work happening across our regions reaches the right audiences.

[Read more](#)

TRAINING & EVENTS



rosterfy
NEED MORE RECOGNITION IDEAS?

Collaborative Volunteer Recognition Workshop

14 April, 2026
12:00PM - 12:30PM NZST

[Register to Attend](#)

Sudha Bhana
Manager Volunteering, Cancer Society Auckland-Northland

Veronica Atkinson
Volunteering Systems Specialist at Rosterfy

Apr 14

Training

Collaborative Volunteer Recognition Workshop

Get ready for a different kind of Lunch & Learn — one where you're co-creating recognition strategies. Join Rosterfy and Sudha Bhana (Manager of Volunteering, Cancer Society Auckland-Northland) for an interactive brainstorming session.

online
April 14, 2026



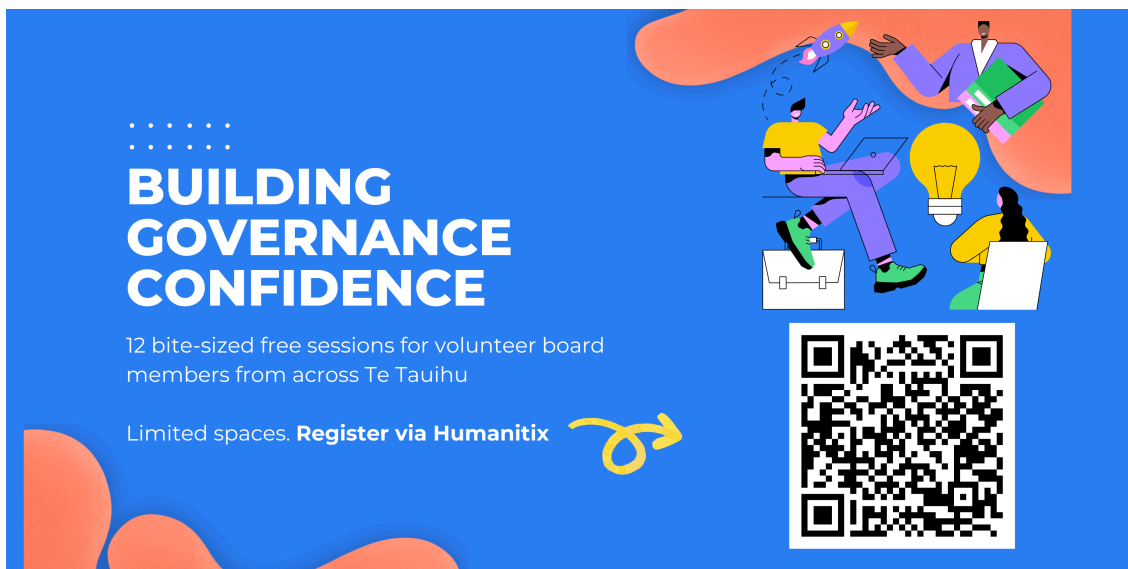
Best Practice Guidelines Te Anga Whaitake

A new tool to support volunteer engagement
www.volunteeringnz.org.nz

Apr 28

Aprils **Volunteering NZ Training workshops** cover **collaborative volunteer recognition** (April 14) and **celebrating volunteer impact** (April 28). 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!

Find VNZ training and events



Share with Your Board: Free Governance Training Opportunity

We encourage Managers and Leaders of Volunteers to share this governance training opportunity with your current and aspiring volunteer board members. Beginning in May 2026, **Kotuitui Community Development Agency** is offering a free 12-session programme for Volunteer Board Members designed to build confidence and capability in governance. Supporting your board's development is one of the most effective ways to strengthen your organisation—this free series is a great place to start. Many people join boards because they care deeply about their community, but don't always feel confident with governance, compliance, or financial oversight. This programme is designed to support them with practical knowledge and tools they can apply straight away. The programme is delivered through a mix of online and in-person sessions, making it accessible for busy volunteers.

[Find out more](#)



Grow Great Volunteer Teams - online workshops from Exult - 21 & 29 April

This workshop gives you loads of practical ideas for making your organisation a place where everyone wants to volunteer. Get more people helping out more often, with more fun and more impact.

In this workshop you will discover:

- If your organisation is even ready for volunteers.
- How to ensure your organisation offers a good fit for potential volunteers.
- The difference between Recognition and Appreciation.
- What being part of a team really means to volunteers.
- What makes a volunteer experience go from good to great?

[Find out more](#)



Skilled Volunteers Available – Project-Based Support

Volunteer Nelson regularly connects with people who have valuable skills to offer. The individuals below are seeking specific volunteer opportunities—often project-based (though not always)—that could support your organisation or volunteer programmes. If someone looks like a good fit, please email ellie@volunteernelson.org.nz to be connected. Here are their profiles:

VOLUNTEER – Change & Project Management

- Strategic, results-driven professional
- Experience in business case development, investment advisory, programme governance, PMO, and stakeholder engagement
- Strong at aligning digital and organisational strategies
- Proven ability to lead cross-functional teams and deliver high-value outcomes

- Skilled in building relationships with executives, stakeholders, and external partners while leading team performance and managing resources

VOLUNTEER – Engineering & Operations

- Internationally experienced professional engineer
- Background in mechanical engineering and technical business economics
- 25+ years' experience in workshop environments, operational leadership, and safety management
- Proven ability to lead teams, manage large-scale projects, and improve safety, efficiency, and cost control

VOLUNTEER – Education & Community Development

- 20+ years in education: teacher, deputy principal, pedagogical coordinator, and school improvement facilitator
- Formal training in educational leadership, teaching, and school management
- Strong background in social impact: long-term volunteer and mentor in youth, education, and LGBT community organisations
- Focus on social inclusion, empowerment, and child welfare
- Interdisciplinary expertise: advanced degrees in Anthropology, Business Administration, and Education, plus experience in IT and organisational consulting

If you're interested in exploring how one of these skilled volunteers could support your work, get in touch with Ellie@volunteernelson.org.nz

Need volunteers for your mahi?

Connect with Volunteer Nelson
on the SEEK Volunteer platform
now!

Connect now

Access [Past newsletters](#)



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Volunteer Nelson
166 Tahunanui Drive, Tahunanui
Nelson, 7011
New Zealand

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