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Kia ora Kaiarataki!

The key focus points of June's newsletter are Championing Volunteer Recognition and useful ideas and resources:

- Important **dates to diarise**
- Great **resources** for **NVW26 (14-20 June)** and **IVY26**
- **Funding available for Events Celebrating Volunteers - IVY26**
- Make volunteer recruitment easier with **Seek Volunteer**
- **Message to young volunteers** from the Student Volunteer Army (log your hours)
- Age Concern **e-bus drop-in information sessions** for over 65s
- **Volunteering advocacy Reminder – share your views before the election**
- **Workshops and webinars coming up!**
- **Share your stories: Get in touch** if you want to share what you are doing

Dates for your diary

- 2026 UN International Year of Volunteers (IVY)
- National Volunteer Week 14-20 June
- Big Shout Out - whole month of June
- Mayor's Morning Tea for Volunteers - 16 June
- Applications for Funding for Volunteer Recognition events closes 15 June
- Volunteering NZ conference in Rotorua - 16 October
- International Volunteer Managers Day - November 5
- International Volunteer Day - December 5

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

HUGE thanks to volunteers
Kia ora rawa atu!



Te Wiki Tūao ā-Motu
National Volunteer Week



A Special Thank You to ALL Volunteers of Nelson Tasman (and across Aotearoa)

Volunteering is so much more than an act of kindness—it is a powerful force for positive social change. Volunteers strengthen our communities, support those in need, and enrich the lives of everyone around them, including their own. In our region alone, more than half of all residents give their time and skills through volunteering in some way. Where would we be without these incredible people?

Volunteer Nelson is delighted to co-host the Mayor's Morning Tea for Volunteers next week. We are honoured to welcome Hon Dr Nick Smith, Mayor of Nelson City Council, who will join volunteers in recognising and celebrating their invaluable contribution to our region.

The volunteers attending this event represent just the tip of the iceberg. Every day, countless individuals work behind the scenes, giving their time, energy, and expertise to make our communities stronger, more connected, and more caring places to live.

To all volunteers—those in the spotlight and those quietly making a difference out of sight—thank you. This celebration is for you.

This special event is proudly co-funded by the Mayor's Office, Nelson City Council, and Volunteer Nelson.



RESOURCES & TOOLKITS

National Volunteer Week (14-20 June)



The BIG SHOUT out

For the month of June, the Big Shout-Out is on again! This is a broader campaign, with National Volunteer Week at its heart, encouraging everyone to thank volunteers.

NVW26 Resources

Volunteering NZ has created a range of resources to help you celebrate your volunteers. You will find social media banners and graphics, certificates, and thank you cards on the National Volunteer Week campaign website. Many are in Canva so super easy to edit for your own organisation. The beautiful heart/hands graphic colours replicate the International Volunteer Year 2026 logo. These social media templates are ready for you to edit and add a message of thanks, quote or photo to share. Share using the hashtag **#NVW2026** and **@volunteeringnz**

[NVW Resources](#)

International Volunteer Year 2026



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

[IVY 2026 Resources](#)



International Volunteering Year for Sustainable Development (IVY26)

With **National Volunteer Week and the Big Shout out in June** Championing Volunteer Recognition is the focus this month! Check out resources that you can easily tailor for posters, social media, your website, thank you cards, etc. to recognise your volunteers next week (and beyond). For inspiration, Volunteering NZ's list of monthly themes can help guide your own volunteer communications 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*

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



Application for Funding for Events Celebrating Volunteers - IVY 2026 - closes 15 June (Get in Quick!)

Does your organisation want to plan a celebration event for your volunteers? Here is a link to information about potential funding for IVY Celebration Events through Volunteering New Zealand. Applications open: **4 May and close 15 June**. Events must occur between **1 June - 31 December 2026**

Funding Information



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](#)



Encourage youth volunteers to log their hours with the Student Volunteer Army (SVA)

Message for young people thinking about or already volunteering...

Volunteering doesn't have to mean spending hours in a crisis response event. It can be as simple as coaching or refereeing at a local junior sports club, tutoring younger students at a community learning programme, helping out at a school holiday activity day, or putting your creative or digital skills to use for a local charity or community group. The possibilities are everywhere, and National Volunteer Week is the perfect chance to explore them. Once you've found your opportunity, make sure you [log your hours](#) with SVA. Tracking your volunteer time isn't just about keeping records. It helps SVA understand the collective impact SVA volunteers are making. Most importantly, you can **earn badges, a certificate and a summary of service with SVA!**

Whether you volunteer for two hours or two days in the upcoming National Volunteer Week, please head to the [SVA portal](#), record what you did, where you did it, and how long you were there. It's quick, it's easy, and it matters.

Ngā mihi nui,

Student Volunteer Army

[Find out more](#)



Are your volunteers 65+ and feeling the petrol pinch?

Age Concern is running some e-Bus *All on Board* information sessions to help older volunteers feel confident using the eBus service, helping them save money while staying connected.

Who is it 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 three sessions coming up. No bookings, drop by any time between 10am and 11:30am

- Thursday 2nd July at ReStore Cafe, Tahunanui
- Tuesday 4th August at The Suter Cafe, Nelson
- Monday 24th August at The Coffee Factory, Stoke

HAVE YOUR SAY - The Future of Volunteering!

Leaders of Volunteers - it is important to have your say

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.

TRAINING & EVENTS



Tūao Aotearoa
Volunteering New Zealand

Resources ▼
Rauemi

Volunteering New Zealand has a range of resources on their website, amongst them, these forthcoming webinars:



Sharp Strategies: Your Year to Volunteer

Free ticketed Webinar, Wednesday 17 June, 11am - 12pm

Join Community Networks Aotearoa for a special National Volunteer Week edition of *Sharp Strategies* as we explore this year's theme, *Your Year to Volunteer – Tōu tau ki te tūao*. This practical online conversation brings together leaders from the volunteering sector to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing volunteer-involving organisations across Aotearoa.

[Register](#)



Training for volunteers: working with youth

Free webinar, Thursday 18 June, 1 - 4PM

Young people want to volunteer where they are supported and the mahi has meaning. Learn what works in managing young volunteers and get practical ideas you can use to support rangatahi grow, connect and thrive. **Positive Youth Development in Aotearoa (PYDA) for Volunteers** provides a professional foundation to your practice. *Limited places, one person per organisation.*

[Book now](#)



Volunteering New Zealand Conference 2026 - SAVE THE DATE

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.

[More information coming up](#)

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!

Find VNZ training and events



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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