



Info for Leaders of Volunteers

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Kia ora Kaiarataki!

Happy Spring! You will see our Volunteer Nelson note about working remotely while Habitat Hub renovations are underway. We continue business as usual - see note below for ways to keep in contact.

This month's IVY2026 theme is ***Building Collaboration and Wellbeing***. To create a sustainable nation and region, we need to work together well - sharing our skills, strengths and resources towards greater community wellbeing. Here are this month's newsletter topics:

- Important **dates to diarise**
- **NZ Volunteering Awards 2026**
- Rangatahi - **Volunteering added to new NZ Curriculum**
- Youth Volunteers - **Become a Rangatahi in the Community Programme host**
- **Visit Volunteer Nelson stand at the Accessibility Expo (13 Sept)**
- **Nelson Tasman Community 40-year Collaboration Milestone**
- **International Volunteer Year 2026 themes** September to December
- **News in Brief** - Including "Have your Say about your new local library and community hub location"

- **Events** and **webinars** coming up!
- Make volunteer recruitment easier with **Seek Volunteer**
- 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

Dates for your diary

- 2026 UN International Year of Volunteers (IVY)
- IVY2026 September theme: Building Collaboration & Wellbeing
- Accessibility Expo, Trafalgar Centre, Nelson - 13 September
- Mental Health Awareness Week - 12-18 October
- Volunteering NZ conference in Rotorua - 16 October
- International Volunteer Managers Day - November 5
- International Volunteer Day - December 5



NZ Volunteering Awards 2026

Volunteering New Zealand is proud to bring the NZ Volunteering Awards 2026 presented by Rosterfy — a national celebration of outstanding impact and leadership in volunteer engagement. These awards honour programmes and individuals whose dedication strengthens communities, aligns with best practice in volunteer engagement, and brings to life the spirit of manaakitanga and service.

Award Categories

- Volunteer Programme of the Year
- Leader in Volunteer Engagement

Awards Timeline

- Nominations Open – August 10, 2026 | 9:00AM NZST
- Nominations Closed – September 13, 2026 | 5:00PM NZST
- Judging Complete – September 26, 2026 | 5:00PM NZST
- Awards Presentation – October 15-16, 2026 | Volunteering New Zealand Conference

[Read More](#)

Rangatahi - the Next Generation of Volunteers



Volunteering added to new NZ Curriculum

For years, volunteering in New Zealand schools has often sat alongside other extracurricular activities – encouraged and valued, but largely optional and dependent on individual schools and teachers. That is changing.

The Government's final Social Sciences curriculum explicitly recognises volunteering as a way young people participate in their schools and communities.

Volunteering will now have a more visible place in young people's education. Rather than being something that sits entirely outside the school day, volunteering is now explicitly recognised as part of learning about civic participation, community and the contribution people make to society.

[Volunteering in the NZ Curriculum](#)



Become a Rangatahi in the Community Host

Young people are making meaningful contributions through volunteering. By creating flexible, welcoming and rewarding volunteer opportunities, organisations can attract enthusiastic young people and build stronger connections within their communities.

[Read More](#)

Te Taihū Accessibility Expo

13th September

10am - 3pm

Trafalgar Centre, Nelson



Visit Volunteer Nelson at the Te Taihū Accessibility Expo

The Te Taihū Accessibility Expo is coming up on Sunday 13 September at the Trafalgar Centre, Nelson — and Volunteer Nelson will be there!

Come and visit our stand to find out about volunteering opportunities across Nelson Tasman, no matter your age, ability or stage of life. Volunteering can be a great way to build connections, develop skills, share your experience and contribute to the community.

For volunteer managers and leaders, the Expo is also a great opportunity to encourage people you know to explore volunteering and connect with organisations looking for volunteers.

 Sunday 13 September | 10am–3pm

 Trafalgar Centre, Nelson

Free entry and parking

Find out more about volunteering opportunities at www.volunteernelson.org.nz — or come and say hello to the Volunteer Nelson team at the Expo!

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION MILESTONE



Celebrating 40 years of community working together

A wonderful milestone has been celebrated across Nelson Tasman, with the **Community + Whānau Networks marking 40 years in both Whakatū (Nelson) and Motueka.**

Volunteer Nelson was delighted to join the Whakatū celebration, recognising the many people and organisations who have contributed over four decades and helped strengthen our local community sector.

The milestone is a great reminder that **strong communities are built through collaboration.** It also connects beautifully with the August and September themes of **International Volunteer Year 2026 – strengthening community development, and building collaboration and wellbeing.**

As the whakataukī reminds us: **He waka eke noa – we are all in this together.** Here's to the people, partnerships and shared commitment that continue to move our communities forward.

Wishing Kōtuitui Community Development Agency all of the very best as they continue this wonderful community service.

International Volunteer Year 2026



Building collaboration & wellbeing is the focus this month!

As we move into September, International Volunteer Year 2026 (IVY26) turns the spotlight to **building collaboration and wellbeing**. Volunteering is stronger when we work together. Partnerships between volunteers, community organisations, iwi, businesses and agencies can help us share skills, resources and ideas – while creating more connected and supportive communities.

This month is a great opportunity to ask: **Who could we collaborate with, and how can we support the wellbeing of our volunteers?** Consider sharing a volunteer story, celebrating a successful partnership, or simply connecting with another organisation to explore what you could achieve together.

Find IVY26 resources and learn more about the year-long campaign through [Volunteering New Zealand](#).

Here are the next IVY2026 monthly themes coming up to help inspire your own volunteer communications (and local activities) during International Volunteering Year 2026.

- **Sep:** *Building collaboration & wellbeing*
- **Oct:** *Highlighting health volunteering*
- **Nov:** *Connecting globally*
- **Dec:** *Reflecting & looking ahead.*

More NZ IVY 2026 information

IVY 2026 Call to Action



Volunteering New Zealand turns 25!

Volunteering New Zealand is celebrating 25 years of strengthening volunteering in Aotearoa!

For 25 years, VNZ has supported organisations to better manage volunteers and championed volunteering in all its forms — helping create better experiences for volunteers and stronger organisations and communities.

As part of the celebrations, VNZ would love to hear from people and organisations who have been part of its journey. **Have you been involved over the years? Share your story and help celebrate 25 years of volunteering leadership!**

[Read More](#)

NEWS IN BRIEF



Volunteer Nelson Temporary Office Arrangements

During Renovations

Habitat Hub, where Volunteer Nelson has been based since 2021 is undergoing extensive renovations. Volunteer Nelson **will be working remotely until December, but we remain fully operational** and continue to support volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations. You can contact us as usual:

Phone: (03) 546 7681

Email: admin@volunteernelson.org.nz

In person: Our Library Drop-in Volunteering Information Sessions run every Wednesday, 10am–1pm, alternating between Elma Turner Library and Stoke Library. Check the [Nelson Public Libraries Facebook page](#) or [Volunteer Nelson Facebook page](#) for upcoming dates.

We can also access meeting rooms at Habitat Hub when needed to meet with community organisations and partners.



HAVE YOUR SAY: Where should Nelson's new Library and Community Hub be located?

Nelson City Council is asking **Nelson residents** to help decide where the city's new Library and Community Hub should be located.

We encourage volunteer leaders, managers and the people you work alongside to have their say and consider **which location would best serve our community**.

Council is also happy to visit groups and talk through the options. **If you would like Council to come along to a hui or group meeting, please get in touch as soon as possible.** Consultation closes 6 September 2026.

[Read More](#)



Using media to communicate with your audiences

Where Are The Audiences 2026 – NZ On Air

Interested in where people are getting their information in 2026? NZ On Air's Where Are The Audiences report provides a snapshot of changing media habits across Aotearoa — useful background for anyone thinking about how and where to reach volunteers, supporters and community audiences.

[Read More](#)

Tātou Tātou: Community & voluntary sector hui

This short review of the Tātou Tātou community and voluntary sector hui brings together reflections and ideas from across the sector. It's an interesting read for volunteer leaders who produce their own newsletters and may be looking for relevant sector insights, stories or ideas to share with their own audiences.

[Read More](#)

TRAINING & EVENTS



Te Tauihu Accessibility Expo

13th September

10am - 3pm

Trafalgar Centre, Nelson



FIND US AT THE EXPO! Come and visit our Volunteer Nelson stand to find out about volunteering opportunities across Nelson Tasman, no matter your age, ability or stage of life. Volunteering can be a great way to build connections, develop skills, share your experience and contribute to the community.

For volunteer managers and leaders, the Expo is also a great opportunity to encourage people you know to explore volunteering and connect with organisations looking for volunteers.

BELONGING *Matters*

Mental Health Awareness Week
12-18 October 2026

Mental Health Awareness Week 2026 reminds us that **belonging matters**. For community organisations and volunteer leaders, creating opportunities for connection can make a real difference to people's wellbeing. This year's theme encourages us to think about the small, everyday ways we can help people feel welcomed, included and connected — something volunteering and community participation can do particularly well.

[Read More](#)

Wellby Great for Mental Health and Wellbeing

If your organisation or volunteers refer people to **Wellby Talking Cafes**, find out all you need to

know about Wellby Talking Cafes on our website,
www.wellby.org.nz or on our [Wellby facebook](#) page.

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



Resources ▼
Rauemi

Volunteering New Zealand has a range of resources on their website

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!

Creative Problem Solving for Volunteer Managers (Webinar)

9 September, 9 - 11.30AM, FREE for members, \$25 non-members

Chris Wade, Time for Impact - A fun and engaging session that teaches volunteer managers a range of innovation strategies to help themselves, their organisations and their volunteers think laterally about how to add value to their work.

[Find out more](#)

Training: Leading and Managing Community Organisation

Sept 4 - Nov 14, 2026: Part-time Online

LEAD - Centre for Not for Profit Leadership

This Leadership Programme is designed by and specifically for not-for-profit and community leaders, equipping you with the tools, confidence, and strategies to lead your organisations in today's dynamic and evolving environment. Whether you're new to leadership or looking to take your skills to the next level, this programme will help you become a more intentional, impactful, and inspiring leader.

[Find out more](#)

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](#)

International Volunteer Managers Day (IVM Day)

Annually on 5 November

Invitation from Volunteering New Zealand and great resources (certificate templates, etc) - Let's join with all volunteers across the globe to recognise the power of volunteering. A huge thank you to our volunteers leaders who make an impact in our communities across Aotearoa!

[Read More](#)

Find VNZ training and events



Growing Great Volunteer Teams Workshop (online - two parts, via Zoom)

Part 1: Tuesday 13 October 2026, 9.30am-12.30pm

Part 2: Wednesday 20 October 2026, 9.30am-12.30pm

[Find out More](#)



Need Christmas volunteers?

Does your organisation need volunteers for Christmas events? If so, please list them on SEEK Volunteer and/or let us know! We are starting to get enquiries, and lots of people may be keen to help if they have time and enough time to plan!

Already connected with Volunteer Nelson on SEEK Volunteer? Log in here:

[Dashboard - SEEK Volunteer Admin](#)

Ready to join? Here is the link to sign up:

[Request Connection - SEEK Volunteer Admin](#)

REGULAR RESOURCES & LINKS



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](#)



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

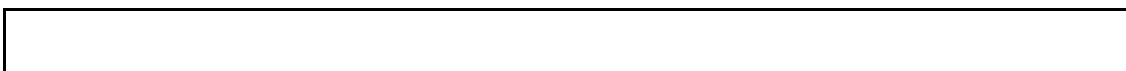
Find it on Found



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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