



## Volunteering Canterbury Newsletter April 2011

**WHERE ARE WE?** We are pleased to report that all VolCan staff are safe, and our services are slowly being restored. Sadly our central city office is inaccessible and currently we are operating from our manager's home. While we await the decision on the fate of 141 Hereford Street we hope to move into new premises in a temporary Community House.

**COMMUNICATION** Our current resources do not permit us to publish and distribute our usual attractive hardcopy newsletter, so this message is an interim replacement. Our Facebook page, telephone number (03 366 2442), and e-mail addresses are all functioning and up-to-date. The volunteer positions available on our website have been updated, but we have not yet been able to update the events.

**WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS** All events planned for April will go ahead. The venue for all of these is the Christchurch Netball Centre, 455 Hagley Avenue. If you had enrolled for an April workshop and have not been contacted please phone us. Venues for events in May will be advised later. There are still places available on 'Learning to Lead Volunteers' on Wednesday 13 April.

**VOLUNTEER AWARENESS WEEK** The dates for Volunteer Awareness Week are 19-25 June, and this year's theme is 'Volunteering – every minute counts'. This year's Volunteer Recognition Awards have been postponed until December, but the 'Press' supplement and treats for volunteers will go ahead. We also are working on other possible events.

**'PRESS' SUPPLEMENT:** Take out an advertisement in our supplement on Friday 17 June, and thank your volunteers for the wonderful work done, especially during earthquake challenges. Please support us in this way. E-mail Pennie Little [Penelope.little@press.co.nz](mailto:Penelope.little@press.co.nz) or phone her on 04 298 5019 or 027 299 5088 (Pennie is currently working out of the Kapiti Observer).

**TREATS FOR VOLUNTEERS** Willowbank Wildlife Reserve have again generously made 100 tickets available for volunteers to visit the reserve free on Wednesday 22 June. If you'd like some tickets for volunteers in your organisation please send a note to this effect, WITH A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE, to VolCan, Box 13-698, Christchurch 8141. We must receive these requests no later than 27 May. We will then draw 25 who will receive four tickets each. If you want fewer than four, or could use more, please state this.

The Air Force Museum offers free Behind the Scenes tours for any volunteer whose organisation is a VolCan member, on Thursday 23 June. Entry to the museum is free, and tours (at 11am or 2pm) must be booked by phoning Catherine or Holly on 03 343 9504, or e-mailing [programmes@airforcemuseum.co.nz](mailto:programmes@airforcemuseum.co.nz) . On the same day volunteers are offered two for one (\$5) five minute flight simulator tickets and 10% discount in the museum shop and cafe. Volunteers must be wearing a volunteer badge, or produce a business card or similar, to show they are a volunteer from your organisation.

Prior to the February earthquake we were discussing with Ferrymead Historic Park arrangements for free entry for volunteers. The Park is still dealing with earthquake issues, and we hope to have more information in next month's newsletter.

Sadly, the Christchurch Personal Guiding Service has had to go into recess, so free guided walks will not be offered this year.

Is your organisation able to offer anything that other volunteers might be invited to? How are you planning to celebrate the week? We'd love to hear your creative ideas.

**AWARDS** The 2011 Volunteer Recognition Awards will be made on International Volunteer Day in December, along with the Youth Volunteer Awards. Nominations for both of these are planned to open in September.

**KEEP IN TOUCH** If you've been displaced, please make sure we have your current contact details. If your organisation has had to go into recess we hope you will maintain membership of VolCan so we can keep you informed.

**FUTURE PLANS** Being shaken has given us all an opportunity to re-examine our future plans and directions and VolCan is considering possible new initiatives. If there are areas where you think our services could be developed please talk to us about that.

It's been good to hear from many of our members and to learn that you are managing to provide services despite unprecedented challenges. Kia Kaha.

With very best wishes from all the VolCan team.