

Voluntary work is done of one's own
free will,
unpaid, for the common good.
Aroha ki te Takata a Rohe



A group of students from Australia volunteered in Christchurch during their summer holiday. Here they are preparing the site for a Gap Filler clay workshop, on the corner opposite the VolCan office.

Minister for the Community & Voluntary Sector

We welcome the new Minister, Hon Jo Goodhew, MP for Rangitata, whose electorate office is in Timaru. We're pleased to have a local Minister, but sad that 'our' portfolio still sits outside Cabinet – maybe one day.....

Short term volunteers

We have regular requests from would-be volunteers looking for an opportunity to help for a week or two. These people often have good practical or clerical skills. Please think carefully about how they might be able to assist your organisation, and let us know your needs.

Funding advice

Some interesting survival strategies for not-for-profits in hard economic times were suggested in the Coyote Communications blog <http://coyoteblog.posterous.com/> on 8 December. Jayne Cravens suggests some ways of maximising funding and minimising costs without damaging your reputation as a responsible and professional organisation. Some of her ideas are for large organisations, but many can be adapted for small ones.

Your website and social media activities (and logically all your publicity material) should 'emphasise what your organisation is accomplishing, ... rather than your desperate need for funds'. Organisations still give donations in hard times but they are more selective about where they donate. Emphasise your results and opportunities, to show that their donation to you will make a real difference.

Market the expertise within your organisation to a business or other organisation – for a fee.

Many of us are already working and using resources more efficiently and creatively than in the past. Are you printing material that you could make available online, thus reducing printing and paper costs?

Grateful thanks to the Jones Foundation for their generous donation.

Save the Date Now – 29 February

Connecting Communities is a free one-day event, which will showcase the important role that technology plays for today's not-for-profit organisations.

Microsoft, in association with Social Development Partners, is hosting the event and Christchurch organisations are invited to attend on Wednesday 29 February. A range of leading presenters from community organisations, as well as Microsoft, will bring you a range of relevant topics:

- How can you make changes to embrace the current wave of IT products and services in achieving your organisation's goals?
- What's a CRM and how can you take your nonprofit organisation forward with improved data?
- Cloud Computing – the internet is changing the world of computing. Should you move your infrastructure to 'the cloud'?
- Social Media – insights into how you can integrate social media into your communications tool kit.

How to register and full event details will be available very soon. Just save the date now and come and learn how to take control of your investment in IT.



VolCan Services

A few participants in the survey we did towards the end of 2011 commented that they didn't know about some of the services available from VolCan. The beginning of a new year is a good time to remind you all of these.

Referral of Volunteers

Member organisations can list your volunteer positions with us. Positions must be for no more than 15 hours per week, and the role must not be one that has been carried out by a paid staff member within the last six months. We will refer potential volunteers to you, and it is their responsibility to follow up and contact you to arrange an interview. Please follow up all contacts from potential volunteers promptly.

Support

Volunteer Co-ordinators are welcome to attend our monthly network meetings for discussion on topical issues, information, and peer support. See page four for details of upcoming meetings.

There are also Peer Group Support meetings for Chairs, and for Not-for-Profit Managers.

Training

VolCan's workshops (usually two hours) provide valuable training and upskilling in various aspects of volunteer management. The ever-popular Learning to Lead Volunteers is run several times a year, and in April a new workshop on Dealing with Conflict in the Volunteer Environment will be presented.

Recognition

Any not for profit organisation can nominate outstanding volunteers for Volunteer Recognition Awards or Youth Volunteer Awards. Attending the presentation ceremony for these awards is an inspiring and humbling experience, and this is the ideal way to recognise your valued volunteers.

Information

Our monthly newsletter is full of information about topical volunteer matters, and upcoming events. The VolCan website has information, resources, and a list of available positions for interested volunteers to read, and make applications. It is constantly updated.

Employee Volunteering

Employee volunteers, supported by their employers, undertake projects as a group or individually. We are always on the look out for suitable projects for these groups. Are you in new premises? Or could your current space do with some redecoration or tidying up? If you'd benefit from a working bee with a group of willing volunteers please let us know.



EVENTS CALENDAR

For more details of any event or to download registration forms for VolCan workshops, go to the events page of our website or phone us

Workshop Learning to Lead Volunteers

Thursday 16 February, 10am-12 noon

For details, visit our website or phone us.

Chairs' Peer Support Group Thursday 16 February 7.00pm

Venue: Aspire, 314 Worcester St
RSVP to VolCan

Not-for-profit Manager's Peer Support Group Friday 17 February, 8.30-9.30am

Catch up, and share the events your organisation will be involved in during 2012.

Venue: Avon Loop Community Cottage, 28 Hurley Street.

R.S.V.P. to VolCan

Volunteer Co-ordinators' Network Thursday 23 February, 12.30-2.00pm

Karolin Potter from the Human Rights Commission will discuss 'Encouraging Diversity in our Volunteer Teams at a time of changing demographics'. Venue is Avon Loop Community Cottage, 28 Hurley Street.

R.S.V.P. to VolCan

Volunteer Co-ordinators' Network Wednesday 14 March, 12.30-2.00pm (TBC)

Dr Sanna Malinen of Canterbury University will talk about her research on factors that influence volunteer retention.

Venue: Avon Loop Community Cottage, 28 Hurley Street.

RSVP to VolCan

Volunteer Co-ordinators Network Thursday 22 March, 12-30 - 2.00pm ish

Jackson Green, analyst with Community and Public Health will discuss strategies to accommodate volunteers with mental health issues, and the effects of volunteering on the mental health of volunteers.

Venue: Avon Loop Community Cottage, 28 Hurley Street

RSVP to VolCan

Workshop Dealing with Conflict in the Volunteer Environment

Wednesday 18 April, 10am-12noon

For details visit our website or phone us.

CONTACT DETAILS

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