

OCTOBER 2011



Christchurch Personal Guiding Service ready for new walking season

Training team members Ellen Paynter, Ngarie Kelly, Marianne Potts, and Annette Chapman compare notes while planning the new guided walk for Christchurch.

See page two for story.

International Volunteer Day

There will be a 'Press' feature to mark this day, which will be published on Friday 2 December (the actual day is Monday 5 December). An advertisement in the feature is a great way of publicly thanking the volunteers in your organisation for all the work they've done in this extraordinary year. If you'd like to book an advertisement please contact Pennie Little at the "Press", phone 03 943 2878, mobile 027 299 5088, or e-mail Penelope.Little@press.co.nz

Christchurch Personal Guiding Service ready for new walking season.

The Christchurch Personal Guiding Service is back in business after February's quake spelled the end of the usual tourist guided walk around Christchurch.

Over the winter, members of the Training Team have been thinking about a possible new route. Most of the original tour route is still in the Red Zone, but there are still many wonderful buildings to see and interesting stories to tell.

In the past few weeks guides have been out and about: checking the conditions of footpaths and access ways, thinking about how much earthquake damage to include in the new walk and planning how to showcase the beauty that remains in Christchurch.

The guided walking season starts again in October and the guiding service plans to be fully prepared. During September, the Training Team will run four training sessions for guides so that they will all be ready for the rush of tourists over the summer.

Elusive E-mails

We have an ongoing problem with some e-mails not reaching our internet provider, or us. Those affected appear to be from correspondents using xtra. If you send us a message and don't receive a response, please phone to check whether your message has disappeared into the ether.

Westpac Business & Community Hub

at Addington Racecourse has meeting rooms and business services available free to voluntary organisations. To find out more go to the Westpac Business Hub website.

When everything seems to be too hard, remember: "You can't push water uphill with a rake."

Political Volunteers

Second/third year political science students are seeking voluntary positions where they can gain practical experience. They have strong writing and analytical skills, are interested in local and national politics and policy effectiveness, and also in other cultures. If your organisation could benefit from such help, please contact Kate Alexander, e-mail kva24@uclive.ac.nz

**Award nominations close
21 October –
have you submitted yours yet?**

Short-term Volunteers available

We are constantly delighted and surprised at how successful Facebook is in attracting volunteers for one-off urgent tasks. Last month we asked for help with folding and enveloping our newsletter, and had four immediate responses. If you've got an urgent need for short-term volunteers for a specific project, don't forget to ask us if we can promote it on our Facebook page.

A Wonder Product.

We just heard of something that does all these things -

- Reduces anxiety and depression.
- Improves self esteem.
- Lowers mortality rates.
- Improves immune system.
- Gives better weight control.
- Reduces blood pressure.
- Increases mental function.
- And enables quicker recovery from surgery.

Wow – we want some! Don't you?

The product with these amazing health benefits is Volunteering (!) according to studies carried out in Canada and the USA.

Another study conducted over a 13 year period confirmed that people over 65 who were active volunteers but didn't exercise regularly were just as physically healthy as those who did not volunteer but did exercise regularly.

It doesn't end there. Another study has shown that people who volunteer may live longer than those who don't—as long as their reasons for volunteering are altruistic. So ironically, if your reason for volunteering is to give yourself a longer life, then it might not work.

Perhaps we can use this in our recruitment campaigns... seriously. A product this good for you has to be easy to sell. It's just that we haven't thought of 'selling' volunteering this way.

Help please

We are constantly amazed at the resilience and creativity of individuals and organisations dealing with our greatly changed world here in Christchurch.

Some people have found new ways of working in difficult environments and have been very effective with these, while others have found the obstacles too hard, and their resources too limited.

We at VolCan will soon be surveying our member organisations to find out how we might best help to strengthen and support you to move forward. It will be a very short survey, and we hope most of our members will participate. Thank you.

Awards for Volunteers

Nominations for 2011 Volunteer Recognition Awards (including Youth Volunteer Awards) are now open and will close on 21 October. Be sure to nominate someone from your organisation. Download a nomination form from our website.

Congratulations, N-F-P Managers.

A survey by The Nonprofit Quarterly showed that, in 14 out of 17 leadership dimensions, not-for-profit managers outscored their corporate counterparts! (Interestingly, nonprofit managers tended to rate themselves lower than their peers rated them, while for-profit executives tended to rate themselves more highly than their peers.) See Martin Cowling <http://cowlingreport.blogspot.com> 14.7.11 for more details.

Volunteers
are
not
paid
-
not
because
they
are
worthless,
but
because
they
are
priceless.



EVENTS CALENDAR OCTOBER 2011

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

**Volunteer Co-ordinators' Network
Wednesday 12 October
12.30-2.00pm**

'Avoiding discrimination in volunteer recruitment'
with Karolin Potter from HRC.
Venue: Avon Loop Community Cottage,
28 Hurley Street
RSVP to VolCan

**Chairs' Peer Group meeting
Thursday 13 October, 7pm-9pm**

Jan Harrison, VolCan Chair, will present a session on distinguishing between Governance and Management.
Venue: Aspire Canterbury,
314 Worcester Street.

**Not-for-profit
Managers' Peer Support Group
Friday 21 October 8.30-9.30am**

For details contact mgr@volcan.org.nz
Topic: A media workshop which will give people a practice try at interviewing on the radio.
Venue: CPIT
Corner of Madras and St Asaph Streets.
(\$1 parking at the back of Black Betty's)

**VC's Social Hour
Thursday 27 October, 9-10am**
Volunteer Co-ordinators meet informally for coffee at 277 Barbadoes Street.
RSVP to VolCan

**Celebration of International
Volunteer Managers' Day
Friday 4 November 12.30-2.30pm**

This special day (5 November) will be celebrated on Friday 4 November in Christchurch, when there will be a scrumptious lunch (provided by volunteers), with fun and games. This will be a free treat for Volunteer Managers/Co-ordinators. It is **essential that you RSVP** to VolCan. Numbers are limited, first come, first served.
Time: 12.30—2.30pm
Venue: St Barnabas',
Fendalton Road

**International Volunteer Managers'
Day
Saturday 5 November**

**Learning to Lead Volunteers
Wednesday 9 November, 10am-12noon**

This two hour workshop will introduce you to essential strategies you need to effectively manage volunteers. For details, download a registration form from our website.

**Award nominations close
21 October –
don't leave yours too late!**

CONTACT DETAILS

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