

HELP NAME ME

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2010

VOLUNTEER RESOURCE CENTRE MANAWATU & DISTRICTS

Welcome to the first formal Newsletter from the VRC

Welcome to all our members, volunteers and supporters.

We are pleased to be finally open and able to begin the formal tasks that we have been planning for so long!

We now have official opening hours (see back page), with two wonderful Volunteer Interviewers taking on the task of opening the office and manning the phones for us.

Over the next few newsletters, we will be introducing you to our Volunteers, Members, board and associates. We will be asking these people to write their own articles, so that you are seeing things from their point of view each time. If you are keen to do this in one of our upcoming newsletters please get in touch.

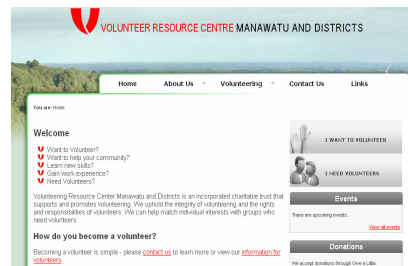
Our newsletter is also here to help keep you all up to date with our activities and

upcoming events. If there is anything in particular you would like to see covered again, please make contact..

Our launch was a huge success (see page 4 for more details), and since then we have been beaver away in the background again, to get our registration packs, website and database underway. The trick is the balance between systems and process development and encouraging active involvement from our members (YOU).

We are now at a stage where we can shout to the world that we are here, and seriously begin to "recruit" membership and therefore list volunteer vacancies, and encourage potential volunteers to come forward to begin the referral process more vigorously.

Our registration packs are now available to download from our website, or you



Have you visited our website recently?
www.vrcmanawatu.org.nz

can contact our office and we can send them out to you.

We hope you enjoy our first newsletter, and we look forward to many more, shaped and created by you!

And remember we love feedback! To do our job well we need to hear from you!

Norelle Ward
On behalf of the Trust & Team at
VRCMD

Sponsorship Challenge

The Volunteer Resource Centre would like to make a special mention of St Johns who has recently made a very generous donation to the Volunteer Resource Centre.

This donation of \$500 is earmarked to assist in the general operations within our office, such as covering costs of phone and copying costs.

This donation is a huge support to our fledgling organization, and we could not continue to operate without such a gifts. Therefore we are taking the lead and putting a challenge out there...

If you or someone you know is able to gift a similar donation to us help to kick start our operations we would love to hear from you and discuss how we maybe able to reciprocate such a gift.

We would also like to acknowledge Little Monkeys Learning Centre, who have made contact and offered us a \$300 gift towards our establishment expenses.

We look forward to working along side their team and helping them find fun connecting activities for their team within the not for profit community.

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Special points of interest:

- Meet a Volunteer Interviewer in the VRC office
- Introduction of Sustainable Manawatu
- Warning—Quiz night coming soon
- Introduction to the planned training program
- Reflections on the launch of the VRC
- In Memory

Introducing Karl — A Volunteer Interviewer at the VRC



Karl Pearce.
One of our Volunteer Interviewers currently manning the VRC office on Friday's from 1-4pm.
Pop in and introduce yourself.

A short message from Karl about how he found us and why he was keen to become involved.

"Palmerston North has the largest volunteer population per capita in the country and the people of Palmerston North are so passionate about volunteering that of recent times volunteering

has been a focus of city mayoral and council candidate speeches as well as newspaper articles, groups and award evenings.

When I found myself several months back, out of work because of ill health, I found I had many skills to offer the community and time to give. I had heard about this new venture and was keen to get involved.

I was keen to get involved because I had spent time

searching volunteer organisations but had little luck for several reasons. I didn't know which organisations, apart from the obvious, needed volunteers. While I approached those obvious volunteer organisations many already had enough people and I also didn't know how to match my particular skill set to those organisations that needed them.

When I heard the Volunteer Resource Centre was opening and they needed in their office someone who had my set of skills I was more than happy to be part of that team and vision. I knew that I could bring skills which could help the VRC in real and valuable ways.

Indeed that is what the Volunteer Resource Centre is about, "matching individual interests [and skills] with groups who need volunteers."

"I found I had many skills to offer the community and time to give"



To contact Super Grans Manawatu
L2, 74 The Square,
P.O. Box 1681,
Palmerston North 4410
Phone: 06-354 3804
services@sgmanawatu.org.nz
www.supergran.org.nz

The VRC & Super Grans

Super Grans Manawatu came to the VRC early in our planning and have supported us strongly ever since.

Their biggest gift has been in the form of office space and the amenities that go with that to allow us to open and office and begin service delivery.

Without this generous offer we would not have been able to establish and maintain a presence in the CBD, to allow interested people to drop in and ask questions, pick up information and share experiences.

One of the biggest pluses with this office arrangement is that even when we are not able to man the office, there is generally still someone in the area who can pass on paperwork and information on our behalf.

The ladies in the Super Grans office have been extremely welcoming and

we are enjoying the ability to co-habitate with another community organisation.

We would like to congratulate Super Grans Manawatu on their 5th Birthday which they celebrated recently.

A 5th Birthday celebration is a remarkable achievement and also a wonderful opportunity to be able to look back on all those who have had a hand in their development in getting the service to the point it is now at.

We look forward to a strong ongoing relationship with Super Grans and finding mutually beneficial activities we are able to undertake together.

Thank you to the Super Grans trust board for your support and to the staff who have welcomed us with open arms.

Norelle Ward on behalf of the VRCMD

Help us name the Volunteer Newsletter

We want to make this newsletter something that you can call your own. That's why we want your help to come up with a name. Please send us your ideas including your Name, Organisation (if applicable) and your idea for a title!

The winning Title will be announced in the next issue of the newsletter!

Email your ideas to info@vrcmanawatu.org.nz by the 30th September 2010.— Please put "Newsletter Title" in the heading of your email.

Sustainable Manawatu & the Volunteer Resource Centre

Sustainable MANAWATU

Sustainable Manawatu, an Environment Network Manawatu project, registered with the Volunteer Centre earlier this year. As a central point of information about all things environmental in the Manawatu, Sustainable Manawatu will be involving volunteers as we work to resource, inform and encourage

people to become more sustainable.

By registering at the Volunteer Resource Centre (VRC), Sustainable Manawatu needed to clarify our own expectations and needs which was a valuable process. For instance, because we are an information service, research, database development and website maintenance would be key roles. We identified most of the work was indoors,

and some could be done at home. We needed people who were computer literate, yet were also friendly and patient. We also knew we could seek support from VRC about suitable employment practices for volunteers.

Knowing that by registering with the VRC, volunteers receive guidance on their particular skills, inter-

ests and learning needs, Sustainable Manawatu could relax about the suitability of volunteer applicants referred to us for interview. Sustainable Manawatu also appreciates that VRC helps ensure volunteers maximise their learning opportunities and their enjoyment of their volunteer roles.

Thanks, VRC! And, as we are both new community organisations: Kia Kaha to us both!

By Margi Mitcalfe,
consultant@[sustainablemanawatu.org.nz](mailto:consultant@sustainablemanawatu.org.nz)

Sustainable Manawatu can be found at i-site between 12-2pm, Monday to Saturday, and at Green Hub.

www.sustainablemanawatu.org.nz

Sustainable Manawatu was the first application (by a tight margin) for membership received by the VRC. Thank you. To the Sustainable Manawatu Team.



Some members of the volunteer taskforce that set up Sustainable Manawatu' with consultant, Margi Mitcalfe.

Sustainable Manawatu will be involving volunteers as we work to resource, inform and encourage people to become more sustainable.

Introducing Norelle Ward—Chairperson VRC

I have been volunteering in one capacity or another most of my life. I grew up in a family of volunteers, my parents were involved in school, Plunket, Fire Brigade and Jaycees so for me it was natural to get involved as well.

I first became involved in the Volunteer Resource Centre development in 2004 when I began work for the Manawatu Promotional Trust. My contract came to an end before we were able to launch the Volunteer Centre, but we persevered in the background to ensure all the ground work was completed and we could continue the development.

I have worked for local and central

government in various capacities, and continue to volunteer at least twice a month separate to the work I do for the VRC.

I also am involved with Access Manawatu, Plunket, Cancer Society and previously ProjectK.

Even now I continue volunteering, taking my nearly 2 year old daughter with me - who many of you will therefore have met.

I am very excited to see the VRC finally launched and beginning the services we have been planning, which has been requested and now so well supported. As we are still in development stages, I am doing a

lot of the meetings with new Member Organisations so if you would like to meet and chat about the services we could help you with, please make contact.

I look forward to meeting with more of you and your organisations and finding new and innovative ways of us all assisting our local community.

Norelle Ward
chair@vrcmanawatu.org.nz



Norelle Ward speaking at the Launch of the VRC in June 2010.

VOLUNTEER RESOURCE CENTRE MANAWATU & DISTRICTS

Level 2, 74 The Square
P O Box 12199
Palmerston North 4444

Opening Hours:
Wednesday
10 am to 2pm
Friday

Opening Hours:
Wednesday
10 am to 2pm
Friday
1pm to 4pm
Or by appointment
where possible

Training Program!!!

The VRC is developing a training program, and wish to do this in conjunction with other local community training providers and facilitators, and YOU!

We will soon be sending out a Training Needs Survey which we need returned by the **1st October 2010**.

If you have any ideas, questions or general comments please ensure you return the survey with these details, so we can ensure the training program is what our local community really needs!

We are also keen to hear from you if you have a program you think we should consider, or if you have training or facilitation experience and could help deliver some of the programs.

We look forward to your feedback and the development and delivery of this exciting training program.

Fundraising activities coming soon!

To help raise our profile (and some funds) and have some fun all at the same time we are planning a Quiz Night.

We will be advertising this event shortly, and would be more than happy for you to pass on the information to others, or to display a small poster advertising this event.

Dates and costs will be confirmed very soon. In the mean time, talk to your friends, and workmates, and see if you can pull together a team (6 people max) and brush up on your trivia!

VRC Launch function 25 June 2010



Iain Lees-Galloway, Norelle Ward and Jono Naylor at the Volunteer Resource Centre Launch June 2010.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who attended our launch function on the 25th June 2010 held in Sound & Vision at the City Library. We had over 60 guests, representing many, many organizations from St John's and the Red Cross, NZ Fire Service, Manawatu Estuary Trust, Trade Aid and so many more.

Mayor Jono Naylor spoke about "what it would be like without volunteers" and the immense roles they play in keeping our society what it is.

Iain Lees-Galloway talked about volunteering and the big picture, and the support Government has for this sector.

Cheryl Martin the manager of Volun-

teering Auckland, who have been such a fabulous support (along with the other VC's around New Zealand) talked about how proud she was to see Palmerston North open, and how the Volunteer Centre's are the only organization in the community with the sole focus on Volunteering as an outcome and how important that role is in support the community.

Norelle Ward also spoke about her pleasure at seeing the centre opening, and the immense support shown by the community both in the recent weeks and months leading up to the launch and in the attendance at the function itself.

The launch was held at the end of the Volunteer Awareness Week Expo in The Plaza. Over twenty organisations highlighted their volunteering activities in during the expo, and a number were filmed for TararuaTV. This footage will be available on our website in the near future.

There are many photos available to view on our website of the activities on the night, and of the events during Volunteer Awareness Week.

In loving Memory

It was a great pleasure for the board, and many of the NFP community to see Sybil Williams in attendance at the launch.

Sybil was a very vocal and staunch supporter of the VRC development, and for her to be able to attend the launch was wonderful.

We will miss Sybil's support and sage words of advice, but will endeavor to deliver what she began.

Sybil passed away on 17th August 2010. Gone by not forgotten.



Cheryl Martin (Volunteering Auckland), Sybil Williams (VRC Board) & Norelle Ward at the launch, June 2010.