

Monthly Newsletter



volunteerglt.org.nz | volunteerglt@gmail.com | 022 319 0092



Here's what has happened in the last few months and what's to come!

Kia ora and welcome to our latest newsletter!

It's been an incredible month of connection, collaboration, and community spirit here at Volunteer Great Lake Taupō. Every day we are reminded that the real strength of our district comes from the people who give their time, skills, and heart to making a difference. A huge thank you to all our member organisations, volunteers, and sponsors, your ongoing support keeps our volunteer centre thriving and ensures opportunities are open for everyone who wants to get involved.

Earlier this month I swapped the office desk for the entrance way at the Warehouse, shaking a bucket for the Cancer Society, a cause close to my heart. With the help of our generous community, I was able to raise over \$1,250, and even donated my locks along the way. So yes, I'm sporting a fresh new look... and for the first time in a while I can actually see the computer screen without hair in the way!

Looking ahead, planning is already underway for our Christmas Community Carnival so now's the time to start dreaming up your stalls, games, and activities to bring joy and fun to families in December.

Don't forget, you can now explore live volunteer listings anytime by visiting our website and clicking Browse Opportunities. From one-off gigs to regular commitments, there's something for everyone.

Finally, a gentle reminder that our work only happens because of people like you. Whether you can give an hour, a day, or a donation, your contribution helps us keep growing a stronger, kinder Taupō. Together, we are building a community where volunteering truly makes a difference. Thank you for being part of the journey.

Enjoy this month's newsletter!

MANAGER - JULIAN BISHOP

In this newsletter you can expect:

Community Updates

Volunteer of the Month

Our Next Event

September Wills Month

Recent Opportunities

Organisation Profile



Community Carnival 24

Community News

Here's a look at what's happening around our district. From hui and expos to open days and festivals. If your organisation has news to share in future editions, please get in touch with us.

The Volunteering Changemakers Hui is set for Friday 10 October at the Grand Millennium, Auckland. This one-day conference is all about building capability for those who engage and lead volunteers, while creating space to connect, learn, and be inspired. Highlights include Professor Paul Spoonley on the cultural shifts shaping volunteering, Dr Andrew Lensen on AI and its impact for community groups, and Dr Karen Smith leading a future-focused call to action ahead of the International Year of the Volunteer 2026. Add in panel discussions, practical workshops, and networking, and you've got a day not to be missed. More details: volunteeringnz.org.nz/news-events/volunteering-changemakers-hui

The Forever Young Expo is coming to Tūrangi on Thursday 3 October at the RSA, 11am–3pm. Inspired by the Age Concern Expo in Taupō, this event will have its own unique local flavour, fun, informative, and celebrating our community. Services, small businesses, tradies, and community clubs are invited to showcase what they do. With free stalls, it's a great opportunity to connect and share with the community. Register your interest by 18 September. For more details, email info@safeturangi.org.nz

Discover the many services and organisations that call Waiora House home at their Open Day on Sunday 9 November. From health and wellbeing providers to social services, cultural groups, and community initiatives, Waiora House is a hub where people connect, find support, and build community. The Open Day is a chance to meet the tenants, learn more about programmes and events, and see first-hand how this shared space strengthens our district. Find out more at www.waiorahouse.org.nz

Join us for this one-day workshop exploring Te Tiriti o Waitangi, its history, its meaning, and its relevance today. Expertly facilitated by Dr Kimai Tocker (University of Waikato) and Brigid Eady, this is a learning opportunity for all New Zealanders. The programme covers the context of the Treaty signing, the agreement itself, colonisation, and how we can apply Te Tiriti today. Many past participants describe it as life-changing.

Date: Tuesday 21st October 2025 Time: 9.00am - 4.30pm Where: REAP, Taupō Cost: \$30 Please bring kai to share. To register, email ako@reapcentralplateau.nz or call 07 378 8109

We're bringing the global Cycling Without Age movement to Taupō, giving elderly and disabled community members the joy of wind in their hair and fresh air along the lakefront. We are seeking volunteer pilots to ride electric Trishaws and provide safe, memorable rides, as well as a volunteer programme co-ordinator to support the team and help run the programme smoothly. Pilots need to be competent cyclists (training provided), with a big smile and a love of the outdoors. Join us for an Info Meeting: Wednesday 15th October, 6pm Location: Taupō Events Centre – Function Room, AC Baths Ave. RSVP: Sarah Wraight - roadsafety@taupo.govt.nz 027 336 6425 Register interest: taupodc.govt.nz/survey-CWAbike Learn more at cyclingwithoutage.org.

Get ready for Taupō's biggest festive celebration. The Christmas Community Carnival is back on Saturday 6 December at Tongariro North Domain, following the Tremains Santa Parade. Community groups are invited to host stalls. Whether it's food, games, crafts, or something creative. It's a chance to showcase your group, raise funds, connect with the community, and spread plenty of festive cheer. A few Easterfest game stations are also available. To register or learn more, contact: volunteerglt@gmail.com



Tremains August Volunteer of the Month

Hailey Jenner is the Area Coordinator for Daffodil Day in the Taupō area. She kindly volunteers so much of her time to ensure that Taupō is painted yellow across the month, and on Daffodil Day itself.

Daffodil Day is about working with the community to think about those we love who have or have had cancer, and ensuring we have the needed resources to continue supporting them with essential services and support, as well as continuing the fight against cancer with life-saving research and support.

Not only does Hailey lead the Daffodil Day fundraiser in Taupō, but she also works tirelessly on the ground, running pop-ups at local markets and anything else she can get into!

Hailey works with dozens of other volunteers to ensure we have donation collection points and that they are all well-resourced and supported. She also collaborates with other local supporters who are organising fundraisers, information sessions, and support groups.

Hailey is also a master hairdresser and has donated her time providing haircuts to guests at our Cancer Society Lions Lodge.

Taupō is one of our bigger and most beautiful areas, with such a passionate and caring community, and we are so lucky to have Hailey working in this space, bringing hope and colour to our community. Thank you, Hailey!



Thank you to Geyser Community Foundation

This September is Wills Month. A reminder of the powerful gift a will can be for your whānau and your community. We're so grateful for the support the Geyser Community Foundation has shown us.

Maybe they can provide guidance to help ensure your wishes are respected, your loved ones are cared for, and your legacy lives on.

Many generous locals have chosen to include Geyser in their wills, creating lasting impact for causes close to their hearts.

Find out more or request a Will Information Pack at <https://geysercf.org.nz/september-is-wills-month-4/>



Community Carnival

We want you to be part of something spectacular! Volunteer Great Lake Taupō and Christmas in the Park invite YOU to join our upcoming Community Carnival on 6th December 2025, immediately following the Taupō Santa Parade!

- Showcase Your Group
- Fundraise
- Location: South Domain - Next to Lions Train
- Community Bonding
- Loads of Fun

Register Your Group for your FREE stand:
Sign up by emailing volunteerglt@gmail.com

Recent opportunities and where we need help!



Riding for Development is calling on kind-hearted locals to join our riding sessions as Side Walkers during school terms.

Taupō District Riding for Development 

We're Looking for Side Walkers!
Taupō District Riding for Development is calling on kind-hearted locals to join our riding sessions as Side Walkers during school terms.

Read more online via our website



Animal Care Tūrangi

Animal Care Tūrangi is looking for volunteers to help keep their feline friends happy, healthy, and cosy! Sunday mornings (and other days too!) are a great time to roll up your sleeves, refresh litter trays, serve up breakfast, and most importantly, share some cuddles

Cat cleaners 

Cattery Assistant

Calling all cat lovers - Tūrangi needs you!
Animal Care Turangi is on the lookout for caring volunteers to help keep our feline friends happy, healthy, and comfy while they wait for their forever homes.

Visit our website to find out more and browse all our available opportunities
www.volunteerglt.org.nz



GRAFFIATO
Taupō Street Art

25 - 27 October



Street Art Festival

Love street art? Keen to be part of something epic?

Graffiato is back this Labour Weekend and Towncentre Taupō need YOU!

Help artists create stunning murals, welcome festivalgoers, and soak up the creative energy of Aotearoa's longest-running street art festival!
Oct 25-27 | 1-2 day commitment | Perks included!



The Salvation Army Family Store

Retail Assistance
From 2-3 hours per week



Retail Support Assistant

Join our friendly team in Taupō!

Looking for a way to give back, meet new people, or build your confidence? Come volunteer at The Salvation Army Family Store in Taupō!

- Flexible hours
- Fun, supportive team
- NZQA-accredited retail training
- Make a real impact in your community

Whether you're a people person or prefer behind the scenes, there's a role for you.



Organisation Profile: Cancer Society Waikato/Bay of Plenty

As an independent and locally owned charity, Cancer Society Waikato/Bay of Plenty has been providing free cancer services and support since the 1960s throughout Bay of Plenty, Coromandel, King Country, Rotorua, Thames, Tūrangi, Waikato, Gisborne and Taupō. We provide support care and navigator services, transport to treatment, education and advocacy, and accommodation at our Lions Lodge in Hamilton.

These services are essential. Cancer is the leading cause of death in New Zealand, with 1:3 receiving a cancer diagnosis in their lifetime. Rates of cancer among those under 50 are rising at an alarming rate and the needs of cancer patients are shifting, increasing demand for community-based care models such as cancer treatment in the community, survivorship care and addressing inequities, particularly in rural areas.

We do not receive any direct government funding, so we rely solely on fundraising, sponsorship and the support of our volunteers to enable us to provide these services at no cost.

Volunteers are absolutely vital to our ability to provide supportive care services to whānau affected by cancer in our region! They are at the heart of our organisation and are the face of the Cancer Society in our communities - for every staff member, we have 10 volunteers helping us to serve the region; their impact cannot be overstated and we are incredibly grateful.

Particularly after another successful Daffodil Day! Our fabulous event volunteers showed up in force, dressed head to toe in yellow and doing a tremendous job.

If you would like to support Cancer Society Waikato/Bay of Plenty in any way - please contact supportus@cancersociety.org.nz

If you or your whānau would like to access our services please call 0800 22 77 44.

Thank you for reading!

Volunteer Great Lake Taupō is able to do its mahi thanks to the generosity of our supporters & funders

