

# Monthly Newsletter



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## ***Here's what has happened and what's to come!***

### **Kia ora and welcome to our final newsletter for 2025!**

As we close out the year, it feels fitting to pause and reflect on what has been an extraordinary few months for Volunteer Great Lake Taupō, and for our wider community.

Christmas in the Park 2025 was a huge success and a powerful reminder of what's possible when volunteers, organisations, sponsors, and the community come together. From the Tremains Santa Parade through to the Christmas Community Carnival on the North Domain, the atmosphere was full of joy, generosity, and genuine connection. With thousands of people attending, incredible volunteer support on the day, and local charities benefitting directly from the carnival games and activities, the event truly captured the spirit of Christmas in Taupō. A heartfelt thank you to every volunteer, organisation, sponsor, performer, and supporter who helped bring the magic to life. We couldn't have done it without you.

This issue also marks an important moment of transition for VGLT. After three years as Manager, Julian Bishop has stepped away from the day-to-day operational role and has moved into a governance position on the VGLT Board.

Julian joined the organisation at a formative time, helping guide VGLT through growth, incorporation as an independent charity, and the expansion of programmes, partnerships, and community events. His continued involvement at board level ensures valuable continuity, strategic oversight, and ongoing support for the incoming Operations Manager.

As we look ahead, the organisation remains in a strong position, supported by a committed board, dedicated volunteers, and a growing network of community partners. This transition creates space for fresh leadership while maintaining the institutional knowledge that has helped shape VGLT into what it is today.

Please note that the VGLT office will be closed from 18 December and will reopen on 19 January 2026. Emails and messages will be responded to once the office reopens.

To everyone who has volunteered, partnered, donated, nominated, supported, or simply cheered us on throughout 2025, We thank you. Your contribution has made a real difference in our community.

We wish you a safe, restful, and joyful holiday season, and we look forward to what 2026 will bring.

**Ngā mihi nui, and Merry Christmas from all of us at Volunteer Great Lake Taupō.**

### ***In this newsletter you can expect:***

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Merry Christmas

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Volunteer of the Month

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Closing Hours

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Tremains Giving Tree

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Recent Opportunities

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VGLT Organisation Profile

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## **Tremains Volunteer of the Month**

For this month's issue, we are recognising the invaluable contribution of **Fenella Greenwood and Jessica Shand**, two volunteers who work quietly behind-the-scenes at Volunteer Great Lake Taupō to keep everything running smoothly. These are the people who make sure the wheels keep turning, often without fanfare, but always with care, commitment, and precision.

Fenella and Jessica bring organisation, reliability, and a calm problem-solving approach to the many moving parts of our work. From administration and coordination to follow-ups and support tasks, they help keep the "machine" running, making it possible for volunteers, organisations, and events to succeed. Their work may happen out of the spotlight, but its impact is felt everywhere.

Both Fenella and Jessica give their time generously and consistently, stepping in where needed and always willing to help make things easier for others. Their attention to detail, professionalism, and quiet dedication provide a strong foundation for everything we do at VGLT.

It's fitting that we recognise **Fenella Greenwood and Jessica Shand** together as this month's **Tremains Volunteers of the Month**. Their behind-the-scenes mahi is essential, valued, and deeply appreciated.

On behalf of our volunteers, community groups, partner organisations, and the wider community, we extend our sincere thanks. Fenella and Jessica, your contribution keeps VGLT moving forward, and we are incredibly grateful for all that you do.



## **VGLT Christmas Closing Times**

**Volunteer Great Lake Taupō wishes you and your family and loved ones a safe and joyous Christmas and a very happy New Year's.**

**19 Jan 2026**



**Support Pregnancy Help by dropping a present to the Tremains Giving Tree located at their office.**

## **Recent opportunities and where we need help!**



### **Club Secretary**

Love the arts? Organised and community-minded? Join Active Arts Taupō as our new Club Secretary and help keep our creative community thriving! You'll support our committee by:  
Taking minutes and preparing agendas  
Managing correspondence and records  
Helping coordinate communication across our art groups



### **Freedom Philosophy Trust**

Believe in second chances?

Join us in Turangi Prisons as a calming, consistent presence that helps transform lives from the inside out. No speeches, no pressure - just showing up and supporting people as they find freedom within.

**Visit our website to find out more and browse all our available opportunities**  
**[www.volunteerglt.org.nz](http://www.volunteerglt.org.nz)**



### **We're on the lookout for new Board Members!**

Help steer the future of volunteering in the Taupō district and make a real impact in your community

Volunteer Great Lake Taupō is seeking passionate, community-minded folks to join our Board.

Whether you bring skills in governance, finance, HR, comms, or simply care deeply about community connection. We'd love to hear from you!



### **The Salvation Army**

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.



## ***Volunteer Great Lake Taupō***

Volunteering is at the heart of a thriving community, and in Taupō, Volunteer Great Lake Taupō (VGLT) is here to help make that heartbeat strong. We connect people who want to help with the local causes, charities, and community groups that need them most, supporting volunteering right across our district.

VGLT is a friendly, welcoming, and inclusive hub for all things volunteering. Whether you are putting your hand up for the first time, returning to volunteering after a break, or looking for new ways to use your skills, we are here to walk alongside you. We believe everyone has something valuable to offer and that volunteering should feel meaningful, supported, and fun.

Our mahi is funded through a mix of grants, sponsorship, and project funding, alongside the generous support of local partners. From one-to-one conversations and drop-in support, through to training, resources, and events, we work with both volunteers and organisations to help create safe, sustainable, and effective volunteer roles.

Behind the scenes, a small team and a dedicated board keep things moving, supported by an amazing group of volunteers who help with events, administration, and special projects. Together we help deliver and support community initiatives like COMAVOL, the Tremains Volunteer Service Awards, the Taupō Repair Café, and Christmas in the Park, creating more ways for people to get involved.

We are here throughout the year to champion volunteering, promote opportunities, and celebrate the people who give their time. By building strong relationships and collaborating with councils, funders, and community services, we help ensure local organisations have the support they need to engage, appreciate, and retain their volunteers.

Volunteer Great Lake Taupō supports volunteering across the wider Taupō district, including Tūrangi, Mangakino, and surrounding communities. Whether you are an individual, a school, a business, or a community group, we would love to help you get connected.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered, partnered with us, or supported our kaupapa this year in many ways. Every hour gifted, every role created, and every act of kindness adds up to a stronger, more connected community and from all of us at VGLT, have a safe and very Merry Christmas.

*Thank you for reading!*

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



**Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Internal Affairs**



**GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ**  
Taupō District Council