



Gisborne
Volunteer
Centre

ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT 2024



ABOUT US

The Gisborne Volunteer Centre is a charitable trust overseen by a volunteer board of trustees who meet monthly. The board members include Amber Aitkenhead (Acting Chairperson), Hilary Pickering (Treasurer), Katie Brown (Board Member), Naiya Powley (Youth Board Representative), and Tessa Lapointe (Youth Board Representative).

Our services are delivered by a dedicated team of part-time paid staff and volunteers. The Centre currently employs three part-time staff members: Ruby Walker (Manager), Melissa Bennett (Community Connector), and Trina Northcott (Volunteer and Administration Support), collectively working 1.8 FTE. We highly value the contributions of volunteers, who assist throughout the year with governance, office support, projects, and events.

We offer services to non-profit organisations and individuals interested in volunteering within the Tairāwhiti Region. As a proud member of Volunteer New Zealand and the Volunteer Centre Network Aotearoa, we are committed to fostering a connected community through volunteering.

Our vision is to unite the community through volunteerism. We are dedicated to supporting and promoting volunteer-involving programmes across the region, collaborating with a diverse range of people, community groups, and organisations. Our mission aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, aiming to create positive change in volunteerism and address social needs.

Our primary funding sources include government support, charitable grants, and donations, with additional income generated through fundraising efforts. We actively seek funding from various government and non-government entities, as well as philanthropic trusts.



Connecting Volunteer Communities Across Aotearoa

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Change is the only constant in life, and this year, the Gisborne Volunteer Centre has certainly embraced that truth! I can confidently say we've experienced more twists and turns than a roller coaster—and I promise, it's all been worthwhile!

Let's take a moment to reflect on our journey. In early October 2023, we bid a heartfelt farewell to the legendary Jenny Greaves as she gracefully stepped into retirement. Jenny shaped and nurtured the Volunteer Centre over her 19-year tenure, leaving behind a legacy that can only be described as fabulous—like a well-aged cheese, it just keeps getting better! We owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude for the foundation she built. Enter Ruby Walker! Ruby joined us in September and, after just a month, took on the mantle of Manager. She has been a whirlwind of energy, promoting, supporting, and celebrating volunteering in our region with all the enthusiasm of a puppy in a park full of sticks. Her seamless transition has been a testament to the wonderful work Jenny did, and we are so lucky to have her steering the ship now.

I'd also like to take this moment to extend a heartfelt thank you to our staff, both past and present. A special shoutout to Trina, who continues to bring her passion and dedication to the Centre, and to Melissa, our new Community Coordinator, who has already made a wonderful impact. We also remember Jennifer, who left us this year—her presence always brought a smile to the shyest volunteer, and she will be missed.

Our Board of Trustees has seen some changes as well. Our former Youth Board Representatives, Ruby and Laurence, have embarked on their university adventures—probably learning how to save the world, one essay at a time. We also bid farewell to Nicki Liversage, who resigned in June to chase her dreams overseas, and our former Chair, Neil Smoker, who stepped down in July after deciding that Wellington was calling his name. We're incredibly grateful for all their contributions, and I want to personally thank Neil for his leadership and guidance over the years. He's like that wise uncle everyone wishes they had!

Now, let's talk about the weather—because it seems like we can't escape it! Adverse weather events have once again dominated our year, but amidst the chaos, our recovery efforts have strengthened. The Centre has built invaluable relationships with key stakeholders in the emergency and recovery space. One of the highlights of the year was the Two Minutes of Good Stuff Film Festival, which showcased the spirit of volunteering on the big screen. It was a night to remember—full of laughter, inspiration, and maybe a few questionable dance moves! Planning is already underway for the 2025 event, so get your popcorn ready!

Financially, I'm thrilled to report that the Centre remains in a strong position. We're equipped to deliver our services and even expand our reach within the region. So, watch this space—who knows what amazing things are on the horizon!

Before I conclude, I'd like to acknowledge the rest of our board: Hillary, Katie, and our youth representatives, Naiya and Tessa. The future is in their hands, and I couldn't be more excited to see where they take us.

Here's to a bright future for the Gisborne Volunteer Centre, filled with opportunities, laughter, and, of course, a few more film festivals! Thank you all for your continued support and dedication.

A Aitkenhead

AMBER AITKENHEAD
ACTING CHAIR PERSON





MANAGER'S REPORT

The Gisborne Volunteer Centre continues to provide knowledge and support for volunteer-involving organisations in our region. Ever since taking on the role of Manager here I have been excited for what we offer our community and the role we play.

The postponed Two Minutes of Good Stuff Film Festival in November was a great introduction into the Volunteer Centre events calendar and I am thankful for the excellent organisation and planning done by my predecessors Jenny and Ros, the evening was a great success. We hosted a Volunteer Awards Night on 5th December, International Volunteer Day to celebrate individual and group volunteers in the community and before I knew it, it was time for our annual fundraiser of Christmas Gift Wrapping. As I eased into my role I have been consistently warmed and amazed by the generosity from the people of Tairāwhiti. Giving others your time is the greatest gift of all, thank you.

Weather events and reduced staffing impacted the delivery of some of our services such as the Volunteer Leader's Meetings and workshops. We have invested time visiting our member organisations and having one-on-one meetings to discuss our offerings and learn more about their organisation specific needs, building a solid base for our future endeavours.

Our team here are truly wonderful. Thank you to Jennifer Holloway who returned from retirement to fill the Community Connector role and has left us again, your enthusiasm and knowledge of the sector is outstanding. Melissa Bennett has since filled this role and we are looking forward to her impact in the community. Trina Northcott has had a position title change which reflects the important work she does interviewing volunteers and supporting them on their volunteer journey. Thank you to the Board for your support and commitment. I look forward to what more we can achieve together. And finally thank you to all of our funders, without you, all of this would not be possible.

R Walker

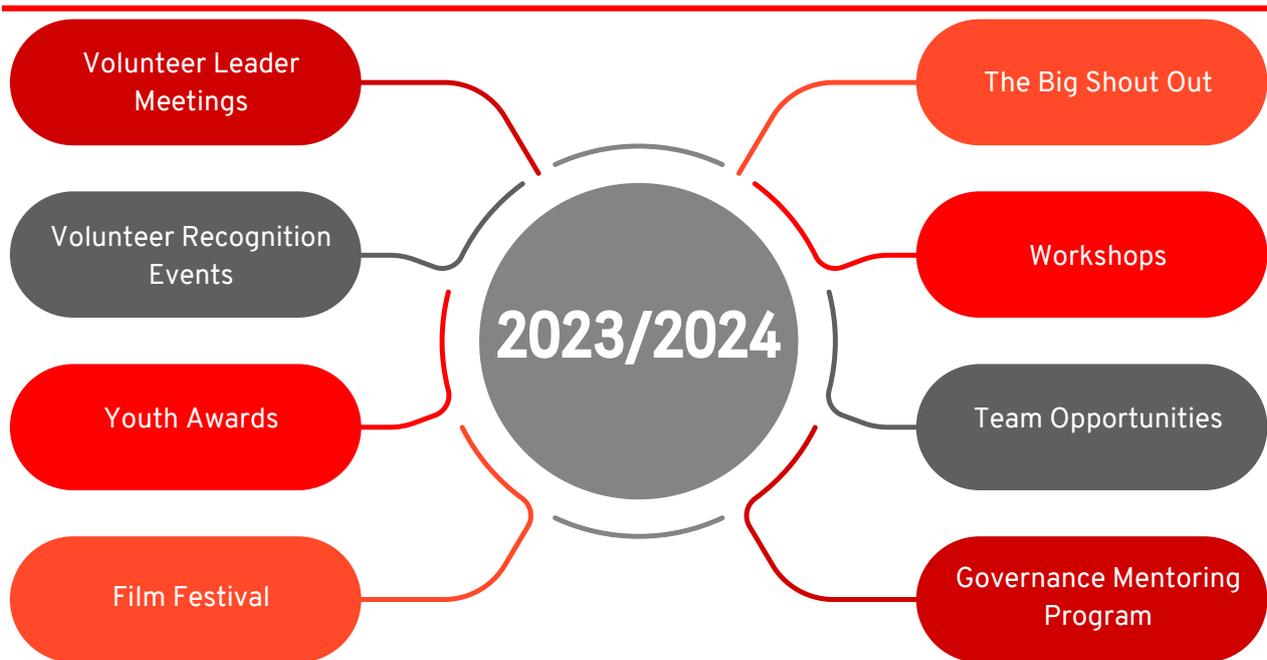
RUBY WALKER
MANAGER



JUNE 2024 VOLUNTEER LEADERS MEETING AT GIZZY KAI RESCUE & TAIRAWHITI ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

THE STATS

Outputs	This Year	Last Year
New Volunteers	259	195
Active Volunteers	281	251
New Organisations	5	10
Active Organisations	159	200
Referrals	217	426
New Roles Listed	92	101
Volunteer Leader's Meetings	4	6
Workshops Delivered	3	10
Volunteers Recognised at Formal Recognition Events	53	57



WHAT WE DID

Two Minutes of Goof Stuff Film Festival

After being postponed due to adverse weather, the Film Festival was a hit and the new location at Lawson Field Theatre proved a winner. There were more winners on the night with Hear4U taking out the Judges Award and the People's Choice award and Taiki E! Next Gen received The Board of Trustees Award. Over one hundred attendees were present and enjoyed drinks, nibbles and great banter provided by MC Bevan Chapman. Hilary Barry was the guest speaker and was a drawcard for many. Eleven non-profit organisations were showcased on film by local talents, the films proving valuable assets beyond the special night.

The organisations featured and producers were:

- Tairawhiti Adventure Trust - Haimona Ngata
- Gisborne Wainui Lions - Te Hira Horua, Sile Sneddon, Kaj Tata, Te Aruhe Fox (Rangai Studios)
- Hear 4 U - Jordan Perry
- Multicultural Council: Colour Run - Ollie Aldridge
- MV Takitimu - Ben Cowper
- Gisborne City Vintage Railway - Te Hira Horua, Sile Sneddon, Kaj Tata, Te Aruhe Fox (Rangai Studios)
- Surely Skate - Te Hira Horua, Sile Sneddon, Kaj Tata, Te Aruhe Fox (Rangai Studios)
- Evolution Theatre - Hernan Quez
- Smash Palace Pub Choir - Ben Cowper
- Taiki e! Next Gen - Steph Barnett, Next Gen
- Jammies 4 June - Tom McGregor

WHAT WE DID CONTINUED

Team Opportunities

Businesses approached the volunteer centre directly, looking for volunteering opportunities that facilitate team building. Businesses and not-for-profits were thoughtfully matched together and great feedback was received by all parties.

Governance Mentoring Program

From August 2023 to April 2024 we hosted our second Governance Mentoring Program in partnership with Mentoring Foundation of New Zealand. A six month program consisting of monthly mentor/mentee session of 1-2 hours with regular group meet-ups and check-ins.

International Volunteer Managers Day

We celebrated the 5th of November by hosting a volunteer leaders meeting focussing on connecting and supporting others in similar roles.

International Volunteer Day and Volunteer Awards

The awards night held on the 5th of December was a celebration of volunteering in the region and we recognised both team and individuals efforts through presentation of certificates and dinner.

Christmas Gift Wrapping Fundraiser

Our annual fundraising event was well supported by volunteers and the community in 2023. The Warehouse location provides great exposure and added benefit of promoting our services to a wider audience. We are excited to have confirmed our spot there again this year.

Volunteer Leaders Meetings

Continuing on from our volunteer leader get together on International Volunteer Managers Day we reinstated these valuable support and networking opportunities for volunteer coordinators and managers. The location changes monthly do a different organisation encouraging discussion about the hosts volunteer program with topics coming from the Volunteering NZ Best Practice Guidelines.



HEAR4U & JORDAN PERRY / TWO MINUTES OF GOOD STUFF



GDC & HABITAT RESTORE / TEAM OPPORTUNITIES



SUPERGRANS / IVD AWARDS NIGHT



TRINA NORTHCOTT / CHRISTMAS GIFTWRAPPING



VOLUNTEERS / GISBORNE BIG SHOUT OUT

WHAT WE DID CONTINUED

The Big Shout Out and National Volunteer Week

June was a huge month for celebrating volunteering. On the 11th June we were in Wairoa with Volunteering Hawkes Bay hosting a morning tea for our Wairoa volunteers. During National Volunteer Week on 18th June we held a thank you morning tea at Gisborne RSA for our local volunteers, About 90 people were in attendance including the mayor and deputy mayor, councillors and MP representatives. We then took to Matawai on the last day of the month and then Ruatoria which was postponed until July.

Youth Awards

During Youth Week we held our Better Together Youth Awards evening on May 23rd. This year we advertised a volunteer role for project coordinators which resulted in a project committee of five rangatahi who planned and delivered the event including MC duties. Eighteen award recipients were celebrated in the whanau friendly event which had pizzas and brownie on the menu.



THANK YOU

Funding the Gisborne Volunteer Centre provides significant benefits across the community and social service sector as we support a wide range of non-profit organisations to build their own capacity and capability.

We provide opportunities for individuals to realise their full potential and achieve their own goals and aspirations through volunteering.

We rely on the generosity of funders, local and national, government and philanthropic as well as our local business and community partners.

Thank you to all who contribute to our mahi.



VOLUNTEERS / GISBORNE BIG SHOUT OUT (AND FRONT PAGE)

FUNDERS

Department of Internal Affairs

- COGS
- Community & Voluntary Capacity Fund

Lottery Community Grants
Lottery Minister's Discretionary Fund
Trust Tairawhiti
JN and HB Williams Trust
Statistics NZ

OUR BUSINESS & COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

Business Applications
JacksonBlakeman Ltd
Laser Plumbing & Electrical
Ruatoria RSA
The Warehouse - Gisborne
Volunteering New Zealand
Waikanae Surf Lifesaving Club

THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE WORKED WITH US OVER THE PAST YEAR OR USED OUR SERVICES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Amber Aitkenhead
Hilary Pickering
Katie Brown
Naiya Powley
Tessa Lapointe
Neil Smoker
Nicki Liversage
Ruby Aitkenhead
Laurence Guite

GOVERNANCE MENTORING PROGRAM MENTORS

Chris Grunwell
Mary Kennett
Barbara Clarke
Hiki Pihema
Judy Livingston
Matthew Pickering
Nigel Mead
Wendy Reeves
Sue Hine
Lesley Lousich

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS

A AND P ASSOCIATION
ADULT LITERACY RURAL TRUST (RURAL YOUTH & ADULT LITERACY)
AGE CONCERN TAIRAWHITI
ALZHEIMERS SOCIETY GISBORNE
ARTHRITIS NEW ZEALAND
ATAWHAI CHARITABLE TRUST
AWHIO MANAGEMENT SERVICES
BARNARDOS
BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS
BLIND & LOW VISION EDUCATION NETWORK NZ
BLIND LOW VISION NZ.
CANCER SOCIETY GISBORNE EAST COAST
COBHAM SCHOOL
DIABETES GISBORNE
DISABLED PERSONS ASSEMBLY
DUNBLANE REST HOME & VILLAGE
EAST COAST MUSEUM OF TECHNOLOGY
EASTLAND KART CLUB
EASTWOODHILL ARBORETUM
ELGIN SCHOOL
ELGIN SCHOOL SPORTS
EPILEPSY NZ
EVOLUTION THEATRE COMPANY TRUST
FRIENDS OF MAKARAKA CEMETERY CHARITABLE TRUST
FRIENDS OF THE HOSPITAL
GAPS: GISBORNE AVIATION PRESERVATION SOCIETY
GDC GISBORNE THEATRES
GISBORNE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
GISBORNE BRAIN INJURY
GISBORNE BUDGET MONIORA
GISBORNE CADET CORPS
GISBORNE CARE AND CRAFT CENTRE
GISBORNE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU
GISBORNE CITY VINTAGE RAIL
GISBORNE CONCERT BAND INCORPORATED
GISBORNE CRIME PREVENTION CAMERA TRUST
GISBORNE DISTRICT COUNCIL
GISBORNE DISTRICT SISTER CITIES INCORPORATED
GISBORNE EAST COAST MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY
GISBORNE HARRIER CLUB
GISBORNE LAND SEARCH AND RESCUE (LANDSAR)
GISBORNE MOTORCYCLE SPORTS CLUB
GISBORNE MOUNTAIN BIKE CLUB
GISBORNE RSA
GISBORNE RIDING FOR DISABLED
GISBORNE SPCA
GISBORNE SPCA OP SHOP
GISBORNE STROKE SUPPORT
GISBORNE THEATRES, GISBORNE DISTRICT COUNCIL
GISBORNE TOY LIBRARY
GISBORNE UNITY THEATRE INCORPORATED
GISBORNE VOLUNTEER CENTRE
GISBORNE VOLUNTEER COASTGUARD ASSN
GISBORNE WAINUI LIONS CLUB
GISBORNE WOMEN'S REFUGE, TE WHARE TU WAHINE
GISBORNE YMCA
GISBORNE YMCA -ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION
GIZZY KAI RESCUE
GREY POWER
GROWING THROUGH GRIEF - WAIAPU ANGLICAN SOCIETY
H B WILLIAMS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - RESTORE GISBORNE
HEART KIDS NEW ZEALAND
HERITAGE TAIRAWHITI
HOROUTA WHANAU ORA
HOSPICE TAIRAWHITI
HOUSE OF SCIENCE
IHC
IDEA SERVICES GISBORNE /WAIROA
JAMMIES 4 JUNE
KA PAI KAITI
KAHUI WAHINE KI TURANGA-WHANGARA
KIMI HA
LEIGHTON HOUSE RESIDENTIAL HOME
LIFELINK/SAMARITANS INCORPORATED
LITERACY AOTEAROA GISBORNE
LYTTON HIGH SCHOOL TE HĀPAI REO READING PROGRAMME
M V TAKITIMU
MAKE A WISH NEW ZEALAND
MANGAPAPA PLAYCENTRE
MANGAPAPA SCHOOL
MANGAPAPA SCOUT GROUP
MANUTUKE SCHOOL
MATAPUNA TRAINING CENTRE
MEALS ON WHEELS
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
MOEMOE AOTEAROA SPORTS
MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.
MUSICAL THEATRE GISBORNE
NZ BLOOD SERVICE
NZ OFFSHORE POWER BOAT RACING
NATIONAL HEART FOUNDATION
NEW ZEALAND BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION
NEW ZEALAND MAORI HOCKEY INCORPORATED
NGATIPOROU BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
PACIFIC ISLANDERS' COMMUNITY TRUST
PARAFED GISBORNE TAIRAWHITI
PARKINSONS NEW ZEALAND CHARITABLE TRUST
POVERTY BAY / WAIROA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
POVERTY BAY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
POVERTY BAY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION
RED CROSS - SERVICE CENTRE
RED CROSS - SHOP
RHYTHM N LINES
ROYAL NZ PLUNKET SOCIETY
SALVATION ARMY CENTRE
SPORT GISBORNE TAIRAWHITI
ST JOHN - CARING CALLERS
ST JOHN - SERVICE CENTRE
STUDENT VOLUNTEER ARMY
SUNSHINE SERVICE INCORPORATED
SUPERGRANS TAIRAWHITI TRUST
TAHUNGA GOLF CLUB
TAIKI EI
TAIRAWHITI COFFIN CLUB
TAIRAWHITI COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE
TAIRAWHITI COMMUNITY VOICE
TAIRAWHITI CULTURAL FESTIVAL AND EVENTS
TAIRAWHITI ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
TAIRAWHITI MENZSHED
TAIRAWHITI MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL
TAIRAWHITI MUSEUM
TAIRAWHITI POSITIVE AGEING TRUST
TAIRAWHITI TECHNOLOGY TRUST (TAITEC)
TAIRAWHITI WRITERS HUB COLLECTIVE
TAIRĀWHITI GISBORNE - I SITE
TAUAWHI MENS CENTRE
TE AITANGA A HAUITI IWI INCORPORATED TRUST
TE AKA ORA CHARITABLE TRUST
TE HAPARA SCHOOL
TE KUPENGA NET TRUST
TE ORA HOU TE TAIRAWHITI
TE TAIRAWHITI ARTS FESTIVAL
TE WHARAU SCHOOL
TE WHARE WHAI HUA
TE WIREMU HOUSE
TERTIARY EDUCATION COMMISSION
THE KAHUTIA BOWLING CLUB
THE LONGBUSH ECOLOGICAL TRUST
THE NEST COLLECTIVE
THE POVERTY BAY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
THE SALVATION ARMY FAMILY STORE
THE SALVATION ARMY FURNITURE STORE
THE SUNRISE FOUNDATION
THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY PATROL
TURANGA GARDENS
TURANGANUI A KIWA ACTIVITY CENTRE
TŌNUI COLLAB CHARITABLE TRUST
VICTIM SUPPORT
WAIAPU KIDS
WAINUI SURF LIFESAVING CLUB
WESTPAC CHOPPER APPEAL
WHAKATU MAORI WOMEN'S WELFARE LEAGUE INC
WHANGAWEHI CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP
WHATAUPOKO PLAYCENTRE
WHINRAY ECOLOGICAL CHARITABLE TRUST
WOMEN'S NATIVE TREE PROJECT TRUST
YOUR WAY L KIA ROHA (LIFE UNLIMITED)