



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



ABOUT US

The Gisborne Volunteer Centre, established in 2001, is a registered charitable trust and an independent organisation dedicated to strengthening volunteering across Tairāwhiti.

We believe volunteers are the heartbeat of our communities, and our purpose is to connect people with opportunities that create real and lasting impact. We work alongside local not-for-profits, community groups, businesses, and individuals to match skills and passions with meaningful roles.

Our support extends beyond placements: we provide training, workshops, and networking opportunities that build capability within the community sector. We also host events that celebrate and promote volunteering, shining a light on the invaluable contribution volunteers make every day.

As proud members of the Volunteer Centre Network Aotearoa and Volunteering New Zealand, we stay connected to the latest trends and best practices. This ensures our mahi continues to foster a strong, thriving culture of volunteering throughout Tairāwhiti.



EAST COAST MUSEUM OF TECHNOLOGY / TWO MINUTES OF GOOD STUFF

TE WHĀINGA NUI **OUR MISSION**

Strengthening our community by providing a supportive volunteer environment

TE MATAWHĀNUI **OUR VISION**

A connected community enriched through volunteering

NGĀ UARA **OUR VALUES**

Integrity

Excellence


Respect

Leadership

Community

WHAKATAUKĪ **OUR PHILOSOPHY**

Me mahi tahi tātou mo te oranga o te katoa
We must work together for the wellbeing of all



MANAGER'S REPORT

Kia ora koutou



This past financial year has seen the Gisborne Volunteer Centre creating and participating in many community events. We all remember the 'big' ones like the Two Minutes film festival and Big Shout Out morning tea, which are prominent fixtures in our calendar, but it is our everyday mahi of matching volunteers and community organisations that brings so much joy and satisfaction to all of those involved.

We are proud to report an increase in new and active volunteers year on year as we continue to personally connect with the wonderful people who apply for roles via our website. We continue to review and assess our way of working to ensure we capture useful information, allowing us to best support people on their volunteer journey.

At the end of July last year, we welcomed Melissa Bennett in the Community Connector role, who made a lasting impact in the nine months she was with us. Trina Northcott has continued to support volunteers in finding roles to meet their aspirations. Alongside staff, those who volunteer for our Volunteer Centre have been instrumental in fulfilling our organisational goals, from board members to our gift wrapping fundraisers and everyone in between, thank you!

Community kindness has been another warming factor, with incredible businesses donating items for our Wellbeing Raffle and those that donated funds directly. We appreciate your generosity, especially in these harder economic times.

Highlights of the year also include our regular Volunteer Centre Network Aotearoa Zoom meetings, where I am no longer the newbie, attending the Tairāwhiti Community Voice Network monthly meetings, and the relationship we are building with the Tairāwhiti Civil Defence team and the wider Welfare Group as we solidify the Centre's role in an emergency response.

It is a privilege to work in this sector, in this region and for the people of Tairāwhiti.

Ngā mihi

RUBY WALKER
MANAGER



SERVICE PERFORMANCE

Outputs	This Year	Last Year
New Volunteers	275	259
Active Volunteers	328	281
New Organisations	2	5
Active Organisations	143	159
Referrals	339	217
New Roles Listed	96	92
Volunteer Leader's Meetings	8	4
Workshops Delivered	3	3
Volunteers Formally Recognised	10	53



THE STARS AMONG US

Two Minutes of Goof Stuff

On 19 June, the Lawson Field Theatre came alive with the premiere of Two Minutes of Good Stuff for 2025. This biennial short film showcase celebrates volunteers and the organisations they support.

Now in its fourth edition, the theme The Stars Among Us aligned with Matariki and National Volunteer Week, highlighting the incredible mahi taking place across Tairāwhiti. Eight inspiring films were created voluntarily by local filmmakers and captured stories of native bush restoration, food rescue, science education and heritage preservation.

Three awards were presented, each with a \$500 prize for both the filmmaker and the featured organisation. The Judges' Award and the People's Choice Award went to the East Coast Museum of Technology with a film by Bjorn Ahman. The Gisborne Volunteer Centre Board of Trustees Award was won by Gizzy Kai Rescue with a film by Jordan Perry.

2025 Featured Organisations and Initiatives:

Curtain Bank Gisborne - Film by Tom McGregor

Riding for the Disabled - Film by Bodhi and Indie Cowper

East Coast Museum of Technology - Film by Bjorn Ahman

Build a Band - Film by Tom Paton

Gisborne Toy Library - Film by Shannon Dowsing

Gizzy Kai Rescue - Film by Jordan Perry

Women's Native Tree Project Trust - Film by Te Hira Horua

House of Science - Film by Indie and Bodhi Cowper

CREATING CONNECTIONS

Group Volunteering Opportunities

As we continue to develop our group volunteering program, we coordinated a day of volunteering for 25 Trust Tairāwhiti staff in November. They got involved in a variety of projects, including grounds work at the East Coast Museum of Technology, assembling pēpi packs for The Nest Collective, clearing blackberry on Tītirangi with the Women's Native Tree Project Trust, and getting the Christmas trees ready for sale at Habitat for Humanity's ReStore.

International Volunteer Managers and Volunteer Day

To mark International Volunteer Managers Day, we hosted a shared lunch followed by a special Volunteer Leaders meeting. Lou Ellery from Parafed facilitated the Halberg Inclusion Training session, a valuable workshop that the Volunteer Centre team had previously taken part in. The session focused on practical ways to ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate fully.

On the 5th of December, we celebrated IVD with a morning tea at our office as a small 'Thank You' to our local volunteer community.

Big Shout Out

On Monday, 16th June, the Gisborne Volunteer Centre hosted the annual Big Shout Out Morning Tea at the Gisborne RSA. The event acknowledged the significant contributions of volunteers across the region, with around 100 attendees representing a wide range of organisations and community groups. The occasion provided an opportunity to recognise the diverse roles volunteers undertake, from supporting behind the scenes to leading front-line services, and to highlight their collective impact on strengthening our community.

Retail Safety Roadshow

In the lead-up to the busy retail season, we facilitated some of our Community Constables to visit four of our cherished local op-shops. The session aimed to look at retail safety within the individual stores but participants gained so much more. Volunteers and staff had the floor to ask questions and share scenarios to make sure they're doing the best for themselves, their store and the customers.



TRUST TAIRĀWHITI GROUP VOLUNTEERING (& FRONT PAGE)



GRAEME / RAFFLE WINNER & VOLUNTEER



RUBY & HAYLEY FROM TAIRĀWHITI REAP



GISBORNE BIG SHOUT OUT 2025



COMMUNITY CONSTABLES WITH BRENDA & JANE AT HOSPICE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR RANGATAHI

We had the privilege of working alongside rangatahi at Campion College again this year, introducing students to the world of volunteering and the many ways it can enrich their lives. Through classroom presentations and one-on-one conversations, we highlighted the opportunities available in our community and showed how volunteering can fit into busy student schedules.

The students quickly recognised the benefits. For many, volunteering was not only a way to give back but also a chance to grow their personal and career skills, strengthen university or hall of residence applications, and stand out in competitive environments.

Working closely with the students also led to exciting new volunteer roles being created. Including nail pampering at local rest homes, a simple but powerful way to spark connection and joy for residents. Organisations also valued the fresh energy and perspectives students brought, though in some cases, past experiences made them hesitant. This provided a valuable space for open conversation and reassurance about the positive role young people can play.

To remove barriers, we offered on-site interviews at the school as well as appointments at our Treble Court office. This flexibility made it easier for students to commit, and many did, leading to rewarding placements with groups such as Care and Craft, Gizzy Kai Rescue, and the Gisborne Aviation Museum.

By creating meaningful pathways for youth volunteering, we are not only supporting community organisations but also investing in the future leaders of Tairāwhiti.





WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS



HARRISON HILL PRESIDENT ECMOT & GVC TEAM



2025 RELAY FOR LIFE



VOLUNTEERS / CHRISTMAS GIFT TAG AFTERNOON



GIZZY KAI RESCUE / TWO MINUTES OF GOOD STUFF

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

Workshops

We continue to offer a range of workshops to support individuals and non-profits. Our Funding workshop hosted by the Hapai Hapori team at the Department of Internal Affairs is always popular and a welcome resource for our community groups. A highlight this year was the Stress Less This Summer workshop for volunteers by Amanda Roe. The focus of this was on looking after yourself so you have the capacity to keep doing what you love to do - especially volunteering!

Member Organisations

This year, we placed a strong focus on connecting with our member organisations. By getting out into the community, we've had the opportunity to meet with many of our members, learn more about their services, listen to the challenges they face, and explore how the Volunteer Centre can add value and ease some of the pressures they experience.

Relay for Life

We entered as team 'GVC and Friends' and had an amazing experience at the 2025 Cancer Society's Relay for Life. It was great to go and wave the Gisborne Volunteer Centre flag both metaphorically and physically! Congratulations to all the teams and volunteers involved in another successful event.

Christmas Gift Wrapping Fundraiser

This year, we expanded our Christmas Gift Wrapping experience to include more opportunities for connection with two gift tag-making craftnoons. It was an awesome way for volunteers to relax and contribute before the hustle and bustle of the gift wrapping stall at The Warehouse. The addition of EFTPOS payments this year enabled us to serve more of our community and contributed to an increase in funds raised.

Volunteer Leaders Meetings

Always a highlight of our regular events, the volunteer leaders' meetings capture those who coordinate or manage volunteers in Tairāwhiti. Held every second month, we mix up between internal and external presenters. We tackle topics relevant to our cohort which culminated in a Best Practice Guidelines Workshop hosted by Heidi Quinn from Volunteering New Zealand in June.

CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer of the Month

An exciting collaboration with Gisborne's Bollywood Star's Restaurant lead to the monthly celebration of two volunteers - no association with the Gisborne Volunteer Centre is required allowing us to recognise more people doing good in our wider community. Winner's are decided by GVC at the end of each month and each receive a generous \$40 dine-in voucher.



LIZZY HYLAND



ANDREW STEVENS



KATARINA WAIKAHO



MARY MCCLUTCHIE



PAUL BAYLY



KAURI FORNO



PRU CLAYDEN



JOAN GLEDHILL



MARTIN AND CHRIS WILLIAMS



TANITA HENDERSON



Proudly supported by
Bollywood Stars Gisborne

FINDING COMMUNITY

When Kerry and her family set off from the UK to spend four months in Gisborne, she was excited to explore the region. What she didn't expect was that a simple stroll with her pēpi would lead to a rewarding volunteering experience and a strong connection with the local community.

On her very first day out, Kerry wandered past our Treble Court office and decided to step inside to learn more about volunteering. A quick chat later, we introduced her to the Women's Native Tree Project Trust (WNTPT) – an organisation that shared her values and welcomed pēpi too.



The process moved swiftly for Kerry! On Monday, Kerry was in our office. Tuesday, she spoke with Kauri from WNTPT, and by Wednesday, Kerry was getting her hands dirty on her first 'Weeding Wednesday'. From the start, Kerry felt warmly embraced by the WNTPT whānau. She was touched by their kindness, their inclusive spirit, and their warm welcome to her and her little one. They enjoy shared kai at the end of each session, bringing the volunteers together to reflect, connect, and enjoy each other's company. Kerry encouraged other mums to volunteer as well, spreading the word and growing the network of people making a difference.

Through volunteering, Kerry found a special way to connect with the Gisborne community. She loved meeting locals, hearing their stories, and gaining a deeper appreciation of our native flora and Māori culture. Each session provided a sense of therapy, as she immersed herself in horticulture and the nurturing of native trees.

As her time in Gisborne came to an end, Kerry left with new knowledge, friendships, and a lasting connection to the place and people who welcomed her so openly. Her journey is a beautiful reminder of how volunteering can bring people together, create lasting impact, and turn a simple chance encounter into something truly meaningful.

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 connect individuals with opportunities 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.



THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS

COGS
Lotteries Community & Voluntary Capacity Fund
Lottery Community Grants
Trust Tairāwhiti
Grassroots Trust Central Limited

THANKS TO OUR BUSINESS & COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

BDO Gisborne
Business Applications
Bollywood Stars Restaurant
JacksonBlakeman Ltd
Pak n Save
Ruatoria RSA
The Warehouse - Gisborne
Volunteering New Zealand
Waikanae Surf Lifesaving Club

RAFFLE SPONSORS

Cheeky Cherubs
Grant Bros
Meiko
Muir's Bookshop
Paper Plus
Skin Aware
The Little Plant Shop

THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE CONNECTED WITH US OVER THE PAST YEAR

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Hilary Pickering
Katie Brown
Roger Stoves
Gillian Moon
Mike Daniels
Lisa Spence
Steve Berezowski
Naiya Powley
Tessa Lapointe
Amber Aitkenhead

A special thanks to Bevan Chapman, Tom Paton, Tim Wylie, Debbie Hall, David Dewar, Steve Rose, Lysa Wong, Diane Carter, Chris Grunwell and the families of GVC staff for their contributions in our office or across our events.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

ADULT LITERACY RURAL TRUST
AGE CONCERN TAIRAWHITI
ALZHEIMERS SOCIETY GISBORNE
ARTHRITIS NEW ZEALAND
ATAWHAI CHARITABLE TRUST
BARNARDOS
BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS
BLIND & LOW VISION EDUCATION NETWORK NZ
BLIND LOW VISION NZ.
CANCER SOCIETY GISBORNE EAST COAST
CITY OF GISBORNE ARMY CADET UNIT (CGCU)
DIABETES GISBORNE
DISABLED PERSON'S ASSEMBLY
DUNBLANE REST HOME & VILLAGE
EAST COAST MUSEUM OF TECHNOLOGY
EASTLAND KART CLUB
EASTWOODHILL ARBORETUM
ELGIN SCHOOL
EPILEPSY NZ
EVOLUTION THEATRE COMPANY TRUST
FRIENDS OF MAKARAKA CEMETERY CHARITABLE TRUST
FRIENDS OF THE HOSPITAL
GAPS: GISBORNE AVIATION PRESERVATION SOCIETY
GISBORNE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
GISBORNE BRAIN INJURY - BIAG
GISBORNE BUDGET MONIORA
GISBORNE CARE AND CRAFT CENTRE
GISBORNE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU -
TE POU WHAKAWHIRINAKI O TAIRAWHITI
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
HERITAGE TAIRAWHITI
HOROUTA WHANAU ORA
HOSPICE TAIRAWHITI
HOUSE OF SCIENCE
IHC
IDEA SERVICES GISBORNE /WAIROA
JAMMIES 4 JUNE
LEIGHTON HOUSE RESIDENTIAL HOME
LITERACY AOTEAROA GISBORNE
LYTTON HIGH SCHOOL TE HĀPAI REO READING PROGRAMME
M V TAKITIMU
MANGAPAPA PLAYCENTRE

MANGAPAPA SCHOOL
MANGAPAPA SCOUT GROUP
MEALS ON WHEELS
MEET THE NEED
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
MOEMOE AOTEAROA SPORTS
MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.
MUSICAL THEATRE GISBORNE
NZ BLOOD SERVICE (REFER GREY POWER)
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
POVERTY BAY / WAIROA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
POVERTY BAY A AND P ASSOCIATION
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 - SERVICE CENTRE
STUDENT VOLUNTEER ARMY
SUNSHINE SERVICE INCORPORATED
SUPERGRANS TAIRAWHITI TRUST
TAIKI E!
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 REAP
TAIRAWHITI TECHNOLOGY TRUST (TAITECH)
TAIRAWHITI WRITERS HUB COLLECTIVE
TAIRĀWHITI GISBORNE - I SITE
TAUAWHI MENS CENTRE
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 SUNRISE FOUNDATION
THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY PATROL
TURANGANUI A KIWA ACTIVITY CENTRE
TŌNUI COLLAB CHARITABLE TRUST
WAIAPU KIDS
WAINUI SURF LIFESAVING CLUB
WESTPAC CHOPPER APPEAL
WHAKATU MAORI WOMEN'S WELFARE LEAGUE INC
EWHANGAWEHI CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP
WHINRAY ECOLOGICAL CHARITABLE TRUST
WOMEN'S NATIVE TREE PROJECT TRUST

ROLE OF THE WEEK

Warm and welcoming volunteers required to greet visitors and assist them during their time at Hospice



APPLY NOW



ROLE OF THE WEEK

Share your passion for mobile technology with others wanting to become confident and capable with their mobile phones



APPLY NOW



ROLE OF THE WEEK

Calling young changemakers! Join the Gisborne Volunteer Centre board as a Youth Representative and make a real impact in your community.



APPLY NOW



ROLE OF THE WEEK

Brighten someone's day with a mini manicure! Offer nail painting and gentle hand massages to Te Wiremu Residents.



APPLY NOW



ROLE OF THE WEEK

Witness firsthand the transformative impact you make on a RDA rider's lives; assist as a Horse Leader or Horse Sidewalker.



APPLY NOW



ROLE OF THE WEEK

Volunteer from the comfort of your own home while raising awareness about the Rural Youth and Adult Literacy Trust



APPLY NOW



ROLE OF THE WEEK

Join the fun at the Sherwood Club, where we bring people with dementia together with exciting activities and fun moments!



APPLY NOW



ROLE OF THE WEEK

Micro-volunteering opportunity for just 1 hour weekly or fortnightly with Gizzy Kai Rescue as a kai sort team member.



APPLY NOW



ROLE OF THE WEEK

SPCA Op Shop needs a window-cleaning whiz! Just once a month, inside and out to keep them looking their best 🌟

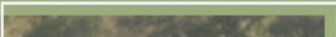


APPLY NOW



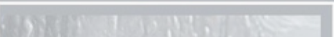
ROLE OF THE WEEK

Are you an experienced bowler? Help create meaningful moments on the green! Support visually impaired players and ensure a fun, inclusive environment.



ROLE OF THE WEEK

Help keep things moving at Gizzy Kai Rescue! With a fortnightly or monthly, flexible Vehicle Detailer role to keep their van in tip-top shape.



ROLE OF THE WEEK

House of Science are looking for volunteers to restock science kits that go out to local schools to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.

