Tūao Aotearoa
Volunteering New Zealand

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Volunteering New Zealand
Annual Impact Report 2025–2026

October 2026



Table of contents

- Page 03: Executive Summary
- Page 05: Message from the Chair
- Page 06: Message from the CEO
- Page 07: Background Context
- Page 10: Key Programmes
- Page 13: Key Achievements & Milestones (2026)
- Page 14: Key Achievements & Milestones (2025)
- Page 15: Measurable Outcomes
- Page 16: Statement of Service Performance
- Page 19: Impact Stories
- Page 24: Future Directions
- Page 25: Conclusion
- Page 26: Acknowledgements
- Page 27: Members
- Page 28: About this report



Executive Summary

What a year! In 2025–26, our small team supported volunteer leaders from nearly 500 organisations, grew our Mentoring Programme to 30 pairs, shared a decade of volunteering evidence, and helped communities celebrate International Volunteer Year 2026. We did it all while turning 25.

This was also the first year of our Strategic Plan 2025–2028, and the funding landscape kept us on our toes.

Our year at a glance (1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026)

Highlight	Result
Workshops, webinars and events	53 (96 hours of learning)
Registrations for training and events	2,061 registrations
Organisations we trained	~500, and 44% weren't members
Best Practice Guidelines training	24 sessions, 1,063 registrations
Mentoring Programme	30 mentors + 30 mentees (~2,100 volunteer mentor hours)
Volunteering Changemakers Hui	197 delegates, rated 4.04/5; 13 scholarships
State of the Decade of Volunteering	Launched 24 March 2026; 269 downloads, 135 Call to Action responses
Members	110 (103 organisations, 7 individuals), including 10 new
Volunteer hours gifted to VNZ	1,931.5



What changed



Volunteer leaders feel more confident

After mentoring, 12 of 15 surveyed 2025 mentees rated their confidence or effectiveness higher than when they started. And 91.2% of people in our free online Best Practice Guidelines training plan to put their learning into practice.



The sector has stronger evidence

State of the Decade shows more people are volunteering: 53% of New Zealanders in 2023, up from 50.7% in 2021. This evidence is now shaping conversations with funders and government.



More volunteers were thanked where they live

Through our IVY26 Celebration Activation Programme, 24 organisations reported events reaching 1,947 volunteers and supporters — from Kaitaia to Invercargill.



Message from the Chair

Tēnā koutou katoa,

It is my privilege to reflect on a milestone year for Volunteering New Zealand | Tūao Aotearoa. This year, we celebrate our 25th anniversary, which coincides with International Volunteer Year 2026.

In March, Hon Louise Upston launched our State of the Decade of Volunteering report, bringing ten years of research together in one place. It shows more New Zealanders are volunteering (53%, up from 50.7% in 2021), and around four in ten of us help others directly in our communities. These numbers speak to the extraordinary generosity of people across Aotearoa and demonstrate that volunteering continues to be at the heart of who we are as a nation.

How people give their time is changing. Fewer New Zealanders are volunteering through organisations (27.6%, down from 30.2%), and more are choosing flexible, informal ways to help in their own communities. More than half of volunteer-involving organisations tell us they need more volunteers, and many are rethinking how they design roles and support their people. Volunteering New Zealand continues to lead the sector through this change. This year we delivered 53 workshops and webinars, supported volunteer leaders from around 500 organisations (44% of them from outside our membership), and grew our mentoring programme to 30 pairs.

This is my final message as Chair, and it has been an absolute privilege to be part of VNZ over the past few years. On behalf of the Board, I extend my heartfelt thanks to our members, partners, sponsors and volunteers. I especially acknowledge our Chief Executive, Michelle Kitney, and her team, whose mahi, innovation and vision continue to lift the sector. To my fellow Board members, thank you for the leadership and care you bring to governance. It has been an honour to work alongside you all.

Mā tini, mā mano, ka rapa te whai - By many, by thousands, the work will be accomplished.



Misty Sansom,
Chair,
Volunteering New Zealand | Tūao Aotearoa



Message from the Chief Executive

This was a milestone year – the 25th anniversary of Volunteering New Zealand. We have continued that legacy with significant achievements and strengthened collaborations within the volunteering sector. We have seen increased visibility and impact of Volunteering New Zealand, volunteering, and volunteers during this period.

Our mentoring programme enhances the capability of volunteer managers. Feedback shows it reduces isolation, provides a trusted sounding board and helps participants build confidence, strengthen leadership, improve volunteer recruitment and retention, and move from operational pressure toward more strategic planning.

Additionally, volunteer leaders get a lot of value from our Volunteering Changemakers Hui. Held in October 2025 in Auckland, it attracted 197 delegates, including scholarship tickets for people from several smaller organisations.

This year, we delivered 53 webinars and workshops, providing valuable learning to 2,061 participants. We have continued to train volunteer managers about the Best Practice Guidelines.

We continued to solidify our leadership role within the sector, collaborating closely with our members and partner organisations to raise the profile of volunteering. We led the fourth year of our nationwide recognition campaign, The Big Shout-Out, as well as the annual National Volunteer Week. About 50 organisations advised us they were holding a National Volunteer Week event; and 26 of our International Volunteer Year Celebration Fund events took place during NVW.

We published and activated the State of the Decade of Volunteering report as a major evidence and advocacy platform for the sector. The report was launched in March 2026, then used as a springboard for dialogue with the sector, funders and government stakeholders.

2026 is International Volunteer Year – a year to encourage widespread support for volunteering. We enabled volunteer organisations to get involved, including through our IVY26 Celebration Activation Programme.

As we continue to support volunteer managers – key enablers in the sector – our focus on policy advocacy remains strong. We have actively contributed to various government initiatives, providing insights and thought leadership to enhance the volunteering landscape in New Zealand.

Thank you to our dedicated staff, board members, partners, and member organisations who make our work possible. It is a privilege to work alongside people who are committed to our aspirations and purpose, that show up every day and approach their mahi with dedication, joy and creativity. Together, we are creating a vibrant and sustainable volunteering ecosystem that benefits individuals and communities across New Zealand.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the vital work of volunteering.



Michelle Kitney,
Chief Executive,
Volunteering New Zealand | Tūao Aotearoa

Background Context

More New Zealanders are volunteering than ever, but how they give is changing, and the people who lead volunteers are often learning as they go. That's the picture we worked in this year.

Volunteering is changing shape. In 2023, 53% of New Zealanders volunteered in the previous four weeks, up from 50.7% in 2021. Fewer are doing it through organisations (27.6%, down from 30.2%), and more are helping people directly (40.8%). People want flexible roles that match their values.

Volunteer recruitment is increasingly challenging. Organisations consistently report that volunteering is declining and that recruiting volunteers has become harder. In 2024, 51.7% reported they didn't have enough volunteers and nearly half (49.8%) named an ageing volunteer base as a big challenge, up from 25% in 2018.

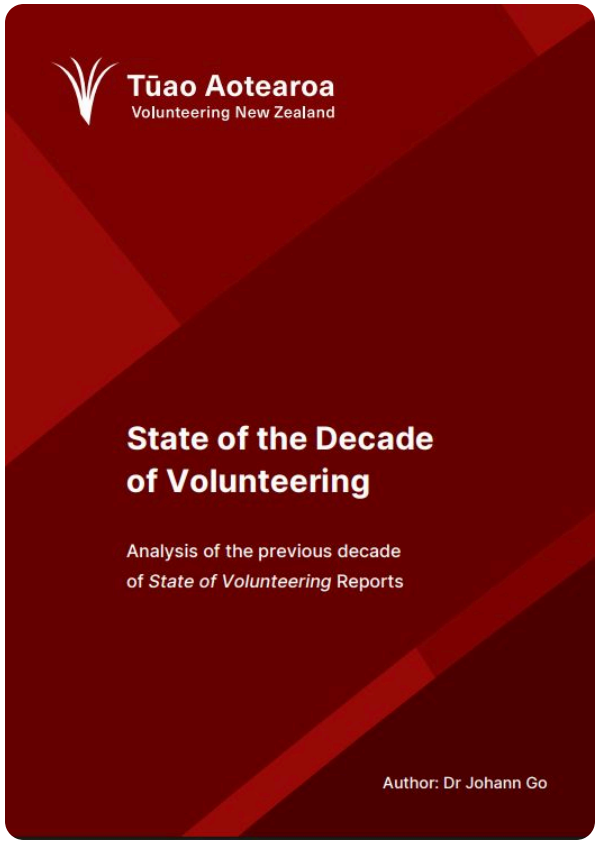
Volunteer leadership roles are increasingly more complex and demanding. Our data shows 36% are new to their role or have up to three years' experience. 44% had four hours of training or less last year, and 20% had none. Resourcing, support, and recognition have not kept pace with this change.

Young people do volunteer, just differently. 45% of young people volunteer, close to the 53% national average. They tend to give informally, and when they join an organisation they often give more time than most. It's a myth worth busting.

Aotearoa is becoming a super-diverse population. At our 2025 Hui, Distinguished Professor Paul Spoonley shared that demographic change is moving faster than predicted. Volunteer roles will need to work for a younger, more ethnically diverse population. This presentation catalysed collaboration with Community Research Aotearoa to better share diversity of volunteering through story sharing.

Unlocking sector funding. We advocated for increased sector access to funding for International Volunteer Year 2026. We secured funding for regionally delivered events, a significant conference scholarship programme, and new sector support tools and resources.

A year to celebrate. 2026 is International Volunteer Year, 25 years after the international year that led to VNZ's creation. It gave the whole country a reason to celebrate volunteers.



Our strategic plan 2025–2028

Tūao Aotearoa
Volunteering New Zealand

Our Purpose

We are the kaitiaki of Mahi Aroha, empowering volunteers to enrich Aotearoa New Zealand.

Our Aspiration for Aotearoa New Zealand

Volunteering is valued as part of who we are as a nation. We thrive and are enriched by the goodwill of volunteers in every community.

Our Aspiration for Volunteering New Zealand

A large and diverse membership, alongside our strong partnerships with government, iwi, Māori, communities, and business, enables us to transform volunteering in Aotearoa New Zealand. Volunteers' contribution and impact are recognised and supported.

Our Values

Manaakitanga – to care, nurture and grow
Whakawhanaungatanga – to build connections and enduring relationships
Tūao – to inspire by example
Whaiwhakaaro – to hold ourselves to the highest standards

Theory of Change

Our Theory of Change explains how our activities at Volunteering New Zealand relate to the changes we aim to see and the impact we strive to achieve.

What we do	Changes we see	Our impact
Arataki Lead and enable volunteering in Aotearoa New Zealand	• Increased awareness and use of research and resources to drive best practice • Increased capability of volunteering organisations • Greater responsiveness to the evolving volunteering environment	• Meaningful relationships with funders and government • Strengthened alliances with partner organisations and other volunteer-involving organisations • Volunteering NZ recognised as a sector leader and connector • A consistent and amplified voice at national decision-making tables
Hāpai Advocate for all within the volunteering system	• More sustainable funding for organisations within the volunteering sector • Volunteering organisations empowered to maximise their impact • Improved experiences of volunteering	
Whakamana Promote the value of volunteering in all its forms	• Enhanced recognition of the value of volunteering in all forms • More people from all walks of life engaging in volunteering	

Our strategic plan 2025–2028

Tūao Aotearoa
Volunteering New Zealand

Our strategy for the next three years is organised into three interconnected areas of focus – Arataki, Hāpai, and Whakamana – that collectively drive our desired impact.

Arataki

Lead and enable volunteering in Aotearoa New Zealand

1. Lead, guide, and promote volunteering best practices to ensure volunteering opportunities are accessible, inclusive, and valuable.
2. Support organisations in responding to the evolving volunteering landscape, to create more aligned, meaningful, and sustainable volunteering opportunities.
3. Invest in research to strengthen the evidence base for volunteering.

Hāpai

Advocate for all within the volunteering system

1. Connect, build, and nurture strategic relationships across the sector, ensuring our voice is influential and reflected at decision-making tables.
2. Clearly communicate our value proposition to members and volunteer-involving organisations.

Whakamana

Promote the value of volunteering in all its forms

1. Amplify the social, economic, and broader impacts of volunteering.
2. Promote awareness of volunteering to enhance the sector's overall recognition and value.

Key Programmes

We focus on the people who lead volunteers, because when they thrive, so do volunteers.
Most of what we offer is free or low-cost, so even organisations without a training budget can take part.

Programme	What it does	2025–26	Pou
Best Practice Guidelines training	Online sessions plus short and full-day regional workshops on the volunteer journey	24 sessions, 1,063 registrations	Arataki
Mentoring Programme	Pairs newer volunteer leaders with experienced mentors for six months, with peer support sessions	900+ volunteer mentor hours unlocks 1200+ hours of mentee self development	Arataki
Webinars and masterclasses	Expert-led learning, including UK volunteer management expert Rob Jackson	Part of 53 events, 96 hours of content, 2,061 registrations	Arataki
Volunteering Changemakers Hui	Our annual national conference, with scholarships for small organisations	197 delegates, 13 scholarships, sold-out masterclass rated 4.23/5	Arataki, Hāpai
State of the Decade of Volunteering	Ten years of State of Volunteering research in one report, by Dr Johann Go	Launched 24 March 2026; 269 downloads; 135 Call to Action responses	Arataki, Hāpai

Key Programmes (continued...)

Programme	What it does	2025–26	Pou
National Volunteer Week and The Big Shout Out	National campaigns to thank volunteers, with DIA and the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector	~50 NVW events; 80 media features in June	Whakamana
IVY26 Celebration Activation Programme	Small grants for local International Volunteer Year celebrations across Aotearoa	25 organisations who hosted celebration events; 1,947 attendees (to Sept 2026)	Whakamana
InvolveMe and LeadMe	Free online self-assessment tools, reviewed and relaunched	LeadMe now aligned with the Best Practice Guidelines	Arataki
Website and resource hub	Free guidance, templates and a gateway for people looking for a role	60,570 visitors; 29,423 visits to find volunteer roles	Arataki, Whakamana
Advocacy	Submissions and advice to government, media and the sector	2 bill submissions (Census, Emergency Management); 3 advocacy actions total	Hāpai



Better together: our collaborations

Volunteer Centre Network: co-delivered low cost regional Best Practice Guidelines workshops locally and provided funding for IVY26 volunteer celebrations.

Department of Internal Affairs and the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector: our partners for National Volunteer Week and The Big Shout Out.

Community Research Aotearoa: our Purpose Collective neighbours recorded every main-stage Hui keynote, so anyone can now watch them free on YouTube.

Purpose Collective and the Collective Constellation: growing our shared space and closer ties with Hui E! Community Aotearoa and Community Research Aotearoa.

United Fire Brigades Association and the Emergency Services Volunteer Strategy Working Group: championing emergency volunteers.

Charities Services Sector User Group and the Cross-Agency Steering Group on Volunteering: bringing volunteering into government thinking.

HOST International Aotearoa: a webinar for former refugees and migrants on volunteering in Aotearoa, reaching ~60 people from 25+ ethnic backgrounds.

Conference sponsors: two new sponsors gave $16,000, including support for the new NZ Volunteering Awards.



Key Achievements and Milestones (2026)

Our proudest moments: sharing a decade of volunteering evidence, growing mentoring by 50% within our core budget, and hosting our best-rated Hui in three years.

When	Milestone	Why it matters
June 2026	National Volunteer Week and The Big Shout Out (4th year)	~50 NVW events notified; 26 IVY26 celebrations held that week
May 2026	Two State of the Decade webinars	Turned research into conversation with the sector
April 2026	International Volunteer Year funding secured	Funded local celebrations and diverse volunteer storytelling
24 March 2026	State of the Decade of Volunteering launched with a panel event	Ten years of evidence for funders, government and the sector
March–June 2026	Call to Action for the Future of Volunteering	135 responses on what would make the biggest difference
2026	Mentoring Programme grows to 30 pairs	Up from 20 pairs, delivered from baseline operating funding



Key Achievements and Milestones (2025)

When	Milestone	Why it matters
2025–26	InvolveMe and LeadMe self-assessment tools relaunched	LeadMe now aligned with the Best Practice Guidelines
2025–26	Submissions on the Census and Emergency Management Bills	Protecting volunteering data and recognising emergency volunteers
10 October 2025	Volunteering Changemakers Hui, Auckland	Rated 4.04/5 (up from 3.66 in 2024); masterclass sold out and rated 4.23/5
October 2025	NZ Volunteering Awards launched at the Hui	A new recognition initiative, created with a sponsor
Late 2025	Plain Language Awards finalist	Recognition for our clear, accessible new website

OUTCOMES EVIDENCE

Measurable Outcomes

The evidence is encouraging. Volunteer leaders tell us they feel more confident and plan to use what they learn, and our support reaches well beyond our membership.

Key outcomes:

Mentees grow in confidence	**12 of 15 surveyed 2025 mentees rated their confidence or effectiveness higher than at the start (10 confidence, 7 effectiveness)**
The Hui keeps growing & improving	**Rated 4.04/5 2024: 3.66/5 2023: 3.99/5**
We serve the *whole* sector	**~500 organisations trained; 44% non-members**

Outcome	Evidence
Mentees value the programme	78.6% very satisfied overall; 76.9% very satisfied with VNZ's support
Mentors keep coming back	88.9% of mentors very satisfied; 100% of surveyed mentors would mentor with us again
Learning turns into action	In free online BPG training: 91.2% plan to apply their learning, 88.8% feel more informed, 82.6% feel more connected
Evidence engages the sector	269 State of the Decade downloads and 135 Call to Action responses by 30 June

Statement of Service Performance (SSP - audited)

Activity	YE2026	YE2025	YE2024
Members (organisations and individuals)	**110**	108	107
Workshops and presentations	**53**	51	18
Registrations for webinars and training	**2,061**	2,746	n/a
Best Practice Guidelines training registrations	**1,063**	1,143	n/a
Mentoring programme participants (mentors and mentees)	**60**	42	60
Conference attendees	**197**	205	165
Conference scholarships	**13**	20	0
National promotional campaigns	**6**	5	5
Media features (June)	**80**	60	63
Submissions and other advocacy	**3**	5	3
Newsletter recipients	**4,774**	4,070	5,036
Website visits *NB: Our new website launched May 2025.*	**64,629**	145,526	140,570
Website visits to find volunteer roles	**29,423**	38,937	25,206

Delving into the (SSP) numbers...







Website traffic is lower, partly because the new site tracks visits differently and we tidied up our Google Ads. People looking for volunteer roles are still our biggest group of visitors — a clear sign they look to VNZ for help finding a role.

Social media: Facebook reach grew to 333,281 and LinkedIn impressions to 50,145, though Facebook and Instagram engagement dipped. Organisations made great use of our campaign templates.

Volunteer power: mentors gave around 900 hours, and our Board and operational volunteers gave VNZ 1,931.5 hours (678 governance + 1,253.5 operational).

Financial Overview

Our full financial statements and Statement of Service Performance for the year ended 30 June 2026 are in our **performance report 2026.**

Performance Report 2026

Here's how we make every dollar and every hour count.

Where our resources come from

- Grants (including from government) and membership fees are our main income.
- Sponsorship, events and some contracts for services top this up. Two new Hui sponsors gave $16,000.
- A Google Ad Grants award gave us free online advertising worth $94,858, helping people find volunteering.
- New International Volunteer Year funding, confirmed in April 2026, went straight to communities through our IVY26 Celebration Activation Programme.

Making it go further

- Mentoring from our core budget. We now run the programme in-house. Mentors give their time freely (900+ hours this year), and they give roughly twice as many hours as our coordination takes.
- Volunteers power VNZ. Our Board gave 678 hours and operational volunteers 1,253.5 hours.
- Free and low-cost by design. External funding kept regional workshops low or no cost, and scholarships open the door for organisations with no training budget.
- Sharing resources. Our Purpose Collective neighbours Community Research Aotearoa recorded and published our Hui keynotes for free.
- Clearer tracking. Our updated accounts now track the conference, The Big Shout Out and training against their own budgets.

Accountability: reviewed by Moore Markhams Wellington Audit. Bankers: Kiwibank. Accountants: Beenz and Bites, and Evolution Accounts. Treasurer: Francois Cuccurullo.

Impact Stories

Behind every number is a person, and every person is part of a bigger ripple.

These four stories show what our support looks like in real lives and real communities.

1

One scholarship, a lasting connection

Joy Reid, Chief Executive, From One Mother to Another

2

From overwhelmed to empowered

A 2026 Mentoring Programme mentee

3

Opening doors for newcomers

HOST International Aotearoa New Zealand

4

Celebrating volunteers close to home

The IVY26 Celebration Activation Programme



1. One scholarship, a lasting connection

Joy Reid, Chief Executive, From One Mother to Another

The starting point. Small charities rarely budget for professional development, so we offer scholarship tickets to our annual conference — this year supporting 13 leaders from small organisations.

What happened. Joy received a scholarship to our 2024 Christchurch conference, unsure whether an event of that scale would be relevant to her organisation.

> ***"I couldn't have been more wrong. Beyond the sessions, I made valuable new connections and felt part of a much bigger volunteer community working towards positive change across New Zealand."***

The change. Joy returned with a bigger vision and the confidence that small organisations belong in sector conversations — and From One Mother to Another now plans around the Hui annually. Her organisation then budgeted for its new Volunteer Coordinator to attend the 2025 Hui in Auckland.

Why it matters. One scholarship sparked an organisation investing in its own people year after year — Arataki in action, building capability and growing a connected sector.



2. From overwhelmed to empowered

A 2026 Mentoring Programme mentee

The starting point. 36% of volunteer leaders are new to their role, and 20% received no training last year. Our six-month Mentoring Programme — the only national one of its kind in Aotearoa — pairs newer leaders with experienced mentors for monthly conversations and peer support.

What happened. Michelle joined the 2026 programme feeling "disillusioned, discouraged and overwhelmed," carrying responsibilities that sat outside her role. Her mentor Louise helped her reframe her thinking, set clear boundaries and focus her energy where it counted.

> ***"One of the most valuable lessons I have gained is the understanding that leadership is not about taking on work that belongs to others, but about empowering, organising, and supporting people to take ownership of their responsibilities. This shift in mindset has been transformative for me, both professionally and personally."***

The change. Michelle rediscovered her confidence and passion for her role — now more focused, more positive, and more confident advocating for herself and her position. Her story echoes 2025 results, where mentees moved from lacking confidence to feeling very confident, and one went on to become a full-time staff member at Volunteering Waikato.

Why it matters. Confident volunteer leaders create better experiences for volunteers and ripple through whole organisations. Mentors gave ~2,100 hours this year, and 12 of 15 surveyed 2025 mentees rated their confidence or effectiveness higher by the end.



3. Opening doors for newcomers

HOST International Aotearoa New Zealand

The starting point. Aotearoa is rapidly becoming superdiverse, yet standard statistics often underestimate the volunteering of ethnic minority communities — and newcomers may not know their rights or how volunteering works here.

What happened. VNZ partnered with HOST International Aotearoa to deliver a webinar on volunteering in Aotearoa, reaching around 60 people from more than 25 ethnic backgrounds.

> ***"They now have the knowledge to contribute more effectively, safely, and confidently within volunteer roles and community organisations."***
> ***— Birgit Grafarend-Watungwa, Chief Executive, HOST International***

The change. Participants left more confident about finding and taking part in volunteering, with many seeing it as a way to build relationships and strengthen their sense of belonging.

Why it matters. This is Whakamana in action — more people from all walks of life taking part in volunteering, and feeling they belong. There is more to do on migrant volunteer pathways and on training for organisations working with ethnically diverse volunteers.



4. Celebrating volunteers close to home

The IVY26 Celebration Activation Programme

The starting point. When we asked Hui participants what they wanted from International Volunteer Year 2026, the message was clear: recognition that's local, visible, and meaningful — in their own communities, not just on a national stage.

What happened. Organisations from Kaitaia to Invercargill hosted morning teas, quiz nights, awards evenings and anniversary celebrations, with 26 events during National Volunteer Week. Some highlights:

- Volunteering Northland hosted four celebration teas in Dargaville, Kerikeri, Kaitaia and Whangārei for around 120 volunteers.
- ADHD New Zealand celebrated the volunteers who run its Minecraft and Lego clubs. One parent said: ***"This is the only thing my child looks forward to."***
- Franklin Community Hospice closed its op shop early so every volunteer could attend an afternoon tea in their honour, with six receiving long service awards.
- Gisborne Volunteer Centre recognised volunteers in Wharekahika / Hick's Bay, Tokomaru Bay and Gisborne.

Why it matters. Most grants funded small, personal celebrations — exactly what volunteers asked for. For some, it was the start of a more planned approach to recognition. That's Whakamana: helping Aotearoa see and value the people who hold our communities together.

Future Directions

In 2026–27 we'll keep listening to the sector. Volunteer leaders have told us what they need: practical support, better ways to show their impact, and roles that work for younger and more diverse volunteers.

Our priorities

1

Put our Impact Measurement Framework to work, so we can show progress against our strategy and fill the gaps in our evidence.

2

Responding to training participants self identified development needs. Professional development, best-practice volunteer management, sector trends and impact measurement were key. With youth engagement, storytelling and police vetting following close behind.

3

Publish our Youth Volunteering report, which shows young people volunteer at 45%, close to the 53% national average, mostly informally.

4

Share the Call to Action themes from 135 responses, and use them with government and funders.

5

Continue to sustainably grow mentoring programme for volunteer leaders. Grow recognition and reward of volunteer mentors with training opportunities.

6

Deepen our understanding of mahi aroha and diverse volunteering, including sharing real, local volunteer stories through our IVY26 storytelling work.

7

Wrap up IVY26 and celebrate our 25 year anniversary and share our whakapapa and achievements.

8

Grow our own digital and data practice, building on our registration data, AI tools and recorded content.

Conclusion

2025–26 showed what a small, passionate team can do alongside a generous sector: thousands of volunteer leaders supported, a decade of evidence put to work, and volunteers celebrated in communities across Aotearoa.

In the first year of our new strategy, all three pou came to life. Through Arataki, we built the skills and confidence of volunteer leaders. Through Hāpai, we championed volunteering with decision-makers. Through Whakamana, we helped the country recognise volunteering in all its forms.

The challenges are real — tighter funding, changing volunteering habits, and organisations stretched thin. But State of the Decade tells a story of evolution, and opportunity. More people are volunteering, and organisations that invest in their volunteer leaders are ready for what's next.

That's where we come in.

As we turn 25, we're as committed as ever to being kaitiaki of mahi aroha, so volunteering is valued as part of who we are as a nation.

Arataki. Hāpai. Whakamana
Lead. Advocate. Recognise.

Acknowledgements

Ngā mihi nui and heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this year possible.

Our Board and Team:

Role	Name
Chairperson, Māori Board member	Misty Sansom
Deputy Chairperson	Melanie Smith
Treasurer	Francois Cuccurullo
Pasifika Board member	Carolyn Tapley
Youth Board member	Nate Whitfield
General Board members	Glenda Martin, Ethan Tauevihi-Kahika, Leon Hartnett
Chief Executive	Michelle Kitney
Operations Lead	Nicola Wilks
Communications Manager	Margaret McLachlan
Director of Research	Johann Go
Sector Capability Lead	Heidi Quinn
L&D contractor	Alison Marshall

Our partners and funders. Thank you to the Department of Internal Affairs and the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector for partnering with us on National Volunteer Week and The Big Shout Out. Thank you also to our International Volunteer Year funders, our conference sponsors, Google Ad Grants, and Community Research for sharing our Hui keynotes.

Our volunteers. Our Board and operational volunteers gave 1,931.5 hours. A special thank you to the volunteer data adviser who helped us rethink how we use our data.

Our mentors. Thirty mentors shared their time and wisdom with volunteer leaders across the motu (country), and many came back for another year.

Our speakers and contributors. Distinguished Professor Paul Spoonley, Natalia Sexton, Dr Andrew Lensen, Rob Jackson, State of the Decade author Dr Johann Go, and everyone who answered our Call to Action.

Volunteering NZ members

Ten organisations joined us in 2025–26:

1. **ACE Aotearoa**
2. **ADHD New Zealand**
3. **La Leche League**
4. **Oxford Gallery toi o Waimakariri**
5. **Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand**
6. **Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust**
7. **Tātaki Auckland Unlimited**
8. **The Events Network Trust (TENT)**
9. **The New Zealand Automobile Association**
10. **The Re-creators**

Our members:

ACE Aotearoa · ADHD New Zealand · Age Concern New Zealand - He Manaakitanga Kaumātua Aotearoa · Altrusa International District Fifteen Inc · Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC) · Amitabha Hospice Service Trust · Ara Poutama Aotearoa - Department of Corrections · Ara Taiohi Inc · Auckland DHB - Te Whatu Ora / Te Toka Tumai Auckland · Auckland War Memorial Museum - Tāmaki Paenga Hira · Bangladesh New Zealand Friendship Society Inc · Banyuhay Aotearoa Charitable Trust · Bellyful New Zealand - Kia Manawa reka i te aroha · Blind Low Vision New Zealand · Camp Quality New Zealand · Cancer Society of New Zealand - Te Kāhui Matepukupuku o Aotearoa · Christians Against Poverty (CAP) · Coastguard New Zealand · Community Comms Collective · Community Law Centres o Aotearoa · Community Patrols of New Zealand Charitable Trust · Department of Conservation - Te Papa Atawhai · Digital Future Aotearoa · English Language Partners New Zealand · FinCap · Fire and Emergency New Zealand · Freemasons New Zealand · Girls Brigade New Zealand · Gisborne Volunteer Centre · Good Bitches Baking · GrandFriends NZ · Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ · Hospice New Zealand - Te Kahu Pairuri o Aotearoa · IHC New Zealand Incorporated · La Leche League New Zealand Incorporated · Lions Clubs of NZ · Mary Potter Hospice · Mentoring Foundation of New Zealand · Motorcycling New Zealand · Multicultural New Zealand · Multiples NZ - Te Takitini o Aotearoa · Neighbourhood Support New Zealand · Netball NZ - Poitarawhiti Aotearoa · New Zealand Football · New Zealand Land Search and Rescue - Rapa Taiwhenua · New Zealand Pony Club Association · New Zealand Red Cross - Rīpeka Whero Aotearoa · New Zealand Riding for the Disabled Association · Northpoint Community Trust · NZ Care Society Inc · NZ National Fieldays Society · Orange Sky New Zealand · Oxford Gallery toi o Waimakariri · Pregnancy Help · Presbyterian Support Otago · Repair Network Aotearoa · Ronald McDonald House Charities New Zealand · Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand · Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust · Socialink t/a Social Sector Innovation WBOP · SPCA New Zealand · Special Olympics New Zealand · Speed Freaks · St John - Hato Hone · SuperGrans Aotearoa · Surf Life Saving New Zealand · Tātaki Auckland Unlimited · Tertiary Education Commission - Te Amorangi Mātauranga Matua · The Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award · The Events Network Trust · The Girl Guides Association New Zealand Incorporated · The Nest Collective · The New Zealand Automobile Association (AA) · The New Zealand Howard League for Penal Reform Inc · The Paul Hunter Centre Incorporated · The Re-creators · The Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand · The Salvation Army · The Scout Association of Aotearoa · The Wheelhouse · Toy Library Federation of New Zealand · United Fire Brigades Association · Volunteer Central - Whataunga Tūao · Volunteer Great Lake Taupō · Volunteer Kāpiti - Te Rau Aroha · Volunteer Marlborough · Volunteer Nelson · Volunteer Service Abroad - Te Tūao Tāwāhi · Volunteer South - Kaitūao o te Taitonga · Volunteer Wellington - Te Puna Tautoko · Volunteering Auckland - Ohu Tūao Tāmaki Makaurau · Volunteering Canterbury · Volunteering Hawke's Bay · Volunteering Mid & South Canterbury - Te Rōpu Tūao i te waenga o Waitaha · Volunteering New Plymouth - Te tuari o Ngamotu · Volunteering Northland · Volunteering Waikato - Te Ohu Tūao O Waikato · Waitematā DHB - Te Whatu Ora Waitematā · Whanganui Volunteer Centre Trust · Who Did You Help Today? · YMCA New Zealand · Youth Project NZ | *Plus 7 individual members.*

simpact AI

About this report

At simpact AI, we use artificial intelligence (AI) to amplify, not replace human insight. This report is based on intentionally gathered evidence and stakeholder perspectives, analysed through a closed-loop process that combines AI-powered synthesis with human expertise, critical reflection, and contextual understanding.

How this report was made:

This report covers Volunteering New Zealand | Tūao Aotearoa's financial year ended 30 June 2026.
Prepared for Volunteering New Zealand, October 2026.

All participation and performance figures are drawn from VNZ's Statement of Service Performance and Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2026 (reviewers: Moore Markhams Wellington Audit). These are supplemented by programme evaluation and registration data, IVY26 post-event reports, *State of the Decade of Volunteering*, and a recorded data collection interview with Chief Executive Michelle Kitney and Communications Manager Margaret McLachlan.

It was prepared by the team at simpact AI, which used AI-assisted analysis to reconcile these sources against each other, compute the figures and comparisons presented, and draft the narrative — with every number traced back to a source document and every draft reviewed against those sources before delivery.

Key sources:

VNZ Performance Report 2025–26 (audited) · Interview with Michelle Kitney (CE) and Margaret McLachlan (Communications Manager), 2026 · 2025–26 Impact Report content for board review · Mentoring Programme 2025 Report · Mentee testimonial · Joy Reid's story · HOST International story · IVY Regional Events post-event reports · Participant-informed capability needs · Changemakers Hui 2025 strategic insights · Operationalising and evaluating impact 25–28 · VNZ Strategic Plan 2025–2028 · State of the Decade of Volunteering (2026)