

Volunteering Comes in Many Forms - Just Ask Judene

Nelson Tasman Hospice is famously blessed with hundreds of dedicated volunteers who play an essential role as part of the team. We have a wide variety of over 40 different roles including retail, gardening, equipment delivery, patient facing roles and running our onsite Mānuka Café. We know that people volunteer for a variety of reasons. Some have had a personal connection and want to give something back; others want to be involved in a cause that interests them; others want to meet people and feel more involved in the community.

An increasing number of people are choosing to volunteer outside of what might be seen as "traditional" volunteering roles. People that may not be able to commit to a set number of hours on a regular basis but that still want to offer their time and expertise to support a cause dear to their heart.

We recently sat down with Judene Edgar of Encompass Strategic Services to ask her about project-based volunteering after she recently undertook the discovery phase of our Volunteer Review, in a voluntary capacity.

Judene is a Principal Governance Advisor with the Institute of Directors' Governance Leadership Centre providing best practice advice, guidance, advocacy and research for directors. She has run her own consultancy for over 20 years, and her governance experience includes being Deputy Mayor of Nelson City Council, Director of Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology Ltd, a three-term Tasman District Councillor, a director of Nelson Airport Ltd and a trustee of Network Tasman Trust, Nelson Historic Theatre Trust and the Rātā Foundation.

We asked Judene what drives her to give her time and expertise to causes like Nelson Tasman Hospice.

"For me, it's about giving back in the way that I can. I may not always be able to give as much financially as I may want to, but I can give time and skills that have value. If I can help save an organisation money by using my professional experience, that's a meaningful contribution."

Judene has always had a spirit of generosity, whether it's donating household items to charity, volunteering on their boards, running fundraising activities and events or supporting organisations with her strategic expertise. Volunteering, she says, doesn't have to look one particular way.

"Because I work full-time and sit on several boards, I don't always have time to commit to a regular volunteer shift. But a project that I can manage around my own schedule—at 11pm or 2am if needs be—makes it possible for me to contribute in a way that works for me and them."

Judene brought that mindset to her recent work with the Hospice, volunteering over 60 hours to lead the discovery phase of our Volunteer Review. With years of experience working with and as a volunteer, she understands both the qualitative and quantitative value volunteers bring.

"I always encourage organisations to consider: if these volunteers weren't here, what would it actually cost to run this project or service? It helps people appreciate just how much value—financially and otherwise—volunteers add."

We asked Judene about how volunteering is changing, and how organisations can better engage professionals in non-traditional roles.

"Being specific is key," she says. "Don't just say you're looking for volunteers—define the project, the expectations, and the kind of skills you need. That helps people imagine themselves in the role. If you tell me you need a retail volunteer, I know that isn't something that's right for me. But if you're looking for someone with a policy or governance background to work on a specific project, that's something I can seriously consider."

Judene also spoke about the evolving nature of volunteer motivations over a lifetime.

"When you're younger, volunteering often revolves around your kids—PTAs, sports teams, youth groups. As we get older, we might look for skill-based roles or causes we're passionate about. Some people



volunteer to stay socially connected, others to stay mentally or physically active. There's no one-size-fits-all motivation."

However, she emphasises that just because someone has a professional skill, that doesn't mean they'll want to use it in a volunteer role.

"If you're an accountant, you might not want to do accounting in your spare time. Maybe you're passionate about woodworking or the arts instead. Volunteering can be a great way to explore different interests or rediscover old passions."

And her advice for anyone considering project-based or skills-based volunteering?

"Think about how much time you really have and what you'd enjoy doing. Try something small - volunteer for one event, or one project. You might find something you love. And remember, we all have different skills, and we're not one-dimensional. Volunteering can be a chance to explore parts of yourself you haven't used in a while."

Judene ended our conversation with a simple reminder:

"If you ever feel disheartened by the world, go volunteer. You'll meet incredible people doing amazing things. You always get more back than you give."

Bringing Comfort Home: Yondi Foundation Backs Hospice Equipment Programme

We are proud and grateful to announce new Rimu supporters Yondi Foundation who have committed to two years of supporting our Equipment programme.

Last year, we delivered 1,040 pieces of specialist clinical equipment directly into our patients' homes, ensuring they and their families could be supported where they needed it most. This service is free to patients and tailored to their specific needs as assessed by our clinical teams. Pieces of equipment are managed through our facilities team of colleagues and volunteers who clean, maintain and deliver these items to ensure patients can be at home around their home comforts and retain a sense of normalcy.

Our equipment programme ensures that families, in some of their worst times, can feel supported, comfortable and cared for in their homes, as well as giving their carers the tools they need to safely and confidently help their loved one with mobility and to fill their days in ways that mean something to them.

The Yondi Foundation was founded in memory of Audrey and Earl Kyle who shared a deep passion for animal and humanitarian welfare around the world. They spent their lives supporting various worthy causes and charitable organisations. The Yondi Foundation is committed to making a meaningful impact by supporting initiatives that improve lives, protect animals and create lasting change.

Yondi, their beloved pet monkey, a Guenon Greater Spot Nose Monkey, held a special place in their hearts. They had rescued her as a baby and raised her as their own child since they were unable to have children of their own. Yondi travelled with them on many adventures around the world – something that would be impossible today.

We are very proud to partner with the Yondi Foundation. As Rimu supporters, we thank the Trustees, Chiara and Geoff, alongside Maria and Matthew, for their commitment to ensuring that the Yondi Foundation honour Audrey and Earl's legacy by making positive change in their community. Thank you.

Know that your support and dedication make a difference. By 2038, palliative care needs are expected to grow by 50%, our focus is ensuring we can continue to be there when our community needs us. With your continued support, we can achieve a sustainable future for these vital services.



Geoff and Toni from Yondi Foundation with Nelson Tasman Hospice equipment volunteers and colleagues.



Introducing Op Shop on Vanguard

The ribbon was officially cut at the grand opening of Op Shop on Vanguard by Nelson Mayor Nick Smith, alongside Nelson Tasman Hospice Trust Trustee, Sharon McGuire, marking the beginning of a new chapter for Nelson Tasman Hospice.

From the moment the doors opened, the shop was buzzing. Shoppers poured in to hunt for bargains, drop off donations, and be part of the celebrations. "It was just incredible to see so many people here on day one," said Dianne Timbs, Op Shop on Vanguard Manager. "The shop was full of energy – people were finding treasures, catching up with friends, and supporting Hospice all at the same time."

A special shout-out to our amazing volunteers and Hospice colleagues—without your time, energy, and enthusiasm, the opening simply wouldn't have been possible. Your dedication was the heartbeat of the operation.

"Every single business and individual who contributed played a part in making this happen," said Donna Ching-Tregidga, Head of Supporter Engagement & Income Development. "From painting and flooring to signage and giveaways, the support has been phenomenal – and it all goes toward helping us continue to provide free care to local families."



Op Shop on Vanguard - Open 7 days
Monday – Friday 9:30am – 4:30pm and
Saturday – Sunday 9:30 – 4:00pm.

Volunteers needed – call Dianne on 03 548 1823.

Collaboration in Assisted Dying Care

The End of Life Choice Act in Aotearoa came into effect in November 2021 legalising Assisted Dying for eligible individuals with a terminal illness. Nelson Tasman Hospice adopted a position of conscientious objection, viewing Assisted Dying and palliative care as distinct services, while respecting the rights of patients to choose Assisted Dying. This position has never been one of isolation. From the outset, we have actively sought opportunities to collaborate with Assisted Dying providers to ensure that patients and whānau experience care that is seamless, respectful, and grounded in compassion.

Building Collaborative Pathways

In early 2023, a joint communication pathway was developed between Nelson Tasman Hospice and local Assisted Dying providers. Since then, regular meetings and updates have strengthened relationships, providing clarity for colleagues and smoother processes for patients. As the regional Assisted Dying team observed: "The good communication between the Assisted Dying team and Hospice helps patients to navigate services at a difficult time."

Our own teams have also seen the benefits, particularly the value of having clear processes and regular opportunities for interface with Assisted Dying providers. These connections enhance care for patients and families, while also supporting staff wellbeing through shared understanding and consistent practice.

Insights for Our Data

Since the legislation came into force, a small number of patients on our service have chosen Assisted Dying. These experiences have highlighted the importance of timely applications, coordinated planning, and skilled communication between Nelson Tasman Hospice and the Assisted Dying Team.

While Hospice staff are not directly involved in the provision of Assisted Dying, collaboration has ensured that patients

are able to access services safely and respectfully, while continuing to receive the highest standard of palliative care from our team of doctors, nurses, and allied health colleagues.

Looking Ahead

In November 2024, the Ministry of Health released the first scheduled review of the End of Life Choice Act. Government parties have agreed that any changes will be introduced through Members' Bills, and legislative amendments are expected. Regardless of these developments, collaboration will remain central to our approach. This includes maintaining strong relationships with Assisted Dying providers, equipping our team to respond with confidence and compassion, and communicating openly with patients, whānau, and the wider community.

At the heart of this work lies our shared commitment to ensuring that every interaction is grounded in respect, empathy, and partnership.

He waka eke noa – we are all in this together.

If you have questions, reach out to us - 03 546 3950



Jodie Battley

Dr Jodie Battley
Medical Director

September is Wills Month

This September is Wills Month. Each day our community continues to receive our specialist services in part due to extraordinary people in our community who have made a Gift in their Will to Nelson Tasman Hospice Trust – people who believe in community, in compassion, in dignity, and in looking after our own.

Gifts in Wills matter for today and matter for tomorrow. Nelson Tasman Hospice provides free, specialist palliative care to around 210 patients and their whānau each month, offering medical support, counselling, respite, and bereavement care—all at no cost to recipients.

Being approximately 50% funded leaves an annual shortfall of more than \$4m which must be raised in our community.

Our hospice services began thanks to a graceful bequest in the 1980s - Sally McCormack's estate gift of \$65,000 laid the foundation for what would become vital palliative care services throughout the Nelson Tasman region. Bequests like Sally's transformed a seed of compassion into decades of caring support for thousands and thousands of families - and yours can do the same.

Every dollar you gift stays right here, supporting your

community directly. More than a donation, your gift is a statement: a commitment to ensure comfort, dignity, and compassion are available to all in our community, now and for future generations.

Imagine what your bequest can do:

- Your gift could help sustain crucial services - home visits, inpatient support, counselling, equipment delivery, and more - that comfort and support families when they need it most.
- In a time when hospice demand continues to grow steadily, your foresight ensures that compassionate care remains unwavering and accessible for the local community.

Take heart in knowing your decisions today can shape the lives of those you'll never meet. Truly, you will be leaving a lasting legacy.

Take the first step today - Please get in touch should you like to discuss leaving a legacy with the Nelson Tasman Hospice Trust.

Clean out, and give back this spring

Donate your clothes, furniture and unwanted goods to one of our five Nelson Tasman Hospice shops and make a difference.

We offer free furniture collection too!
Nelson - 03 548 1823 or Richmond - 03 543 7017



Nelson • Stoke • Richmond • Motueka • Tākaka
31 Vanguard St 3 Elms St 3 Gladstone Rd 226 High St 37 Commerical St

Kauri Support Helps Make Hospice Happen

We want to acknowledge two of our incredible Kauri supporters whose generous grant funding will help us continue providing specialist palliative care to those who need us.

Rātā Foundation has granted \$20,000 towards the work of our business support teams, who are the engine behind our high-quality care. Thank you, Rātā Foundation, for over 20 years of loyal support.

The Lion Foundation has contributed \$90,000 towards salaries for one of our Specialist Palliative Care Unit (SPCU) Nurses and a Community Nurse. Their support enables vital care in both our unit and patients' homes. Thank you to the venues helping raise these funds: Telegraph Hotel (Tākaka), The Sands (Tahunanui), The Buxton, New Street Steakhouse, O'Shedigans, and Post Boy Hotel (Nelson).

Since 2019, the Lion Foundation has gifted an outstanding \$680,000 to Nelson Tasman Hospice. We are truly grateful for their ongoing commitment.

Thank you to our Kauri Supporters



Wish List

By donating for specific items, you have a tangible sense of the impact of your gift; whether it be equipment, which is loaned free of charge to families in their homes or placed in our SPCU, or stationery to support our daily business, each item you donate helps make a difference to our patients every day.

- \$23 could fund a patient's meals for a day within our Specialist Palliative Care Unit
- \$80 could fund the transfer of a patient from their home, hospital or care facility to the Hospice Specialist Palliative Care Unit
- \$237 Recycling initiative - Empty Blister Packs - Zero Waste Box
- \$552 Wheelchair for community programme

Gift Reassurance: \$240 one off / \$20 monthly - Gift a family reassurance that they have the equipment they need at home to support their loved one with mobility and comfort, through our community equipment programme which maintains, delivers and picks up equipment free of charge to homes.

Gift Strength: \$600 one off / \$50 monthly - Help patients, families



Our wonderful volunteer team delivering equipment to patients in the community.

and children find strength through free counselling when they are in need of support.

Gift Care: \$1,200 - Ensure patients can be cared for at home or in our Specialist Palliative Care Unit, with the specialist support of hospice care.

You can also make a one-off or regular gift to support hospice services in Nelson Tasman.

If you would like to make a positive impact in your community by donating for an item on our Wish List, please contact Rachel Lake on 0272221344 or rachel.lake@nelsonhospice.org.nz. We would love to hear from you.

Thank you to the amazing recent supporters of our Wish List for being part of our compassionate community.

Yes! I would like to support the future of Hospice services in our region.

I would like to make a donation of: ☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$30 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$ _____

I am paying by: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Credit card #

Expiry: ____ / ____ 3 digit security code: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Signature: _____

Please post completed form with donation to: Nelson Tasman Hospice, 331 Suffolk Rd, Stoke Nelson 7011

Names and addresses are held in accordance with the Privacy Act 1993 and are only used for Nelson Tasman Hospice purposes.

To make a direct credit donation using online banking, please use NBS bank account # 03 1354 0532930 00 Please include your last name and phone number on the two reference lines

Registered charity CC58048

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