

# CORR VOLUNTEER

News for volunteers working with the Department of Corrections  
Issue 7: Autumn 2009



## From the General Manager's Office

**Harry Hawthorn,**  
General Manager,  
Prison Services

With this issue of *CORRvolunteer* we proudly present the new Handbook for Prison Volunteers.

This handbook is part of the revised volunteer induction training that will start soon and a token of

how much your activities in our prisons are appreciated!

With the global economic crisis looming close, it is important we ride the challenges ahead with determination and commitment.

The change in Government has also given us the opportunity to reflect on what we have done up until now, and to consider what we can do differently and better.

Traditionally New Zealanders have been seen as ingenious and self-sufficient – creating amazing things with the minimum of materials – “the number 8 wire mentality.” I believe we once again face the challenge to show just how resourceful and creative we can be.

Our 3,000 community volunteers certainly show this spirit when they share their time and expertise to

bring about better outcomes for prisoners, their families and the community as a whole.

I will be working closely with my colleagues and staff this year to try and increase the number and variety of activities volunteers can offer prisoners.

The publication of the Handbook for Prison Volunteers is a step towards welcoming community volunteers, breaking down barriers, and providing a better understanding of what we do in prisons and why. Together with the new induction training I hope it will ensure that your prison volunteering experience is a safe, productive and rewarding one.

Once again, I thank you all for your generous and selfless contribution. I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

## Volunteers required – how can you help?

**People with gardening, Te Reo or other skills could make a big difference to the lives of prisoners. Corrections would love to meet people who could volunteer in prisons around the country.**

Constructive activities reduce idleness and boredom while providing opportunities for prisoners to acquire new skills and maintain motivation.

*Hands up for volunteering! There are many areas in which you could help. Please turn over for a full list.*



Particular areas of need at the moment are:

- Maori and Pacific Island craft and other cultural activities
- Te Reo tuition
- Literacy, reading and ESOL support
- Guitar tuition
- Music theory
- Art and craft classes
- Chess instruction
- Sports
- Prison library support
- Gardening
- Motivational speaking
- Life skills (basic cooking, home management)

If you are able to help, or know of someone who can, please notify your volunteer organisation or your local volunteer coordinator. Alternatively, you can contact us directly on (04) 495 8428, or email [volunteering@corrections.govt.nz](mailto:volunteering@corrections.govt.nz)

*Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer. – Author unknown*

## Staying Safe while making a difference

**The Prison Services' safety and security training package for volunteers has been revised and is soon to be relaunched. Staying Safe is part of the 'new look' volunteer induction training programme.**



*The 'new look' safety and security package: Staying Safe*

Volunteer groups acknowledge that training in the safety and security aspects of working with prisoners is an essential part of any worthwhile training and induction programme.

However, concerns had been raised about the consistency in delivery of the former safety and security training, as well as its appropriateness for volunteers.

Staying Safe has therefore been developed after extensive consultation with key stakeholder groups, prisons, and crime prevention and training experts.

The presentation has been trialed by a number of volunteer coordinators and the initial feedback is encouraging. "Staying Safe is user-friendly and was very well-received at my last training session," says Margaret Maurice, Volunteer Coordinator for the North Region. "I think volunteers will find it prepares them well for their roles in prison."

Staying Safe will be presented as part of all volunteer induction training from April 2009.

## New challenges ahead

**National Advisor Volunteers Russell Underwood has taken on a new challenge with his secondment to the role of Operational Policy Manager in Prison Services until the end of September.**

During Russell's secondment, the role of National Advisor Volunteers will be filled by Diane Hallot – a move that will ensure continuity and maintain the positive momentum established during the last few years.

"Diane was closely involved with the prison volunteering brief in the days before we had dedicated volunteer coordinators," says Russell.

"She is known to many prison volunteers and their organisations and will be working hard to strengthen partnerships and move the prison volunteering agenda forward during my absence."



*Looking forward to the challenge of new roles in Prison Services – Diane Hallot and Russell Underwood.*

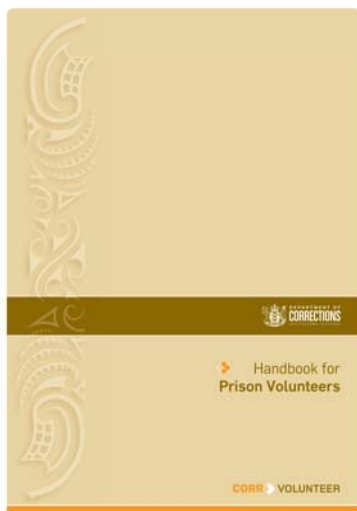
During his secondment Russell will be exposed to many important issues facing the Department including prisoner transportation, staff safety and foundation skills.

“It’s a challenging and exciting time to take on this role. A change in Government presents us with an opportunity to think about what we do, how we do it and if it can be done differently or better. My team will be at the forefront of that thinking,” says Russell.

“It will be difficult to detach myself from prison volunteering until my return later in the year. Working on a daily basis with volunteers, chaplains, volunteer coordinators and the heads of our stakeholder organisations provides me personally with inspiration and hope that together we can, and do, make a difference.”

*Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. – Elizabeth Andrew*

## New Volunteer Handbook



You should have received your copy of the new Handbook for Prison Volunteers with this edition of *CORRvolunteer*. This easy-to-use handbook is a completely rewritten and redesigned reference manual for all prison volunteers.

If for some reason you did not receive your copy, please email [volunteering@corrections.govt.nz](mailto:volunteering@corrections.govt.nz) to request one. Newly-approved volunteers will receive their copies of the handbook at induction training.

The handbook contains the 10 top tips in the next column.

## 10 Top Tips for Staying Safe as a Prison Volunteer

1. Nothing in and nothing out
2. Always comply with the instructions of the corrections officers
3. Dress conservatively
4. Never trade with a prisoner or accept/give a gift
5. Protect your personal information and that of others
6. Avoid gossip
7. Be careful about physical contact
8. Be aware of con games
9. Learn to say 'no'
10. Always report your concerns

## Conference 2009

The 2009 New Zealand National Conference on Volunteering will take place on 28 - 29 October in the Wellington Town Hall.

The conference will be organised by Volunteering NZ and will gather various stakeholders from the community and voluntary sector, Government and corporations. Although the programme is still under development, a number of workshops and panel discussions are likely to feature overseas speakers. See [www.volunteeringnz.org.nz](http://www.volunteeringnz.org.nz) for further details.

## Contact us

**As always, your news, views, feedback and contributions for future editions of *CORRvolunteer* are more than welcome.**

Please contact:

Diane Hallot, National Advisor: Volunteers (Acting)

Tel: (04) 495 8428 Fax: (04) 460 0423

Email: [volunteering@corrections.govt.nz](mailto:volunteering@corrections.govt.nz)

Mailing address: Department of Corrections, Private Bag 1206, Wellington 6140

[www.corrections.govt.nz/public/communityassistance/volunteers/](http://www.corrections.govt.nz/public/communityassistance/volunteers/)

## Change of circumstances?

Have you changed your address or ceased volunteering? Please let us know by phoning (04) 495 8428 or email [volunteering@corrections.govt.nz](mailto:volunteering@corrections.govt.nz)

## Volunteer Coordinators

The Department of Corrections' volunteer coordinators (VCs) are responsible for the overall coordination of volunteer engagement, training, administration and monitoring and are your first point of contact for all local issues. The VCs are;

Amy Blowers (Rimutaka/Arohata/Wellington)  
Tel: (04) 529 0921 [amy.blowers@corrections.govt.nz](mailto:amy.blowers@corrections.govt.nz)  
Department of Corrections, Private Bag 47901, Trentham

Position currently vacant (Christchurch/Christchurch Women's /Rolleston/Invercargill/Otago)  
Contact Elena Mikhaylova tel: (03) 345 6437  
Department of Corrections, Private Bag 4726, Christchurch

Margaret Maurice (NCRF/ACRP/Auckland/Mt Eden)  
Tel: (09) 638 1769 [margaret.maurice@corrections.govt.nz](mailto:margaret.maurice@corrections.govt.nz)  
Department of Corrections, Private Bag 92625, Symonds Street, Auckland

Position currently vacant (ARWCF/Spring Hill)  
Contact Margaret Maurice – details as above

Tracy Murphy (Wanganui/Manawatu/New Plymouth)  
Tel: (06) 349 6800 [tracy.murphy@corrections.govt.nz](mailto:tracy.murphy@corrections.govt.nz)  
Department of Corrections, Private Bag 3000, Wanganui

Vicky Mavin (Hawkes Bay)  
Tel: (06) 872 8084 [victoria.mavin@corrections.govt.nz](mailto:victoria.mavin@corrections.govt.nz)  
Department of Corrections, Private Bag 1600, Napier

Nadine Allen (Waikeria)  
Tel: (07) 872 6741 [nadine.allen@corrections.govt.nz](mailto:nadine.allen@corrections.govt.nz)  
Department of Corrections, Private Bag 2400, Te Awamutu

Lynn Smith-McGregor (Tongariro/Rangipo)  
Tel: (07) 384 7514 [lynn.smith-mcgregor@corrections.govt.nz](mailto:lynn.smith-mcgregor@corrections.govt.nz)  
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## Happy Easter!

