

Chris Lawton - Bio

As a seasoned leader and passionate advocate for volunteerism, I bring over two decades of dedicated experience to the table. My extensive background in governance and community service uniquely positions me as a strong candidate for a board position at Volunteering NZ, where I aim to help shape a brighter future for volunteer organisations across our country.

For the past 10 years, I've had the privilege of serving as the Board Chairman for Community Patrols of New Zealand. This national role has sharpened my skills in strategic planning, organisational oversight, and stakeholder management, providing me with invaluable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing volunteer-driven organisations across the country. In this position, I've worked closely in partnership with government agencies, particularly the New Zealand Police, fostering a collaborative approach to community safety and volunteer engagement. This experience has given me a deep understanding of how volunteer organisations can effectively collaborate with government bodies to enhance their impact and reach, while navigating the complexities of public-private partnerships in the voluntary sector.

My commitment to community service extends even further, with 15 years of dedicated service on the trust Board. This long-term engagement has equipped me with a deep understanding of the evolving nature of volunteerism in New Zealand and the critical role that effective governance plays in sustaining and growing volunteer initiatives.

Currently, I also chair a charitable organisation that provides free training to security officers. This role underscores my belief in the power of education and skill development to enhance the capabilities of volunteers and professionals alike. By fostering learning opportunities, I've demonstrated my commitment to elevating the standards of service across various sectors.

I envision a future where:

- Effective and transparent governance is key
- Technology empowers volunteers
- Collaboration is key
- Diversity and inclusion are normalised
- Best practices are shared
- Sustainable funding models are developed
- Volunteer recognition is amplified

By joining the board of Volunteering NZ, I believe I am able to play a pivotal role in shaping policies, fostering collaborations, and driving initiatives that will strengthen the foundation of volunteerism across the country. My dedication to creating thriving volunteer organisations promises to bring my perspective and solutions to the challenges facing volunteer organisations in New Zealand today and in the future.

I am excited about the possibility of contributing my expertise and passion to Volunteering NZ, working together to build a stronger, more vibrant volunteer community across New Zealand.