

**For immediate release
February 21 2003**

WISDOM OF 'YOUNG SENIORS' SOUGHT

People across the nation are being urged to try voluntary work in their communities, both to keep themselves interested in life and society, and also to use their knowledge, wisdom and experience for the benefit of others.

“Young seniors” are considered those in the 55 to 65-year age bracket, many of whom are still active but who may want alternatives to full-time paid employment.

Alison Marshall, chairperson of Volunteering New Zealand, a not for profit organisation whose focus is to represent, promote and support volunteering, said a web-site has been set up, along with an 0800 number, which will transfer to their nearest Volunteer Centre, to seek more information.

The website and 0800 number which have been developed by Volunteering New Zealand, in association with the Tindall Foundation and the Government, were launched today at Knowledge Wave 2003 – the Leadership Forum.

“Both these new schemes will work to increase the volunteer opportunities for all New Zealanders, and especially those aged 55 to 65,” said Mrs Marshall. “We believe engaging the skills and experience of these people will be of huge benefit to the country.

“The web-site and the 0800 number are the first stage in a Volunteering New Zealand programme which seeks to expand opportunities for people to help voluntarily in their communities, and for individuals to experience the fun and enjoyment of helping others,” she said.

The web-site address is www.volunteernow.org.nz and the 0800 number is 0800 VOLCNTR or 0800 865 268

For further information, contact:

Alison Marshall,
Chairperson,
Volunteering New Zealand
Phone: (07) 834 7522
Mobile: 025 424 100
AMarshall@RNZFB.org.nz

Karen Roberts,
National Development Manager
Volunteering New Zealand
DDI (04) 471 5739
Mobile: 027 412 7852
Karen.Roberts@IHC.ORG.NZ