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Kia ora all,

We are delighted to bring you the latest edition of our newsletter, packed with updates, stories, and initiatives that showcase the incredible impact we are making together in the fight against food waste and hunger in New Zealand. As we navigate through these challenging times, it is more important than ever to come together as a community and support one another.

At Just Zilch, our core belief is that no one should go hungry while perfectly good food goes to waste. We strive to rescue surplus food from various sources, including supermarkets, restaurants, cafes, manufacturers, bakeries and redirect it to those who need it most. Through collaboration with our partners, volunteers, and supporters like you, we are making strides towards a more sustainable and equitable future.

We hope this newsletter serves as a source of inspiration and a reminder that even small acts can create significant change. We are incredibly grateful for your ongoing support and commitment to our cause. Together, we can build a brighter future, one meal of rescued food at a time.

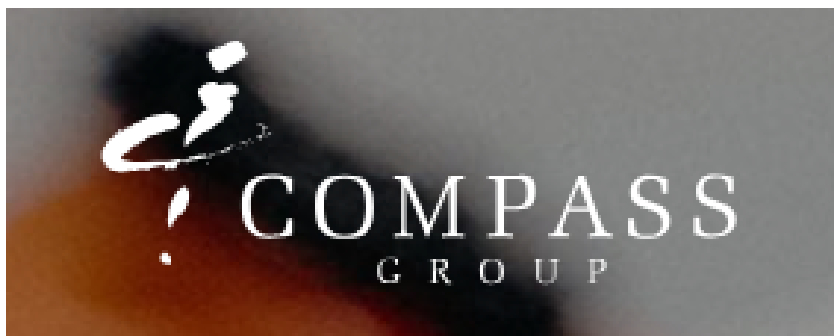
Thank you for being part of our journey.

Nga Mihi,
Vaughn and team

Supplier Spotlight - Compass Group NZ

The Compass Group creates inspiring dining solutions that deliver the full benefit of outsourced food services, combining their global strength with passionate local teams. Every client has unique food demands. They meet them with warm hospitality, excellent service, and flair at every type and size of location. We would

like to thank the Compass Group with all the food donations they make.



Koia kei a koe, The Compass Group

#supportbusinesses thats support your community

Get Involved

[Donate](#)

[Volunteer](#)

Or drop off any excess fruit and veges from your garden!

Letter from Chris Hipkins

We are thrilled to share some exciting news with our valued readers. Our organization has been recently honored by none other than the current Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr Chris Hipkins for our outstanding service and unwavering support in the country's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

This recognition serves as a testament to the dedication and hard work of our team, who have gone above and beyond to contribute to the national COVID-19 response. We are incredibly proud to have played a role in helping our community during these challenging times, and we remain committed to continuing our efforts to protect the health and well-being of our fellow citizens.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Prime Minister for acknowledging our contributions and to our dedicated team members for their relentless commitment to serving our nation. Together, we will emerge stronger and more resilient than ever before.



Shoutout to Just Zilch's Wonderful Corporate Donors!

Gold



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Profile Spotlight - Belle

Meet Belle, a determined student at Palmerston North Girls' High School, who believes in setting goals and achieving them. This year, she embarked on her Duke of Edinburgh journey, seeking opportunities to make a positive impact on her community.

When it came to choosing a place to volunteer, Belle had her heart set on Just Zilch. "Just Zilch seemed like the perfect fit for me," Belle shared. "I've always been passionate about helping out at a food rescue organization's free store, and Just Zilch provided that opportunity. It was an exciting chance to give back to the community and ensure that surplus food doesn't go to waste."



Stepping into Just Zilch for the first time, Belle was amazed by the abundance of donated food from supermarkets, bakeries, cafes, and other food outlets. Witnessing how this surplus food was used to supplement groceries for those in need left a lasting impression on her. "It's truly heartwarming to see the positive impact Just Zilch has on so many families," Belle said. "The gratefulness of the families who visit the store is the best part of volunteering. Beyond that, I found a wonderful community of like-minded individuals among the volunteers, which creates a supportive and motivating atmosphere. Knowing that we're all working together for a common cause is what keeps me excited to return every week."

Belle believes that Just Zilch's significance in the Palmerston North community may not receive the recognition it deserves. "This organization plays a crucial role in helping families save money for other essential needs," she emphasized. "The

appreciation expressed by the customers is a testament to the positive impact Just Zilch has on people's lives."

Through her volunteer experience, Belle gained a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by Palmerston North's communities. She learned that everyone, at some point, may need a helping hand, and there's no shame in seeking support during tough times. "I encourage more people to volunteer at Just Zilch," Belle enthused. "The rewards are beyond measure. Seeing the gratitude and happiness on people's faces when they receive the assistance they need is an incredible feeling. Plus, the friendships you make with other volunteers are priceless, knowing that you're all contributing to support families in the Manawatu region."

Belle's commitment to making a difference through Just Zilch exemplifies the power of individuals coming together to create positive change. Her journey serves as an inspiration for others to find meaningful ways to give back to their communities and help those in need.

Taxes on fruit and vegetables

In recent years, New Zealand has been grappling with the issue of high taxes on fruits and vegetables, sparking debates among policymakers, health experts, and the public. While the intention behind such taxes was to promote healthier eating habits and support sustainable agriculture, critics argue that these measures have unintended consequences and disproportionately impact certain segments of the population. In this section, we delve into the problem of high taxes on fruits and vegetables, examining the arguments from both sides to better understand the complexities of this issue.

Proponents of high taxes on fruits and vegetables point to public health concerns as the driving force behind these measures. New Zealand, like many other developed nations, faces a rising prevalence of non-communicable diseases such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular conditions. By discouraging the consumption of unhealthy, processed foods through taxation, policymakers hoped to steer citizens towards a more balanced and nutritious diet. In theory, this approach could lead to reduced healthcare costs and better overall well-being for the nation.

Additionally, advocates argue that such taxes create opportunities to generate revenue that can be reinvested in health promotion programs, nutritional education, and initiatives to support local agriculture. By incentivizing the consumption of locally produced fruits and vegetables, the government aims to reduce the country's carbon footprint and promote sustainable farming practices,

aligning with its broader environmental goals.

However, critics raise several compelling points against the imposition of high taxes on fruits and vegetables. Foremost among these concerns is the potential regressive nature of the taxes. Lower-income households, which already face economic constraints, may find it challenging to afford nutritious food options when prices are driven up further. This could inadvertently exacerbate existing disparities in health and nutrition, leading to adverse effects on vulnerable populations.

Moreover, opponents argue that focusing solely on taxing specific food items might not be the most effective approach to improving public health. Instead, they advocate for comprehensive strategies that prioritize education, access to affordable healthy foods, and improved food labeling to empower consumers to make informed choices. Redirecting funds from high taxes to support these initiatives could potentially yield more substantial and sustainable results in the long run.

Balancing the competing perspectives surrounding high taxes on fruits and vegetables presents a complex challenge for policymakers. It requires careful consideration of public health objectives, economic impacts, and social equity concerns. Finding middle ground might involve reassessing the current tax structure, exploring targeted subsidies for healthy food options, and investing in evidence-based interventions to encourage healthier dietary choices.

In conclusion, the problem of high taxes on fruits and vegetables in New Zealand is a multifaceted issue with diverse viewpoints. While the aim of promoting health and sustainability is commendable, striking the right balance between taxation, affordability, and education is crucial. As the nation continues to grapple with this challenge, open dialogue and evidence-based decision-making will be essential in shaping effective policies that genuinely benefit the health and well-being of all citizens.

On behalf of Volunteer Central - Celebrating their 10th Volunteer Recognition Event!

We are thrilled to share the joy and pride of hosting our 10th Volunteer Recognition Event (VRE), where we came together to express our heartfelt gratitude and recognize the extraordinary efforts of all volunteers in Palmerston North, Manawatū, Horowhenua, and Taranaki.

A Celebration of Inspiration

This event was a true celebration of you, our esteemed nominees. Your dedication and unwavering support have made a profound impact on our communities. You serve as an inspiration to all, and we are immensely grateful for your time and effort in making a difference.

Thanking Our Supporters

We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of this remarkable event. Our heartfelt thanks go to Rangitāne o Manawatu [Nuwyne Te Awe Awe Mohi] for their blessings and opening, the MCs who added a vibrant touch to the ceremony, the Volunteer Central Board, and all the dedicated Event and Office Volunteers. Your collective efforts made this occasion possible, and we couldn't have done it without you.

Honoring Distinguished Guests

A special thank you to the esteemed guests who graced the event with their presence. We express our gratitude to PNCC Communities Committee Chair Lorna Johnson, Mayor of Manawātū District Council Helen Worboys, Mayor of Horowhenua District Council Bernie Wanden, MP for Palmerston North Tangi Utikere, MP for Rangitikei Ian McKelvie, and MP for Otaki Terisa Ngobi. Their presence and participation in presenting certificates to the 79 recognized volunteers added to the significance of the occasion.

Recognizing Nominating Organizations

We also want to extend our thanks to the organizations that nominated volunteers and attended the event to show their support. Your encouragement and acknowledgment mean a lot to these remarkable individuals who contribute so much to our communities.

Gratitude to Families, Friends, Sponsors, and Supporters

To the families and friends of our nominees, thank you for standing beside them, supporting their commitment to making the world a better place. We also extend a heartfelt appreciation to our sponsors and supporters whose generous contributions made this event shine even brighter.

Once again, congratulations to all the recognized volunteers! Your selflessness and dedication inspire us all to continue working together for a stronger, more caring community.



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