everybody eats

OUR STORY: AN INTRODUCTION

JUNE 2025

Volunteer Handbook vol. I

“Food is the most powerful tool we have for bringing people together”

Nick Loosley-Founder
The Denizen, 2018



Nau mai, haere mai – welcome.

The inspiration for Everybody Eats came while I was in the UK, researching for a Master's in Green Economics. I volunteered with organisations that used rescued food and was blown away by how much perfectly good food people were prepared to throw away. There's enough food on this planet to feed everyone—so why are so many going without? That question had an immediate impact on me, and my path became clear.

Repurposing surplus food to provide meals for those in need felt obvious, urgent—and already possible. But I wanted to go a step further. I wanted to provide an occasion: an opportunity for people from all walks of life to come together, in a safe space, to share a freshly prepared, nourishing meal. And I knew if we were to truly be inclusive, the answer had to be simple—ask guests to pay what they're able to.

What began as a one-night-a-week pop-up, working alongside some of New Zealand's top chefs, has since grown into a movement. We've served hundreds of thousands of meals, rescued tonnes of perfectly good food from landfill, and created spaces where strangers become neighbours—and everyone is welcome.

But this isn't just our story—it's yours too. It's the volunteers who chop, cook, greet, smile, and serve, week in, week out. It's the diners who are forever grateful for kai, kōrero, and community. It's the partners and supporters who believe in doing business with purpose. Together, we're proving that the way we eat can be part of the solution. We've come so far, and yet we're just getting started.

Ngā mihi nui,
Nick Loosley
Founder, Everybody Eats



Behind every meal is a dedicated team of hospitality professionals, volunteers, industry experts, and partners who bring our kaupapa to life.

It’s no surprise that people are at the heart of our mahi —united by a shared commitment to make a difference.

We are guided by our three core values:

WHANAUNGATANGA 01

WE ARE A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS.

Our connections and relationships are built on trust, aroha, and a shared vision as a collective, for collective well-being.

KAITIAKITANGA 02

WE ARE COMMITTED TO CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT THROUGH THOUGHTFUL AND RESPONSIBLE ACTION.

As part of a circular system, we repurpose surplus food into restaurant-quality, nutritious meals, reducing waste and supporting a more sustainable future.

MANAAKITANGA 03

WE EXTEND ĀWHINA TO EVERYONE AND UNITE TO UPLIFT OUR COMMUNITIES.

We strengthen the communities we serve with care, empathy and respect, ensuring everyone feels valued and included.

“Every little bit counts.”

Every meal served, every ingredient we use, every diner welcomed, every volunteer hour, and every donation—big or small—makes up the Everybody Eats Ecosystem: a collective effort powered by people, purpose, plates and planet.

This is how we do it, our Everybody Eats Ecosystem:

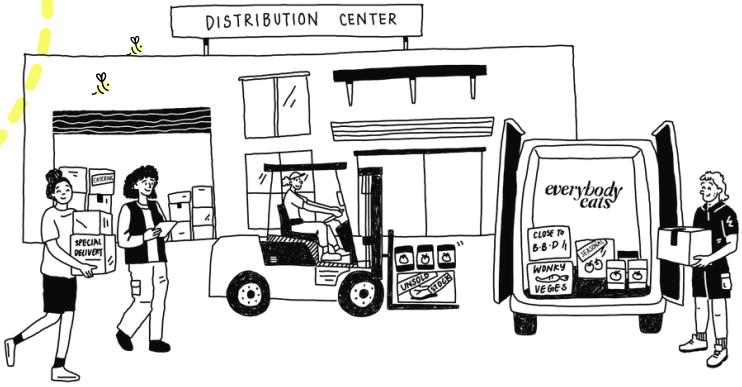


Waste Not, Want Not—
What is Rescued Food?

Across Aotearoa and beyond, farmers work tirelessly to grow, farm, and produce fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, and grains — yet over a third is wasted before it ever reaches a plate. All this food needs to be rescued.

Our Partners—To The Rescue

Along with our incredible food partners, we are on a mission to rescue perfectly good food and make sure it goes to a better place. We work with everybody, from large food rescue organisations to small independent businesses and growers. Thanks to the 'Good Samaritan clause' in the Food Act 2014, there's no excuse to let good food go to waste in New Zealand anymore.





Where the Magic Happens—Our People

Once rescued, the food is brought into our bustling kitchens, where our talented chefs and volunteers work their magic, transforming quality ingredients into restaurant quality three-course-meals. With the ever changing seasons and surprise ingredients, it's like a daily masterchef mystery box challenge!

Everybody Eats—Our Restaurants

At 6pm, our restaurant doors open and our team of friendly volunteers welcome in the community. The best part? Everyone is invited to dine at Everybody Eats on a pay-what-you-can basis. It's the perfect place to connect with others, enjoy a delicious meal and be part of building a happier and healthier Aotearoa.





Introducing the newest addition to our logo: the three-plate icon. Each plate represents one of three core values—making good food accessible to all, building strong communities, and reducing food waste. It's a simple but powerful symbol of our commitment to making a difference, every day.

Food Rescued from Landfill

190,486kg

Our Volunteers Donated

140,392

Hours of Service





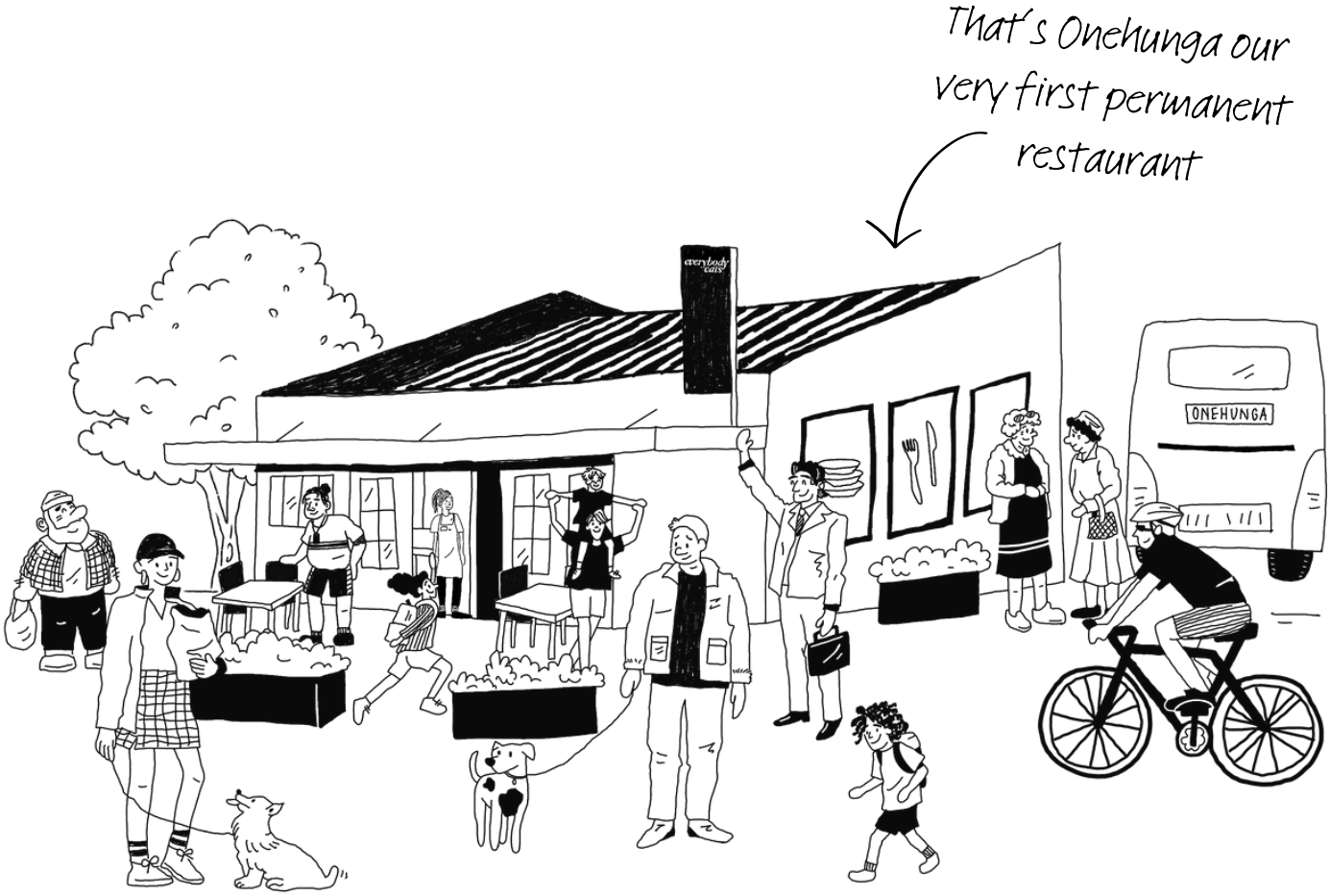
282,201

Diners Served Across Aotearoa

The Numbers Speak for Themselves
Our impact is only possible because of you—and the incredible 6,889 volunteers who have joined the Everybody Eats whānau. Together, we're proving that one shared meal really can change lives.

As the need continues to grow, so does our response. We're aiming to serve 100,000 meals a year across Aotearoa. With your continued support, we can reach more whānau, rescue more food, and bring even more people together around the table.

Thank you for being part of this movement.
Let's keep the impact growing—together.



United by shared values, our collective strength is incredibly powerful. Every plate tells a bigger story. These six key ingredients make us uniquely Everybody Eats.



Inclusive Dining
Our open and private dining spaces create opportunities for connection in a warm, inclusive environment, with trained teams ensuring every meal is an opportunity to bring people together.



Rescued and Surplus Ingredients
We transform food that what would otherwise go to waste into delicious, and ever-changing menus, ensuring each day offers something new.



Pay-What-You-Can Model
No one is excluded. Our pay-what-you-can dining ensures that a delicious, wholesome meal is accessible to everyone, regardless of their circumstances.



Incredible Community of Volunteers
Our passionate volunteers dedicate their time and energy to ensure every dining experience is welcoming, warm, and full of heart.



Creative, Talented Chefs
Our chefs transform rescued ingredients into delicious meals, showcasing their creativity and commitment to sustainability.



Quality Commercial Kitchens
We attract some of New Zealand's finest chefs, giving them an opportunity to give back and make a difference in their communities.

Thank you for choosing to be part of our kaupapa. Whether you're able to contribute one shift, 10 shifts or 1000 shifts, we look forward to welcoming you to the Everybody Eats volunteer whānau.

“Reducing food waste is a tangible action that we can all take”

Nick Loosley-Founder
Scoop, 2021