



Bookworms: Yvonne Lovejoy is helping Hyunae Kim, left, and Hyunmi Kim improve their English.

Photo: LUKE PARKER

Helping migrants a win-win

By Luke Parker

Volunteer Yvonne Lovejoy never thought listening to someone else read could be so rewarding.

The 62-year-old spends two hours a week with people wanting to practise their English by reading aloud.

She's been doing it since February and says it's incredibly fulfilling.

"I felt it was time I gave something back to the community," Ms Lovejoy says. "I'm finding I have strengths to offer other people I

didn't even realise I had before.

"Coming here is helping me discover more about myself and learn about other people and their cultures. It's a win-win really.

"I would definitely encourage people to volunteer. A little bit of time gives such a lot to people who really need it."

Volunteer co-ordinator Cecilia Lindsay says the Repeat Read Aloud programme for adults is run by Culture Company Reading4U Incorporated at libraries in Massey, Waitakere and New Lynn.

She says people from all over the world including China, Korean, Burma are keen to hone their reading skills.

"A lot of them are isolated by language," she says. "Even if they can read or write English, they aren't able to pronounce it.

Mrs Lindsay says more volunteers like Ms Lovejoy are needed.

"We have so many readers who want to do it, but need volunteers to pair them off one-on-one."

Call Mrs Lindsay on 473-6251 or email ccr4u@xnet.co.nz if you are interested in volunteering.