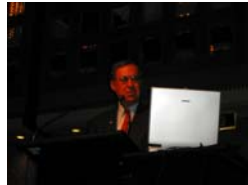


# Conference Bulletin

A tremendous opening to the 10th National Conference on volunteering, with delegates being urged by all key note speakers to look ahead to the future and to consider the many issues currently faced by the sector.



Keynote speaker David Gonski spoke of the size and importance of the Not-For-Profit sector in Australia and the importance of continuing to build relationships between Government, business and the community.

Former Olympian Raelene Boyle spoke of her gratitude to the volunteers who contributed to her successful athletic career. She urged us all to remember the efforts of the Sydney Olympic volunteers and reminded all delegates that this is not that time to change the great Aussie tradition of helping and supporting each other.



Following Raelene, The Minister for Family and Community Services, Senator Kay Patterson, said the \$7.3million announced in the Budget to extend the Voluntary Work Initiative for a further four years will help build on the Australian Government's support for volunteers.

Minister Patterson also spoke of her personal association with voluntary organizations and her strong involvement in the Guides movement.

After morning tea we were given two exciting presentation from Melanie Oppenheimer and George Thomson.



Melanie spoke of culturally, socially and economically building up society through voluntary action. Melanie believes that while research and interests in volunteering, principals and action have been increasing Australian historians have been 'missing in action'.

As CEO of Volunteer Development Scotland, George Thomson spoke of the "The Volunteer Market Place" and shared his experience in Scotland in researching the supply-side (volunteers), and the demand-side (volunteer opportunities) of the voluntary sector. He urged all organisations to consider both what volunteers are asking for from the organisation as well as what you are asking for from them.

## **Session 2F – Volunteering: Creating Dialogues About Research** *EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT*

Research Officer for Volunteering Australia, Annette Maher announced that the Alumni Chapter of the Centre for Philanthropy and Non-Profit Studies at Queensland University of Technology have agreed to sponsor an annual prize for the best paper submitted by a student for the Australian Journal on Volunteering. The annual prize a sum of \$500 will be awarded for three years.

Please contact [Annette@volunteeringaustralia.org](mailto:Annette@volunteeringaustralia.org) for further information.



10th National Conference on Volunteering

evolution

devolution

revolution



### Session 1A: Employee Volunteering

This session tackled the issue of 'employee volunteering'. In particular, the strategies businesses can employ in order to ensure successful relationships between corporate businesses and community organizations. Presenters included Trevor Goddard from the school of Occupational Therapy, Curtin University of Technology Perth, Simon Robinson from Committee for Melbourne, and Sha Cordingley from Volunteering Australia. Some key points on employee volunteering that were made in the session included:

- The importance for businesses engaging in corporate volunteering to have a deep understanding of community issues.
- The importance of an appropriate 'brand fit', the business and organization should have similar mission statements and values.
- How the development of long-lasting partnerships between businesses and organizations can be mutually beneficial.
- The benefits to businesses through corporate volunteering, including: Improved motivation and moral, the positive enhancement of business reputations and positive links to the community.

### Session 2C – Managing Volunteers – an evolving profession

Three exciting presentations were given in this paper session

Peter Heyworth spoke of the AAVA Accreditation Program. The unique program covers three areas – experience, competency and commitment to the sector as well as commitment to the professional development.

The Managers of volunteers network talked of there experience in the development of running of their profession development day and the universal experience that came from this.

Geoff Freeman looked at the National Standards for Involving Volunteers and the ways countries around the world have addressed best practice in volunteer management internationally.

#### **Megan and Ruth**

**Representing:** The Community Business Partnership of the Prime-Ministers Secretariat

**Attended:** 1A Employee Volunteering

#### **What they thought:**

The session has made them more aware of research regarding communications business partnerships.



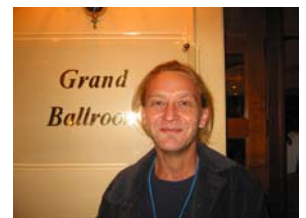
#### **Craig Martin**

**Representing:** Alice Springs Volunteer Resource Centre

**Attended:** 1C Why they do what they do

#### **What he thought:**

"I particularly enjoyed hearing how Macedonian volunteers do not have a specific word for 'volunteer'!!!"



#### **Tanya**

**Representing:** Volunteering South Australia

**Attended:** 1B Volunteering Solutions

#### **What she thought:**

"I enjoyed learning about different pilot programs, in particular, the mentoring program undertaken by the Smith Family."



### **WELCOME RECEPTION AND POSTER SESSION**

