

Conference Bulletin

Day two of the conference was again another interesting and challenging day.

The main plenary session with both The Hon John Thwaites MP from Victorian and Glennys Beauchamp focused on the roles and responsibilities of government.



Minster Thwaites outlined the importance of research into volunteering, discussed the grant system, the role of partnership, community consultation and change. Minister Thwaites also discussed the development of the new Victorian volunteering strategy to be supported by additional funding based on community consultation. He also said that the strategy will build on the strength of existing organisations, like the VRC's.

Glenys Beauchamp from the Federal Government Department of Family and Community Services also spoke of the role of the Australian Federal Government in supporting the volunteer movement. She discussed the many programs that already exist in Australia which are supported by the Government such as the Voluntary Work Initiative, the Volunteer Small Equipment Grants and the National Volunteer Skills Centre.

The highly entertaining and energetic presentation by Paddy Bowen posed the questions –where to from here? Paddy foresees volunteering being know as citizen participation rather than formal volunteering, and encompassing all activities that occur in service to the community.



In a similar theme to Paddy, Robert Fitzgerald AM spoke about the challenge for the non-profit sector. He spoke of the issues that need addressing, in particular concern relating to volunteers raised by directors of boards and non-profit organisations, board governance issues and the development of a framework for future growth. The session ended on an optimistic note with Robert describing the voluntary industry as courageous and innovative.



Myles McGregor Lowndes OAM raised the importance of the protection of volunteers from civic liability. He outlined the problems caused by each Australian jurisdiction having different legislative provision regarding volunteer protection. He concluded that national co-ordination on the matters needs to be more specific and involve a final draft process of legislation.

The final plenary session speaker, David Templeman, gave a powerful presentation about volunteers in emergency management. He provided an overview of some recent developments in the area of volunteers in emergency management area as well as issues that will be addressed in the future.

10th National Conference on Volunteering



evolution



devotion



revolution



NAME: DESIREE COHEN
REPRESENTING: Bellarine Community Health, Victoria.
SESSION ATTENDED: 3E - Introduction to the National Standards
HER THOUGHTS: *"There was great relevance for me, especially on hoe to implement ideas. It was very easy to understand."*

NAME: CHRIS STEVENS
REPRESENTING: Surf Life Saving Victoria
SESSION ATTENDED: 3C – Volunteers and the Privacy Act
HIS THOUGHTS: *"I was able to learn about some privacy concerns and how this relates to our organisations."*



NAME: BERNIE DOWLING
REPRESENTING: Parks Victoria
SESSION ATTENDED: 4E Group Volunteering Made Easy
HER THOUGHTS: *"It was great to learn about the reality and fantasy of corporate volunteering."*

NAME: GREG COLBY
REPRESENTING: Uniting Care Ageing
PLENARY SESSION
"I learnt a lot on risk control, especially the concepts pointed out by Paddy Bowen about community involvement."



NAME: LYNNE RICHARDS
REPRESENTING: The School of Volunteer Management
SESSION ATTENDED: 3C – Voluntary Organisations - Meeting the Challenges
HER THOUGHT: *"I thought all speakers were well researched and provided a national perspective on all relevant legislations."*

NAME: CAROLINE CUCKSON
REPRESENTING: Lifeline Central Queensland
SESSION ATTENDED: 3A –The Role of Government in Supporting Volunteering
HER THOUGHTS: *"I was interested in looking at things from a local perspective so I'm not sure how much I can take back but I still did find all the presentation interesting."*

