

MEDIA RELEASE



7th January 2008

VOLUNTEERS TO THE FORE AGAIN

Volunteering Australia CEO, Cary Pedicini, has highlighted the work of volunteers around Australia as they tackle floods, fires and storms. "Australia's amazing weather has again provided plenty of challenges to volunteers and we can all be very proud of what has been achieved to date," Cary said.

"Severe storms in Queensland and New South Wales are challenging volunteers with severe floods and storm damage, whilst bushfires in several states have volunteers out in large numbers. Add to that the usual day to day response of volunteers who quietly go about their volunteering and you can begin to imagine how vital this work is in our communities."

"Thank you to all the volunteers nationally who are giving up their time to help combat natural disasters," Cary said. "How could we possibly cope with these challenges without the contribution of Australia's volunteer forces?"

"New Year is a time when many people set their plans for the coming year and Volunteering Australia hopes that people who have not yet included volunteering in their life can make the time to do so this year and support their own communities."

Volunteering Australia has the largest web site listing volunteer opportunities around Australia. Govolunteer enables potential volunteers to search for opportunities in their own area. The site lists more than 10,000 volunteering positions and allows a targeted search by area, position type and organisation.

"About 34% of Australians do some form of voluntary work. That is 5.2 million people who contribute more than 700 million hours, but there is a need for many more to help in their own communities, or to tackle larger national projects," Cary said. "Check out the opportunities at Govolunteer and give something back to your community. Make that part of your new year's resolution. Govolunteer will help you identify the type of role you want to undertake and identify the opportunities in your designated area."

The Govolunteer website is www.govolunteer.com.au

Contact for interviews etc:

*Peter Cocks
National Communications Manager
BH: 03 9868-5519
Mob: 0417 398 232
E: peter.cocks@volunteeringaustralia.org*

Who is Volunteering Australia?

Volunteering Australia is the national peak body working to advance volunteering in the Australian community. Our role is to represent the diverse views and needs of the volunteer movement while promoting the activity of volunteering as one of enduring social, cultural and economic value.