

# Conference Bulletin

On behalf of the board, staff and volunteers at Volunteering Australia I welcome you to the 10<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Volunteering. With over 600 delegates, this conference promises to be the most exciting, challenging and constructive event in the volunteering calendar.

The theme *Volunteering – evolution, devolution or revolution?* is reflective of the milieu of volunteering in contemporary Australia. This conference is about change. Change which **evolves** slowly over time; change which **devolves** the responsibility for service delivery from governments to the not-for-profit sector; and change which is both dramatic and **revolutionary**.

This bulletin will be produced each day of the conference and will give you information on the previous day's events as well as thumb-nail sketches from the presentations, even profiles of some delegates here over the next three days.

Andy Fryar  
President  
Volunteering Australia

## Young people create historical opening

The film clip based on the history of volunteering shown in the opening plenary was made by seven students: Alesha Younghusband, Jasmin Stewart, Andy Fisher, Rebecca Appel, Daniella Millard and Sam Seah, who are all currently undertaking the 'Bachelor of Media Arts' at Deakin University.

The students became involved in the creation of the film clip and a subsequent documentary that will be shown on day three of the conference, when Volunteering Australia approached Deakin University in the hope of gaining the technical skills and creative talent needed to construct the two video presentations. The students were more than happy to lend their services and have spent the past four months filming and editing the film clip and documentary.

On the final day of the conference the documentary entitled 'The Changing Face of Volunteering' will be shown which focuses on Youth involvement in

volunteering, in particular, the work of Felicity Hardy, a young woman who volunteers for three Melbourne community organisations.

The amazing talents of these students have gone a long way in setting the theme and ideas for the next three days.



10th National Conference on Volunteering



evolution



devolution



revolution

## **2004 Travel Scholarship Winners**

The 2004 Volunteer Scholarship Fund, funded by the Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services, has assisted seven regional, rural and remotely located delegates to attend this year's conference. Delegates were chosen on their experience, interests and beliefs in volunteering as well as the contribution they make to their volunteer organisation.

### **Anne Hughes**

Anne Hughes from Murray Bridge South Australia is representing The Friends of the Murray Bridge Public Library Incorporation with whom she has volunteered for two years as a Treasurer, as well as helping with publicity and fundraising. Anne is an experienced volunteer, with over 48 years spent volunteering with various organisations in her area. Anne said that she hopes to gain new knowledge from presenters and fellow volunteers at the conference.

### **Dianne Coon**

Dianne Coon from Stahan Tasmania, is representing the Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum. She has volunteered for the forum for two years as an ambulance representative; however, she has volunteered in various other roles for a variety of organisations for over 23 years. Dianne is not only representing approximately twenty members of the Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum, but also the 5,000 ambulance volunteers who volunteer nationally.

### **Helen Sutherland**

Helen Sutherland from Woodridge Western Australia is representing Rugby W.A with whom she has volunteered as a manager for six months. She will be representing approximately 600 volunteers who are involved in the rugby community of Western Australia. She says that her attendance at the conference is an important step towards improving her present resources, information and knowledge.

### **Merrilyn Rowler**

Merrilyn Rowler from Mackay Queensland is representing the Domestic Violence Resource Service (D.V.R.S)- a service, which offers counseling, referral and information to women and children affected by domestic violence. Merrilyn has volunteered with D.V.R.S for seven years as a Management Committee Treasurer. Merrilyn said that her attendance at the conference will be helpful, because it will enable her to share the information she has gained with her region upon her return.

### **Sandra Cavanagh**

Sandra Cavanagh from Yandina Queensland is representing the Sunshine Coast Regional Tenant Group, with whom she has volunteered for three years as the editor of their newsletter and as a committee member. Sandra also volunteers for Bloomhill Cancer Care and has volunteered for various other organisations for around 13 years. Above all, Sandra said that she would like to gain knowledge and ideas from the talks and workshops at the Conference.

### **Sheila Blackwell**

Sheila Blackwell from Bundaberg Queensland, is a representative of Wide Bay Volunteers. Sheila has volunteered for Wide Bay Volunteers for two years in the capacity of Executive Officer of Administration, however she has been involved in volunteering for over 42 years. Sheila said that she would like to learn about new directions for volunteering, as well as the current situation for volunteers nationally.

### **Carol Lutey**

Carol Lutey from Falcon in Western Australia is representing the Department of Fisheries with whom she has volunteered for seven years. Carol is not only representing the 34 volunteers from the Mandurah office of the Department of Fisheries where she is based, but the 250 volunteers who lend their time to the organisation statewide. Carol said that the 10<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Volunteering will provide a valuable opportunity for her to meet volunteers from a range of national organisations and to gain further knowledge of the issues that relate to volunteering.