

SUPPORTER TOOLKIT



National Volunteer Week

18-24 MAY 2026

YOUR YEAR TO VOLUNTEER

**YOUR GUIDE TO
SUPPORTING
NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER
WEEK 2026**

1. About National Volunteer Week
2. 2026 Theme
3. Ways to get involved
4. Key Messages
5. Digital Toolkit

Make 2026 Your Year to Volunteer

ABOUT

National Volunteer Week

Established in 1989, National Volunteer Week is the premier celebration of volunteers and volunteerism in Australia and provides an opportunity to say thank you to the millions of Australians who volunteer.

It serves two primary purposes:

1. Highlighting the crucial role volunteers play in our communities
2. Encouraging new individuals to experience the rewards of volunteering

2026 THEME

Your Year to Volunteer

Your Year to Volunteer honours the contributions of volunteers and invites people across Australia to make 2026 a year of meaningful involvement, in ways that work for them.

2026 is the **United Nations International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IVY 2026)**, recognising the vital role volunteers play in building sustainable, inclusive communities worldwide.

National Volunteer Week 2026 supports IVY 2026 by amplifying the voices of volunteers, celebrating their contributions, and encouraging action to help volunteering thrive across Australia.

This year is a moment to thank those who already give their time and to invite others to discover how volunteering can create connection, purpose, and lasting positive change.

Hashtags

#NVW2026

#VolunteerYear

Website

volunteeringaustralia.org

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

We encourage you to plan an event or activity that best suits your organisation and volunteers. Whether it's a small gathering or a large-scale event, every effort to recognise volunteers is valuable.

Celebrate and recognise volunteers

- Host a volunteer appreciation morning tea or lunch.
- Hold an award ceremony or informal recognition moment.
- Share personal thank you messages from leaders, staff, or the community.
- Share stories of long-term volunteers and first-time volunteers side by side.

Share stories and build visibility

- Run a simple social media campaign thanking volunteers.
- Spotlight volunteer stories through short profiles, photos, or videos.
- Encourage volunteers to share their own experiences using the theme.

Connect with community

- Host open days or "come and try" volunteering sessions.
- Community events that bring volunteers, staff, and service users together.
- Local media stories recognising volunteers in your area.
- Partner with other organisations to co-host events or activities.

Support volunteering in the workplace

- Promote workplace volunteering opportunities in the community.
- Encourage employees to utilise volunteering leave.
- Team volunteering days aligned with local community needs.
- Invite employees to share how volunteering shapes their work and wellbeing.

KEY MESSAGES

Core Messages

- National Volunteer Week is a time to say thank you and recognise the people who give their time and care.
- Volunteers play a vital role in building inclusive, resilient communities.
- Volunteering creates connection, purpose, and belonging.
- Every volunteer contribution matters, whether formal or informal.
- Make 2026 Your Year to Volunteer.

Recognition Focused

- 2026 is a time to thank the people who already give their time, energy and care to others.
- Volunteers are essential to the wellbeing, resilience, and connection of communities across Australia.
- National Volunteer Week is a moment to acknowledge and celebrate their contribution.

Invitation Focused

- **Your Year to Volunteer** invites people to get involved in ways that work for them.
- Volunteering can look different at different life stages, and that's okay.
- There is no one way to volunteer, just the way that fits you.

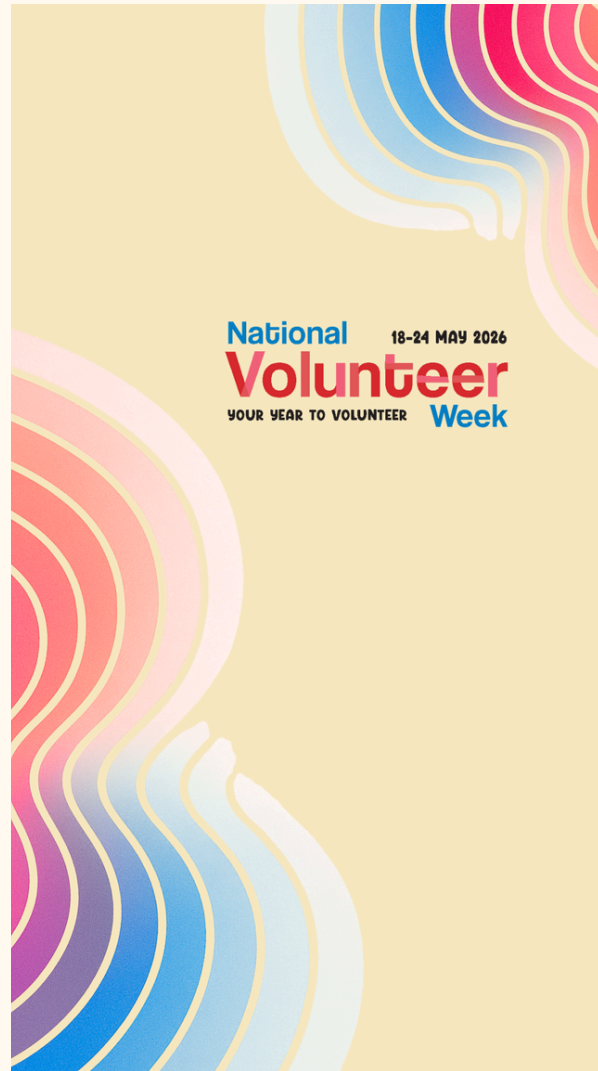
Future Focused

- 2026 aligns with the **International Year of Volunteers**, highlighting the global importance of volunteering.
- Supporting volunteers today helps volunteering thrive into the future.

DOWNLOADABLE DIGITAL ASSETS

A range of digital assets are available to help you take part in **National Volunteer Week**, including:

- **Official Logos** to customise your assets
- **Social media tiles** for Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn
- **Banners and Cover Photos** for newsletters and social media channels
- **Email signature** to include on your communications
- **Teams Background** to promote National Volunteer Week
- **Certificates of Appreciation** to thank volunteers
- **Posters** to promote National Volunteer Week
- **Branded Invitations** for your official events



[DOWNLOAD TOOLKIT](#)

Don't forget to tag us:

Facebook [@volunteeringaustralia](#)

Instagram [@volunteeringaustralia](#)

LinkedIn [@volunteeringaustralia](#)

National 18-24 MAY 2026
Volunteer
YOUR YEAR TO VOLUNTEER **Week**

National Volunteer Week is sponsored by **Aon Australia**.

AON

Discover events happening in your local area via the
state and territory Volunteering Peak Bodies



Brought to you by the national Peak Body for Volunteering. We also acknowledge the support of our Foundation Members, the **state and territory Volunteering Peak Bodies**.