



volunteering
australia
annual review 07/08

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who

we are

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.

Our mission

Volunteering Australia fulfils its peak body role by:

- providing sound policy advice on matters relating to volunteering;
- providing a national focus for the promotion of volunteering and its principles;
- establishing co-operative relationships with key national and international volunteering organisations;
- encouraging the pursuit of excellence in volunteer management;
- consulting with stakeholders to ensure proper representation of the volunteering sector.



message from the president

Volunteering Australia continues to accept the challenge of representing and promoting volunteers by working to support volunteering organisations and publicly advocating for volunteers.

The statistics suggest volunteering is healthy with more than 34% of Australians volunteering each year. But that statistic fails to acknowledge that there are areas where volunteering is not doing as well as the average. Volunteering Australia is challenged to ensure that we acknowledge where the shortfalls exist and work to help develop volunteering in those areas.

This Annual Review represents our efforts to build the profile of volunteering, promote the goodness of volunteering and to continue to develop resources to support the development of best practice in volunteer based organisations.

Volunteering Australia continues to represent the needs of volunteers to the Federal Government through our ongoing relationship with the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and I thank FaHCSIA for their strong support.

Our partners, NAB and SEEK are also acknowledged. Their ongoing support is important to Volunteering Australia and has a major impact on our operations.

I would like to congratulate Volunteering Australia's CEO, Cary Pedicini, on his first year leading the Volunteering Australia team. Cary has placed Volunteering Australia positively in the sector and he is driving the Board's vision for the future of the organisation.

I would also like to thank the staff and volunteers of Volunteering Australia for their hard work and dedication to the sector. Your efforts and loyalty are greatly appreciated.

Volunteering Australia is in a sound financial position but we should not resile from the need to ensure that our funding is sustainable to ensure the organisations future. This is an ongoing challenge that has been recognised by the Board and I am sure that work in this area will come to fruition.

I am pleased to present the Annual Review for 2007 - 2008.

Ian Rentsch,
President

policy

advice

Policy consultation and advice on issues that impact volunteers and volunteering is a key focus of Volunteering Australia's activities. Throughout the year, Volunteering Australia sought to stay abreast of a very active public policy landscape.

The National Survey of Volunteering Issues was again conducted in early 2008. It explores how volunteers contribute to social change and the impacts of volunteering related public policy issues on volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations. Important findings about background checking, OH&S, insurance and the cost of volunteering help form Volunteering Australia's policy direction and submissions to various levels of government. Other issues in this year's survey included volunteers' sense of community belonging, the level of training support offered to and accessed by volunteers and corporate volunteering.

Other significant policy areas explored by Volunteering Australia during the year have included:

- Federal Budget submission to the Commonwealth Government;
- submission to Strengthening Communities, Supporting Families and Social Inclusion stream of the Australia 2020 Summit;
- advice to the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs about the concept of offsetting HECS debt through volunteering;
- analysis of mechanisms for the reimbursement of fuel costs to volunteers that could be adopted under the Commonwealth Government's Volunteer Grants Program.



our members

The following organisations and individuals are pleased to be listed as our current members.

Ordinary (Organisational) Members

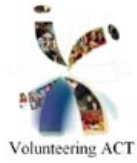
ADRA Australia
Australia Cares
Australian Business Arts Foundation (ABAF)
Australian Multicultural Foundation
Australian Volunteers International
Conservation Volunteers Australia
Families Australia
Good Beginnings Australia
Lifeline Australia
Mission Australia
National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN)
School Volunteer Program
Surf Life Saving Australia
The Foundation for Young Australia
University of Technology Sydney
Prison Fellowship Australia
The University of Southern Queensland
Habitat for Humanity - Australia
YMCA Australia
'Life. Be in it.' Aus Ltd
Australian Volunteer Coast Guard

Associate (Individual) Members

Graham Cuskelly
Christine Gray
Richard Hammond
Lewis Hughes
Leo Jago
Lorraine Kerr
Marc Levy
Roberta Liddell
Leonie Lockstone
Kym Madden
Jacques Metzger
Professor Jenny Onyx
Dr Melanie Oppenheimer
Megan Paull
Ian Rentsch
Harry Savelsberg
Art Stukas
Janet Stone
Dr Joanne Wilkinson
Jeni Warburton
Joy Woodhouse
Leonie Bryen
Brian Howard
Martin Cowling
Hazel Maynard
Hori Howard
Catherina Toh
Bruce Edwards



Foundation Members



volunteering ACT



volunteering NSW



volunteering QLD



volunteering sa & NT



volunteering TAS



volunteering VIC



volunteering WA



national volunteer week

12th – 18th may 2008

National Volunteer Week was held from 12th to 18th May and featured the theme “Volunteers Change Our World”. NVW was very successful with growth in all major areas of evaluation.

NVW aims to promote volunteering broadly whilst focussing on recognising and thanking volunteers. The general thrust of our marketing also allowed for not-for-profits to use NVW as a recruiting platform.

Highlights included:

- Unique visits to the website up by 33%
- 40,000 lapel pins distributed
- More than 18,000 posters distributed
- More than 4,500 NVW packs distributed
- Radio community service announcement recorded and sent to 370 radio stations around Australia
- Significant media support
- More than 850 media clippings

NVW packs were distributed to all state and federal politicians, all libraries, peak bodies and individuals.

The range of online resources available for free download was well utilised. This included a certificate of appreciation, a media promotional guide, radio CSA, logos and poster, media release templates and tips on how to celebrate NVW.

Volunteering Australia acknowledges and thanks NVW sponsors FaHCSIA and NAB. We also thank the designer of all our NVW collateral James Bourbon who provided his services at no charge. James' work can be viewed at www.jamesbourbon.com

National Volunteer Week 2009 will be held from 11th to 17th May 2009.

govolunteer.com.au

GoVolunteer has undergone significant growth as it continues to provide an excellent service for not-for-profit organisations and volunteers seeking placement opportunities.

In this year registrations of not-for-profits reached 1,461 a 22% growth over the previous year. On average there are more than 11,500 volunteer positions advertised every month and visits to the website continue to average over 55,000.

Volunteering Australia acknowledges the support of FaHCSIA and our GoVolunteer partner SEEK. Their support enables us to provide this service to the sector.



education

and skills

development

Throughout 2007 / 2008 the National Volunteer Skills Centre continued to provide resources free of charge to the volunteering sector. This included the development of the following new resources:

**Rural and Remote Volunteering
- Subject Guide**

For volunteers, organisations, managers and trainers who would like to learn more about volunteering as a way of strengthening rural and remote communities.

**Volunteering: an opportunity for the
whole family - Subject Guide**

For volunteers, organisations, managers and trainers who would like to learn more about involving family groups as volunteers.

**What every volunteer needs: a mix of
information, training and education**

This paper discusses current volunteer learning methods and training delivery practices and identifies some of the trends that have the potential for facilitating greater uptake by the sector.



Registered Training Organisations & Volunteer Involving Organisations

This quick guide defines what a registered training organisation is and how they can help with volunteer training.

Occupational Health and Safety Laws and Volunteers

A healthy and safe workplace is important to the productivity, effectiveness and sustainability of any organisation. These quick guides provide information for volunteer-involving organisations on their obligations in ensuring the occupational health and safety of their volunteers.

Other work that was completed:

- Continued maintenance of the library of resources;
- Continued provision of the free information and advice line – total of 594 enquiries;
- Continued promotion of the Certificates I, II and III in Active Volunteering – total of 36 registered training organisations licensed to deliver these certificates.

VA team during 2007/2008

Rick Barry
 Louise Brennan
 Carla Bruce-Lee
 Lisa Cavallaro
 Peter Cocks
 Amanda Everton
 Denise Fox
 Annette Maher
 Cary Pedicini
 Monique Patterson-Lucas
 Ashley Perez
 Julie Pollard
 Jodi Rockman
 Kate Saha
 Ratan Saha
 Christopher Scanlon
 Linda Sim
 Agnes Tan
 Jennifer Thompson
 Pam Walford
 Sandra Wilson

Volunteering Australia board members

Volunteering Australia acknowledges the contribution of our board members who served during this reporting year.

Ian Rentsch (President), Co-opted member
 Janet Stone (Vice President), SA
 Roberta Liddell (Secretary), ACT
 Bruce Edwards (Treasurer), NSW
 Maj. Gen. Hori Howard, Co-opted member
 Catherina Toh, VIC
 Christine Gray, WA
 Dr. Jeni Warburton, QLD
 Richard Hammond, TAS
 Jim Parke (Resigned Nov 07), VIC
 Joy Woodhouse (Resigned Nov 07), NSW



research

Volunteering Australia continues to support academics, researchers and students by providing information about the latest research, linking students to researchers and providing opinion on the current trends in volunteering.

Follow up town visits were made as part of the Enhancing the Grey Nomad Experience and Increasing Volunteering in Outback Towns, led by chief investigators Professor Jenny Onyx (University of Technology Sydney) and Associate Professor Rosemary Leonard (University of Western Sydney). Each town is developing and implementing volunteering projects. One town, Barcaldine has received funding to employ a project worker to lead the Grey Nomad project.

Other towns have developed frameworks for involving short term volunteers and identified specific projects. Research reports on the fieldtrips are available on the Volunteering Australia website.

There are indications that grey nomads as a community will provide a rich source of volunteers as towns and nomads become more aware of the potential for this valuable form of engagement with rural and remote Australia.

Volunteering Australia is currently undertaking research on the feasibility of a proposed National Volunteer Communications and Recruitment Strategy. The aim of such a strategy would be to streamline existing communications with potential volunteers nationally in order to facilitate recruitment while concurrently raising the profile of volunteering in Australia.

The Australian Journal on Volunteering in early 2007 became available both in print format and on-line at the Volunteering Australia website. The Journal publishes refereed articles and articles from the field, as well as book reviews. Availability via the internet will make the Journal global in its reach. The scope of articles has ranged from building capacity in organisations and regions, motivation; sustainability; international development; management flexibility and leadership.

Volunteering Australia and the Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies Alumni were pleased to award the third annual student prize to Andrea M Petriwskyj for her paper 'Citizen Participation as Volunteering? Opportunities and Challenges for an Inclusive Definition'. Andrea's prize consisted of \$500 generously provided by the ACPNS Alumni and publication in the Australian Journal on Volunteering. Volunteering Australia appreciates the involvement, advice and support of the editorial advisory boards and referees.

Our thanks go to:

Mark Creyton
Volunteering Queensland

Andy Fryar
Lyell McEwin Volunteers Inc.

Russell Hoye
La Trobe University

Duncan Ironmonger
University of Melbourne

Mark Lyon
University of Technology, Sydney

Myles McGregor-Lowndes
University of Queensland

Jacques Metzger
University of South Australia

Jenny Onyx
University of Technology, Sydney

Melanie Oppenheimer
University of Western Sydney

Megan Paull
Edith Cowan University

Harry Savelsberg
University of South Australia

Jeni Warburton
University of Queensland

Joanne Wilkinson
Sandybeach Centre

Lorraine Kerr
City of Salisbury, South Australia

Helen Ware
University of New England

Lynelle Osburn
Charles Sturt University

Art Stukas
La Trobe University

Andrea M Petriwskyj
University of Queensland

Stephen Wearing
University of Technology, Sydney

Danielle Campbell
University of Tasmania

Jennifer Wilkinson
University of Sydney

Kirsten Holmes
Curtin University

Mick Ryan
Australian Catholic University

Kenn Allen
Civil Society Consulting Group LLC,
Washington

Steven Howlett
Roehampton University, UK

Hasan Khan
Fiji Council of Social Services, Fiji

Linda Graff
Graff & Associates Inc, Canada

the

journal



The 2007 / 2008 Financial Statements are available to download from our website.

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