

WOOLLAHRA VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS' NETWORK NEWSLETTER

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What you do makes a difference

National Volunteers Week 2008 just passed and was an excellent opportunity to celebrate the contribution that volunteers make to our community through various programs and organisations.

A volunteer coordinator plays an important role in providing an environment in which volunteers feel happy, secure and valued. Listening when volunteers put forward ideas, providing feedback, and keeping volunteers informed about what's happening within the organisation, can help volunteers feel like a member of the team.

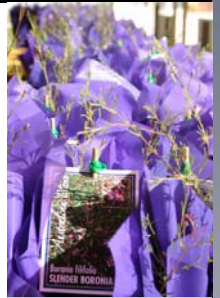
In turn, ensuring that volunteers are satisfied and involved can also help to reduce the time an organisation spends on recruiting and training new volunteers. Holly Brown, the Volunteer Coordinator at Holdsworth Community Centre, believes that "a volunteer coordinator is responsible for ensuring volunteers are satisfied and feel appreciated".

She suggests that over time volunteers are "promoted and given new responsibilities as they grow and develop within an organisation".

While it is essential to acknowledge and thank volunteers, this recognition doesn't have to break the bank. Ideas for recognising people's voluntary efforts within your organisation can include certificates of appreciation, a small gift, or the day off regular duties so that they can be taken out for lunch!

During National Volunteer Week 2008, Woollahra Council hosted a 'Thank You Morning Tea' for Council volunteers that was attended by the Mayor, General Manager and staff, including Bush Care Liaison Officer Rudi Adlmayer. Rudi's speech was a tribute to volunteers, saying "I love the way you live your lives".

For more ideas about how to recognise volunteers view *Volunteering Australia's* fact sheet available at www.volunteeringaustralia.org, then select the 'Recognition' tab.



Native plants given to volunteers as a token of appreciation from Council, May 2008.

Promoting, in the spirit of volunteering

VAST is a government organization that supports Home and Community Care (HACC) services across Eastern Sydney. The Junction Neighbourhood Centre is offering to display the promotional material of HACC and non HACC services in their Maroubra office. In this way VAST is offering to facilitate the self referral of volunteers for a range of programs, including those outside of their core services for frail older people & people with disabilities.

If you are interested in supplementing the methods that your service or program currently uses to attract volunteers, send your promotional material and brochures as follows:

c/o Shyrley Villamil, (VAST Coordinator) or Kim Meadows (Information Coordinator), The Junction Neighbourhood Centre, Shop 2, 669–673 Anzac Parade, Maroubra NSW 2035

The brochures that are sent to VAST may be displayed at their office for the public to pick up, read and act upon independently, that is, without further input from VAST. This is a great demonstration of how our network can collaborate to attract volunteers!



An initiative of the Woollahra Volunteer Forum, supported by Woollahra Council and Holdsworth Community Centre & Services



Inspired & involved: Young Citizen '08

Emily Margo, winner of the 2008 Woollahra Young Citizen of the Year Award, studies philosophy at University of New South Wales and is an active volunteer as a peer tutor and UNSW's Oxfam branch, as well as being involved in Red Cross, Salvation Army and Rotaract. In addition, Emily has co-authored the book *Living On*, inspired by a young mother with a terminal illness. Proceeds from book sales go to cancer centres such as the Petrea King Quest for Life Centre.

"I have discovered that using a small part of one's week to help others become a bit more comfortable, better fed, better listened to, or better understood, makes one feel good and connected to others" said Emily.

In Emily's acceptance speech, she noted the findings of the *Woollahra Community Capacity Survey*, carried out in 2007, identified that respondents aged between 15–29 years (52.3%) and 40–49 years (48.3%), were most likely to be involved in volunteer work. Furthermore 55% of the respondents not currently participating in volunteer work indicated a willingness to start!



Enriching communities

Volunteering in the 21st Century is rapidly changing and organisations need to explore ways of involving all members of our community.

Home and Community Care Services & Volunteers from Diverse Cultural Backgrounds, produced by the Migrant Information Centre, Eastern Volunteer Recruitment Project and Department of Human Services in 2006, explores involving volunteers from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds (CALD) and offers strategies for recruiting, managing and supporting CALD volunteers.

This research report is useful for organisations that are looking at making their organisation more accessible and welcoming to CALD volunteers.

The authors recommend that organisations identify CALD communities in their area, build relationships with them and assist them to promote volunteering opportunities to those communities.

To read the full report, go to www.miceastmelb.com.au/documents/pdaproject/CALDVolsHACCRReport.pdf

Dates for your diary

Training opportunity for HACC services, 25 June 2008

Responding to Suspected Abuse of Clients and Carers between 9.30am and 4.30pm at Level 3 Bowen Library, 669 Anzac Parade, Maroubra Junction. Contact Shyrley Villamil on 9349 8200.

2008 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards

Nominations for 2008 Volunteer of the Year Awards are now open to not for profit community based organizations. Nominations close 30 September 2008. For further information, visit www.volunteering.com.au/nsw_volunteer_awards/News/2008award_launch.aspl.

Woollahra Volunteer Coordinator's Forum

To be held at Woollahra Council, 536 New South Head Road, Double Bay. The forum will take place on Wednesday 6 August 2008 and Wednesday 5 November 2008.

Wrapped with Love Knit In:

Wrap With Love Inc are holding their annual 'Knit In' at 702 ABC Ultimo. Friday 1 August 2008, 7.00am–11.00am. All welcome!

Q & A

Meet Bruce Bland, Coordinator Rose Bay Neighbourhood Watch

How it started? With a meeting six years ago, at the Rose Bay RSL initiated by the then Mayor, Cr. Comino.

The greatest challenge?

Maintaining interest.

Strategies used to attract volunteers? Posting meeting notices in Rose Bay shop windows and a stall at the Rose Bay Fair.

The greatest volunteer effort ever was? Regular letter box drops around Rose Bay.

One new thing I learnt recently? With a decreasing crime rate in the Rose Bay area, it is difficult to attract new volunteers.

The Woollahra Volunteer Forum... is a great place to meet similar minded people, to exchange ideas and strategies.

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This newsletter is prepared by participants of the Volunteer Forum, supported by Woollahra Council and Holdsworth Community Centre & Services.

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