

## ***Hello Volunteers and Friends,***

Well what on earth is happening to the year it seems like we only just put away the Christmas decorations and all of a sudden you can almost see the buds starting to form on the trees and the promise of spring is in the air. As we awake from our winter hibernation and are no longer huddled close to the fire and wriggle out from under mountains of clothing we take inspiration from the new beginning and look around to assess the opportunities of the coming season.

I know that a lot of the emergency services will find this is coming up to their busier time of year and we offer them our support wherever we can. There is also the Wangaratta Festival of Jazz and Blues coming up which is going to be huge. With all the changes to the festival this year the support of all the fantastic volunteers is going to be even more important than ever to continue the standard of this amazing event that is so significant to Wangaratta and the surrounding area.

There is a great event happening in Yarrowonga on September 10th, Yarrowonga and Border Country Women's Association is organising an R U OK? Day in Yarrowonga Town Hall to promote a caring community. What a truly worthwhile event I hope it is well supported and a great event, don't forget to mark the date down in your calendar.

Happy volunteering,

**Linda Phillis**

Volunteer Skillsbank Coordinator



# More People Stuck on Unemployment Payments

Posted: Thursday, July 30, 2015 - 11:05

Author: Xavier Smerdon

Seventy per cent of the people relying on Newstart payments have been on the unemployment payment for more than a year, according to the latest data. Figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that of those on Newstart or the Youth Allowance, there are 612,953 long term recipients out of a total of 883,937, an increase of 10 per cent over the last 12 months. The Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) said the figures should be a call to attention. "The fact that now 70 per cent of people relying on Newstart have been on that payment for more than a year, should alarm us all," ACOSS CEO Cassandra Goldie said. "With just one job available for every five people looking for paid work, the lack of job opportunities is a major driver in this increase." Goldie said major changes to social security had placed increasing pressure on people locked out of paid work. "With both the previous and current Governments changing the rules about who is eligible for the Disability Support Pension, and also the Single Parenting Payment, many people with disabilities or significant caring responsibilities are now struggling to get by on Newstart and yet still unable to find paid work," she said. "They have joined the queue of people who are long-term unemployed, the only change for them being that they are poorer, by up to \$170 per week. The single rate of Newstart is now just \$37 a day." The data comes on the back

of a report by Jesuit Social Services and Catholic Social Services Australia, showing that high unemployment is a significant issue in 23 out of 37 of the most disadvantaged communities around the country. Goldie said the high level of youth disengagement in work or study, as well as low education and training levels was also concerning. "This rise in long-term unemployment is structural. We continue to call for the Federal Government to take this issue seriously. The lack of job opportunities is the major barrier to getting into work, as is a persistent failure of workplaces to provide flexible work," she said. "In addition, people who are unemployed long term often face additional barriers to getting a job, including lack of recent work experience, a mismatch of skills with jobs available and real challenges in sustaining hope in the face of repeated rejections of about 10 job applications a fortnight. On top of this, people on 'welfare' face of the nasty stigma generated by Government and media rhetoric, which labels people as 'leaners', 'dole cheats' or 'milking the taxpayer' which

does nothing to help support people, nor to build confidence in employers to give people a chance." Goldie said a serious jobs plan for people who are long-term unemployed would involve greater investment in targeted assistance for people on an individual basis to support skills development and support. "An effective jobs plan would also include a real increase in the rate of Newstart, after 20 years of stagnation. Major changes to rules about the DSP and the Single Parenting Payment have saved millions of dollars and growing every year but have come at the expense of forcing many more people into poverty, and for longer. \$37 a day is not enough," she said. "The Federal Government must also abandon the plan to deprive young people of income support for four weeks of each year and the Budget decision to cut the family payments of low income parents. These changes will only put more people into financial distress, not create jobs or put people in a better position to find paid work."



# It's All Happening for WSN-ROW

By Diane Farmer

We are so excited WSN-ROW's entry into the Keep Victoria Beautiful Awards "Macca's back from Extinction" on behalf of DELWP, NECMA, ARI and Fisheries Vic is a finalist in the 2015 Awards and so is The Galen Billabong project that WSN is also involved with, the only problem is they are both in the same category. "Macca's Back from Extinction" is a five year program re-introducing Macquarie Perch back into the Mid Ovens River. Over the past two years Government Departments, school students and members of the community have attended events and released fingerlings, juvenile and adult Macquarie Perch back into the River which had become extinct in this section of the Ovens. A total of 200 juvenile and adult fish and 55,000 fingerlings are now



swimming in the Ovens River. Over the next three years there will be two release events per year for the re stocking of this once extinct fish.

The Galen Billabong Project (now called Mullinmur Billabongs) is a combined effort of Ovens Landcare, Galen Collage, Rural City of Wangaratta, NECMA and Wangaratta Sustainability Network working together to clean up and make this beautiful area beside the Ovens River an attraction for both locals and visitors to walk and enjoy the pleasures of Nature and the environment.

The Keep Victoria Beautiful Awards will be announced on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October in Beechworth.



swimming in the Ovens River. Over the next



# Upcoming Courses at The Centre

## INDUSTRY SKILLS

### Forklift License Training:

#### Operate a Forklift (TLILIC2001A)

Benalla: 8-10 Sept, 10-12 Nov  
Wangaratta: 11-13 Aug, 22-24 Sept, 20-22 Oct  
Duration: 3 x 7 hours, 8.30am - 4.30pm  
Cost: Refer to website

#### Stop/Slow Bat

Wangaratta: 21 Oct  
Duration: 1 x 7 hours, 8.30am - 4.30pm  
Cost: \$245

#### Traffic Management Control

Wangaratta: 20 Oct  
Duration: 1 x 7 hours, 8.30am - 4.30pm  
Cost: \$245

#### Farm Chemical User's Course

(AHCCHM304A & AHCCHM303A)

Wangaratta: 22 & 29 Oct  
Duration: 2 x 8 hours, 8.30am - 4.30pm  
Cost: \$295

## FIRST AID

### Provide First Aid (HLTAID003)

Wangaratta: 27-28 August, 24-25 Sept, 22-23 Oct,  
12-13 Nov, 10-11 Dec  
Benalla: 13-14 August, 10-11 Sept, 8-9 Oct,  
5-6 Nov  
Duration: 2 x 8 hours, 9.00am - 5.00pm  
Cost: \$190

### Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation - CPR (HLTAID001)

Wangaratta: 27 August, 5 Sept, 24 Sept, 22 Oct,  
12 Nov, 28 Nov, 10 Dec  
Benalla: 10 Sept, 8 Oct, 5 Nov  
Duration: 1 x 4 hours, 9.00am - 1.00pm  
Cost: \$65

### Provide Basic Emergency Life Support (HLTAID002)

Wangaratta: 27 August, 5 Sept, 24 Sept, 22 Oct,  
12 Nov, 28 Nov, 10 Dec  
Benalla: 10 Sept, 8 Oct, 5 Nov  
Duration: 1 x 8 hours, 9.00am - 5.00pm  
Cost: \$90

## COMPUTING

### Join us at the Computer Cafe

Wangaratta: Starting 7 Oct  
Benalla: Starting 8 Oct  
Duration: 8 wks x 3 hours, 9.30am - 12.30pm  
Cost: Contact Trish on 5721 0236

### Other computing courses:

- Intro to Microsoft Word, Excel and more...
  - Tablets, Smartphones and more
- Contact Trish for more information on 5721 0236

## ARTS / LIFESTYLE

### Yoga and Meditation

Wangaratta: Starting 19 Oct  
Duration: 8 wks x 1 hour, 5.30pm - 6.30pm  
Cost: \$110

### Intro to Drawing/Painting (Pastels and Watercolours)

Express your interest in Wangaratta and Benalla TODAY!  
Cost: \$199  
Contact Jackie for more information on 5721 0238

Contact The Centre  
on 03 5721 0200 for more  
information on our courses  
or to enrol now!



[www.thecentre.vic.edu.au](http://www.thecentre.vic.edu.au)

# Volunteers!



## Share your news!

We would really like to hear from anyone who has something to share, such as coming events, milestones, helpful hints, a recipe or good news to share with the rest of the volunteering community.

Just let us know at the Skillsbank Office and we will print it.

## Volunteer Skillsbank

(03) 5721 0258 or (03) 5721 0256

[www.nevictoria.skillsbank.com.au](http://www.nevictoria.skillsbank.com.au)

Email: [csb@thecentre.vic.edu.au](mailto:csb@thecentre.vic.edu.au)

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