

**Ho Ho
Hello
everyone,**



Can anyone tell me where 2013 went, I'm sure we only just started the year?

Looking back over the year we have achieved some fabulous things. We have matched hundreds of people to roles in not-for-profit organisations throughout the year which is very satisfying and rewarding for the organisation, the volunteer and for us.

We have also been involved in some fabulous events not least was the Volunteer Appreciation event in May. Next year's event is shaping up to be even bigger and better so lookout for that one.

Another big one was the Wangaratta festival of Jazz and Blues, and wasn't that a terrific success this year? The weather was great the artists were fabulous, the market was a huge success and every year it just seems to get bigger and better. Next year is going to be something really special as it's the 25th anniversary of the festival so hold onto your hats and get ready for an amazing weekend.

I hope you all take some time over the Christmas period to reflect on the fantastic contribution you make to the community and how much

difference volunteering makes to you personally, but also to the organisation you work with as well as the people you assist. A world without volunteers is a world without soul. We are looking forward to everything we can achieve together in the coming year. We would like to wish you the merriest of Christmases and the most productive and prosperous of New Years.

**Linda Phillis, Marg Harvey,
Deb Torpy, Sue Abotomey,
Glenys Swanton and Di
Farmer**

Volunteer Community Skillsbank



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Wangaratta Festival of Jazz 2013

This year's festival was probably one of the best in my opinion and the crowds that were there seemed to verify my thoughts. The weather was great except for a bit of wind on Sunday but you can't have everything. Without a doubt the highlight of the festival for me was Russell Morris on Friday night at the Blues venue. I thought he was just fantastic and the blues venue on Friday is becoming a real local's hangout. The volunteers were absolutely brilliant as usual and I got so much positive feedback about

them and from them it was an absolute delight. I was so proud to be a part of such a fantastic army of people who step up year after year it's a truly amazing feat. A huge congratulation is in order to each and every one of the volunteers, a huge job, extremely well done. Here are some of the images captured over the weekend to give you an idea of how fabulous it was if you weren't there and if you were, have a lovely reminisce.



VOLUNTEERS AND VOLUNTEERING WITH COMMUNITY SKILLSBANK

Over the past 6 years I have been associated with The Centre's Community Skillsbank by either obtaining volunteers for different projects, offering my assistance for others who need volunteers at different events and also volunteering a few days a week.

Several times I have needed volunteers at events that WSN Restoring Our Waterways puts on and when I needed a person to be Bar-B-Q cook, and thanks to their volunteer list, I found the best volunteer who now cooks at all our events. He is always on time, cooks the food to perfection and always cleans up leaving the Barbie sparkling. So if you need a man for your Barbie you can't have my Alan but I am sure they will have



Di Farmer

someone else on their list. For the past 4 years I have volunteered at the Wangaratta Jazz Festival at the Blues Marquee mainly at the front desk with ticket sales etc. but this year I did a change of job which was cleaning tables and rubbish pick up. I have to say I was very impressed with the patrons attitude, always saying thank you

when I cleared their tables and most of the time they cleared their own empty food plates, bottles and cans into the bins provided (which were in convenient places). The 4 hour shifts each day went very quickly so I also had time to socialize with many of my friends and colleagues as well as enjoying the great music. It doesn't take long to register as a volunteer or register your organisation and request assistance in a particular area of expertise, I am sure satisfaction is guaranteed with the assistance of the volunteers at Community Skillsbank. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a rewarding 2014 New Year.

Regards
Diane Farmer



Christmas Cheer

How many reindeer does Santa Have???

11 (named below):

Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen,

Rudolph (the one with the red nose),
Olive (Olive the other reindeer {all of}),
and Al (Then Al the reindeer loved him {all}).

What nationality is Santa Claus?

North Polish.

What kind of bird can write?

A PENguin.

Why does Santa's sled get such good mileage?

Because it has long-distance runners on each side

Why does Scrooge love Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer?

because every buck is dear to him.

What do you get if you deep fry Santa Claus?

Crisp Cringle.

If athletes get athletes foot, what do astronauts get?

Missletoe!

Just before Christmas, there was an honest politician, a kind lawyer and Santa Claus travelling in a lift of a very posh hotel. Just before the doors opened they all noticed a \$5 note lying on the floor. Which one picked it up??

Santa of course, the other two don't exist!

What do you call a bunch of grandmasters of chess bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?

Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!

Why did Santa spell Christmas N-O-E?

Because the angel had said, "No L!"

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

Snowflakes.

Why does Santa have 3 gardens?

So he can ho-ho-ho.

Why was Santa's little helper depressed?

Because he had low elf esteem.

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

Frostbite.



Share the good news!

We would really like to hear from any volunteers who have 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!


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