

The Community Pride Committee from left Kelvin Neal, Lucie Van Aken, Diane Farmer, Marg Pullen and Jean Van Aken recipients of the Community Event award for 2012.

Hello Volunteers & Friends

Well we are off to a new start, a brand new year and already we have seen almost two months slip by. Here at the Skillsbank we are still gearing up and looking forward to the rewards of another year, one in which we hope we can contribute to the strengthening and the health of our community and the wonderful people in it. There are already many events planned and activities to join in and I'm sure this year is going to be our most exciting yet. Sadly we have had to say goodbye to Dael Blackney as he sets off on his university journey so we wish him well and are sure he will enjoy his



time in Melbourne. We also bid farewell to Vicki Berry who has relocated to Wodonga and is starting a new adventure of her own. They will both be missed as they were not only valued members of our team but also delightful people who had a very positive input so we hope we will see them from time to time.

Hearty congratulations to all of the Australia Day Awards recipients not least our own Diane Farmer who contributes so much to our community.

Now is the time to take a moment to put your feet up and settle in for a few minutes to have a read of what is going

on in your volunteering community and if you have anything you would like to contribute for the next newsletter please send us an email and we will try to include it. Don't forget to mark down the important dates in your diaries so you can join in the fun.

Have a fabulous year,

Linda Phillis
Volunteer Community
Skillsbank Coordinator

Skillsbank Team

Australia Day Awards 2013

This is one of my favorite days of the year and this year 2013 turned out to be a wonderful way to start off the year (who said 13 is unlucky).

The reason I love Australia Day and the Awards is it showcases all the fantastic volunteers we have in the Rural City of Wangaratta shire and it is a chance to get together with family and friends who you may not see that often. My cousin Shirley Quick and her friend Val travelled all the way up from Melbourne to celebrate Australia Day in Wangaratta and do so nearly every year.

The Day was perfect sun shining, not too hot and by 8am King George V Gardens was filling with 400 members of the community of who most were volunteers. There was great music and singing as everyone arrived.

The Girl Guides did the raising of the flag and Emmanuel Visser sung the most heart wrenching version of Advance Australia Fair that I have ever heard. The Mayor Rozi Parisotto's speech was warm, welcoming and she spoke about all the wonderful volunteers and said Thank you to them all on behalf of Council. The Australia Day Ambassador was young Alice Pung, she was so natural and her speech was so entertaining speaking of her heritage and her family migrating to Australia. She made us all laugh with her comment that her mother told her she was an illegal immigrant as she was in her

tummy when they arrived in Australia. What a beautiful young woman she is and she has herself a nice young man who comes from this area so she has close ties to Wangaratta.

The announcement of the 2013 Citizen of the Year was so well received when it was announced because it was Margret Pullen and it was well deserved as she has volunteered for a lot of years, giving her all to promote the Rural City of Wangaratta and all its attractions and so many members of the community were delighted with Council's choice.

Young citizen of the year was Amanda Roberts, also someone who has given so much time volunteering in our community and for someone so young to have achieved so much so soon our town has a great future.

The Event of the Year was the Volunteers Appreciation Day which was organised by Wangaratta Community Pride Committee (which Marg Pullen is Chairperson of so a double celebration for her) also The Centre's Volunteer Community Skillsbank coordinator Linda Phillis and Councils Community Planner Kerry Craig, this was a wonderful Event for Volunteers. King George V Gardens was decorated with 58 Volunteerscape figures decorated by organisations explaining what the organisations are all about, along with decorations of feathers and flags. There were

several hundred volunteers enjoying time together and gifts of thanks from the organisers and other organisations. We had a very nice lunch of hot soups, bread and other mouthwatering delights. As a volunteer myself it made me feel appreciated and I am sure all who were there felt the same way.

The Australia Day Local Achiever Award went to Peter Headland and what a remarkable man he is giving so much time to so many people and a very brave man working with NESAY and their driving program L2P. Forty years of giving to his community a very remarkable effort helping out at the Wangaratta Visitor Information Centre, working with people at the Wangaratta Courthouse who might be going through hard times and the list goes on. A very well deserved recipient.

Breakfast was served and while enjoying sausages, hamburgers and fruit we were entertained by some great Aussie tunes from Sing Australia Choir and Neil Higgins.

GREAT DAY, GREAT COMPANY
CELEBRATING THE GREAT
AUSSIE WAY

There were celebrations all over the Rural City of Wangaratta where hundreds of people came together to honor remarkable people doing remarkable volunteering for their communities.

Regards,

Diane Farmer

Congratulations all Recipients

Congratulations to all the Australia Day recipients, we are especially proud to be associated with the Event of the Year, Volunteer Appreciation Day, Volunteerscape. It was a wonderful event and a pleasure to say thank you to so many fabulous people who give so much to our community. We cannot say often enough how much the effort put in by each volunteer means and how important it is to our community, our organisations and the individuals assisted.

Thank you to everyone involved in the organisation of the event especially Marg Pullen and the Community Pride Committee.

The recipients of the 2013 Awards

2013 Australia Day Citizen of the Year -

Margaret Pullen

2013 Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year -

Amanda Roberts

2013 Australia Day Community Event of the Year - Volunteer Appreciation Day, 14 May

2012, Wangaratta Community Pride Committee

2013 Wangaratta Local Achiever Award - Peter Headland

Recipient	Location
Doug Sutherland	Carboor
June Uebergang	Cheshunt
Mitchell Cook	Edi Upper
Alex Wazniak	Edi Upper
Rosalie Pyle	El Dorado
Heather and Arthur Bennett	Everton
Annette Monshing	Glenrowan
Ben Bongers	Glenrowan
Rodney Davis	Glenrowan
Joe Moyle	Greta Valley
Mike Wilson	Hamilton Park
Ross Schutt	Milawa Oxley
Cameron Ramsay	Milawa Oxley
Olivia Gamble	Milawa Oxley
Lucy Novak	Milawa Oxley
Louise Box	Milawa Oxley
Stitchen Sisters	Moyhu
Callum Haddem	Moyhu
Ken Heywood	Murmungee
Amber Mason	Myrree
Ken Plemming	Springhurst
Julie Bowers	Springhurst
Kevin Moore	Springhurst
Jacqueline Serong	Tarrowingee
Peter Headland	Wangaratta
Katelyn Van Gastelen	Whitfield
Mikaylah Rumblelow	Whitfield
Jo Elkington	Whorouly
Isaac Taylor	Whorouly



Above: Marg Pullen, Di farmer and Kelvin Neal

Left: Di Farmer with the Community Event for 2012 trophy awarded to the Community Pride committee.

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!

50 Jobs in February

You may have noticed the 50 Jobs for February shop front located in the Post Office arcade. All the service providers have combined with the employers to create this promotion and it has gotten off to a great start. We have been involved by promoting the benefits of volunteering and the positive influence volunteering can have when it comes to gaining employment by developing skills, creating networks, staying active and involved, maintaining skills and enabling you to try and area you may have thought about but aren't really sure about.

This has been a fantastic initiative and if you are looking for employment I encourage you if you haven't already been down there to go and have a look and talk to a few people I'm sure you will leave with some new ideas and hopefully you will be one of the 50 Jobs in Feb.

Volunteer Appreciation Day 2013

Thanks a Million is the theme for this year's event so we will Volunteer Appreciation Day is an opportunity for the volunteering community to get together and celebrate the fabulous contribution made throughout the year by each individual and to gives the community the opportunity to say thank you. It also creates the opportunity for us to see what others are doing in our community and show cases the volunteering opportunities in our community. This year we are using stars to represent each organisation. We encourage each organisation to collect a star from Kerry Craig

at The Rural City of Wangaratta and decorate it with words, pictures, symbols and even names that best represent your organisation so that others can better understand what you do and what and who is important to you as an organisation. Don't forget to mark it down in your diary so you can come along and join in the celebration;

When: **Wednesday May 15th**

Time: **5.00pm**

Where: **The Centre,**
10 Chisholm Street Wangaratta



Current Opportunity

An opportunity exists for someone with IT skills who is interested in keeping a website current, editing newsletters, some database work and using publisher and other software. If this sounds interesting and you have the relevant skills, contact us at the Skillsbank and we can give you some more information.

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