

## Hello Volunteers & Friends

Welcome to 2014 and I hope you had a really fantastic festive season and are enjoying the start of a wonderful year. Already we have seen one month slip past and are into our second it will be Easter before we know it.

We have just celebrated Australia Day, I hope you were able to do something special on our nation's significant day. Congratulations to all those nominated and of course to the winners a hearty congratulation, well deserved all of you.

There are so many things coming up, firstly the Volunteer coordinators Network meeting here at The Centre on February the 26<sup>th</sup> for anyone who works with volunteers and would like to come along, you are welcome to join us.

Volunteers handing out drinks at the Wangaratta Fun Run 23/2/14



Clean up Australia day is rolling around again on Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March and I'm sure there will be a great participation by the community at all the various sights by the community.

Harmony day will be celebrated on Friday March 21<sup>st</sup> in King George V Gardens with a community picnic and entertainments so don't forget to add this fun family event to your calendar.

Another big event to be added to your calendar is part of Volunteer Appreciation Week. On May 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a Volunteer Parade through Wangaratta to celebrate the fantastic contribution volunteers make to our community. It will culminate in an event in Apex Park where

there will be a formal recognition of volunteering, entertainment and a free lunch. This will be an event not to be missed, an opportunity to celebrate, be celebrated and recognition for the organisation you put so much effort into.

This is going to be huge so make sure you register your organisation with Kerry Craig at the Rural City of Wangaratta so that you can be officially recognised.

Wow so much is happening I hope to see you at some of the fabulous events.

**Linda Phillis**  
Volunteer Community  
Skillsbank Coordinator

**Skillsbank Team**

# “A Little or A Lot”

I have been a member of Wangaratta SES for over 5 years and during that time I have learnt many skills that have enriched my life. My main area of volunteering and favorite one is working on the Radio, so members on call out have someone back at Headquarter ready to assist them with other requirements that they may need to complete the job at hand. I am always proud to be there just so the crews know there is someone there who cares about them enough to sit and wait to hear their voices and receive their reports.

I have done training in OH&S, Hazardous Chemicals, Wild Fires, OIMS (industry computer program), First Aid, 4W driving, Community Engagement and several other interesting and life changing courses. The other duty I enjoy is Community Engagement where we attend Community Events talking to the community about how to prepare for Floods, Storms and Fires. Visiting schools is also where we spread the word. We take the large truck and the children love to put an SES hat on and sit in the truck, they always have a smile on their faces and just love to have their photo taken. The adults are always very interested in watching the crew do a demonstration of the Jaws of Life and other equipment they use to save lives.

The really great thing about being a member of Wangaratta SES is the comradeship we all have for each other and the sharing of skills. Some are experts in certain areas and guide new members through the process of gaining the proper skills to be an active member with the SES in whatever area they choose to volunteer.

Over time there have been some members who have left, who I miss but there are new faces who step forward wanting to help and protect members of the Wangaratta community and strangers who may be in trouble. Our new unit controller Catherine Russell is a very knowledgeable SES person and is sweeping the unit clean with lots of new and innovative ideas to make the unit a rewarding and safe place to be. Catherine is a kind and caring Controller and she has a strong sense of integrity and responsibility.



Back row; Jake Creasy, Ashley Drake, Christine Mummery, Tracey Harper, Neil Ottaway, Bernie Russell

Front Row; Bronwyn Chapman, Dan Walton, Catherine Russell, Tim Watkins

One ambitious project the unit is working on is a new local headquarters. The current building, a relocated Nissan hut near the water tower in Millard Street, is now overcrowded and unsuitable for today's Emergency Response Organisation. Members are also concerned about the safety since it nestles in a dense residential area with schools and kindergartens nearby.

So seeking assistance with fundraising will be one of the many activities that will see our members out and active in their community this year.

Given that you only have to give your time to volunteering at Wangaratta SES and it's all up to you, "Just a Little or a lot".

So if you have some time to volunteer call The Centre's Volunteer Community Skillsbank and register your interest in becoming a member of SES on 57210258. Or if you're a business or organization who has some cash or you would like to give a small donation to say Thank You to the people who will always come to your rescue, so we can have a safe roof over our heads. If you would like to contact SES you can go to the website [www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au) or look us up on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wangarattases>

Regards and thank you for taking the time to read this article.

Diane Farmer



# CBA Grants for Youth



Banking giant, the Commonwealth Bank is pledging \$2 million in grants for community organisations that support the health and wellbeing of Australian youth.

Applications for the Bank's 2014 Community Grants are now open and groups can apply for individual grants worth up to \$10,000.

Since 2007 the Community Grants program, an annual initiative of the Commonwealth Bank Staff Community Fund, has awarded more than 900 grants totalling more than \$7.6 million.

Commonwealth Bank General Manager of Community and Sustainability, Trent Moy said that through the Community Grants program, current and retired Commonwealth Bank staff have helped fund a range of programs focused on the health and wellbeing of young Australians.

"We have been privileged to meet some of the country's most dedicated and inspiring organisations, which we recognise are investing in local communities and helping young Australians in need," Moy said.

"This year, our people are delighted to have the opportunity to again support hundreds of community organisations, and we look forward to receiving applications," he said.

To be eligible for a 2014 Community Grant, organisations must have a program that supports the health and wellbeing of Australian youth and be endorsed by the Australian

Tax Office with deductible gift recipient (DGR) status or the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

The Commonwealth Bank Staff Community Fund is Australia's longest running "employee contribution program and the Bank matches staff contributions dollar-for-dollar," Moy said.

Applications close at 5.00pm AEDT on Friday 14 March 2014. More information and application details can be found at: [www.commbank.com.au/about-us/who-we-are/in-the-community/community-grants.html](http://www.commbank.com.au/about-us/who-we-are/in-the-community/community-grants.html)

## More grants from Jetstar

Budget airline Jetstar has launched a grant initiative to help Not for Profit organisations fund projects that make a positive impact in their community.

Jetstar's Flying Start program will offer a \$30,000 grant, made up of \$15,000 worth of Jetstar travel and \$15,000 cash, to an Australian community group or organisation every three months.

Timings for the 2014 applications will be released later this week.

Jetstar Australia & New Zealand CEO David Hall said the airline was thrilled to be launching this initiative to Australian communities.

"This is about helping groups of people with big ideas to grow, thrive and quite literally go places. The program will allow

Jetstar to make a meaningful contribution to the communities we fly to," Hall said.

Entries will be reviewed each quarter by a panel of judges including Austereo's Fox FM radio host, Jules Lund, television personality, Gorgi Coghlan, CEO Jetstar Australia & New Zealand, David Hall, Jetstar Management Pilot, Jeremy Schmidt and a member of the local Jetstar team in each relevant state or territory.

"I'm passionate about helping improve the lives of everyday Aussies. I can speak for the whole panel when I say we are looking forward to making a difference and helping community groups take their great work to the next level," Jules Lund said.

Each quarter Jetstar says it will be accepting entries from different Australian states and territories, with the inaugural call to Queensland and the Northern Territory.

Quarter two will call entries from New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory, Victoria/Tasmania for quarter three and South Australia/Western Australia in quarter four. Entry is open to Australian Not for Profit community groups and organisations of any size. Charities, educational, health, arts or sporting organisations with a specific activity in mind are all encouraged to apply for a Jetstar Flying Start Program grant.

Full application details will be available at [jetstar.com](http://jetstar.com) soon- See more at: [http://www.probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2014/02/jetstar%E2%80%99s-flying-start-grants-not-profits?utm\\_source=Pro+Bono+Australia++email+updates&utm\\_campaign=57f656a985-news\\_11\\_22\\_11\\_2014&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_5ee68172fb57f656a985146751178#sthash.reYAbMCR.dpuf](http://www.probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2014/02/jetstar%E2%80%99s-flying-start-grants-not-profits?utm_source=Pro+Bono+Australia++email+updates&utm_campaign=57f656a985-news_11_22_11_2014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee68172fb57f656a985146751178#sthash.reYAbMCR.dpuf)

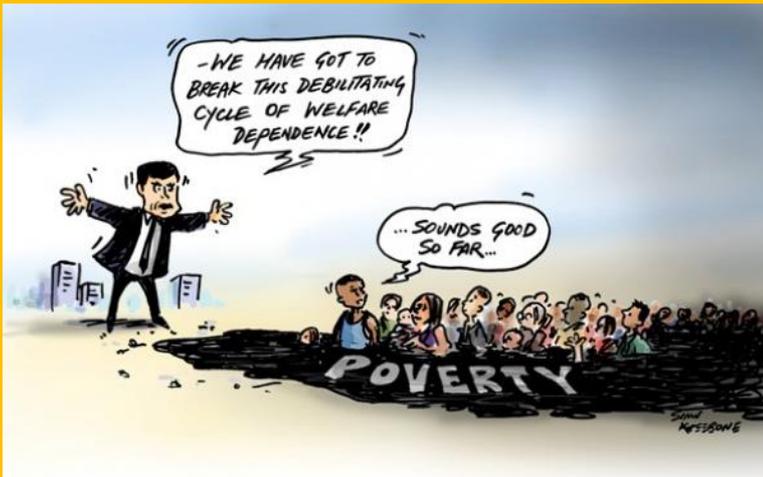
# Latest Volunteer Opportunities

## Administration Support

In-house administration support for Volunteer Community Skillsbank - data entry, interviewing, phone and clerical work, role matching. Work with a supportive team. Minimum work - one day per week. Wangaratta. days/hours negotiable. Position available for immediate start.

## Coordinator

A not-for-profit organisation based in Wangaratta has funding to set up a Community Food Swap Program. This organisation now seeks a suitable volunteer to take on the role of Coordinator. The Coordinator will have a keen interest in sustainability and the community, as well as a good understanding of the benefits of eating fresh, locally grown produce. The suitable Volunteer Coordinator will be mentored and encouraged to take on all aspects of this role to the best of their abilities. This person must be computer savvy with an understanding of social media, and marketing. They will attend meetings, undertake research regarding other Food Swap community ventures, as well as driving this program to completion. It is important that the Coordinator finds this role to be both rewarding and challenging. They will have the opportunity to participate in Event Management, Grant processes, and Budgeting. Flexible times."



## Volunteering Quotes

The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.

DeAnn Hollis

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.

Elizabeth Andrew

You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.

Winston Churchill

If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.

Booker T. Washington

Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

Don't ever question the value of volunteers. Noah's Ark was built by volunteers; the Titanic was built by professionals.

Unknown

A civilization flourishes when people plant trees under which they will never sit.

Greek Proverb

The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others.

Ghandi

## Share the good news!

We would really like to hear from any volunteer or organisation that have something to share, such as upcoming 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!



### The Skillsbank office

(03) 5721 0258

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

Post: Volunteer Community Skillsbank

**The Centre**

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