

Hello from Skillsbank



Christmas is upon us once again and we are all looking forward to celebrating the season with friends and family and welcoming the New Year in. 2012 has been a year of changes challenges and triumphs at the Volunteer Community Skillsbank, we have had changes in volunteer staff, we have had to said goodbye to some and welcomed others. We have met the challenges of delivering our program and meeting the needs of volunteers and organisations

and reaped the rewards of helping people enjoy their volunteer experience and see how it benefits the community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the fabulous team of volunteers here at the Volunteer Community Skillsbank without whom our community would be a great deal the poorer as I see all the hard work they do to assist volunteers and organisations. So from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of the community you

deserve a very big thank you.

To all volunteers I urge you to reward yourselves with a cuppa and take a few moments to read our newsletter and have a fantastic Christmas and a safe and rewarding New Year.

Linda Phillis

Volunteer Community
Skillsbank Coordinator

Work Placement at The Centre

By Nicky Seddon

My name is Nicky and I'm currently studying Certificate four in Community Services. Part of my requirement for my course is to complete some work placement hours. I have currently been doing placement hours at The Centre with The Volunteer Community Skillsbank and Community Visitors Scheme. I have really enjoyed my experience and have learnt so much and have enjoyed working with such a great team of people who are very passionate about their work. The staff at The Centre has been very helpful and I would like to thank them for such a wonderful work placement experience.

Access to Profiles

Don't forget whether you are a volunteer of a not-for-profit organisation registered with the Volunteer Community Skillsbank, you can go in and update your information at any time. We encourage you to maintain the information on the website as it makes our job and yours a lot easier and keeps everyone in the loop when changes occur. For organisations, when insurances are updated the information can be uploaded to the website at the same time.

Some of the things I have been doing on placement is attending meetings for Skillsbank, attending Christmas parties to thank all the volunteers for their hard work during the year for the Community Visitors Scheme. I have visited nursing homes with Chris to match volunteers with residents for CVS and the smile on the residents face makes it such a rewarding program. I have also learnt more about case notes and client data which is very important in the community services area.

Eventually after my studies, I would like to get into the domestic/family violence field but thanks to The Centre I now have more options of interest about programs I didn't know much about before my work placement. I would like to thank The Centre for their time in training me ready for the Community Service work field.



Christmas Closure

The Volunteer Community Skillsbank will be unattended from December 17th 2012 until January 21st 2013. The Centre will be closed from December 24th 2012 until January 3rd 2013.

Sorry if this creates any inconvenience for anyone but unfortunately it is unavoidable, we will try to get to any messages and emails as quickly as we can on our return.

Volunteer Recognition Day 2013

The Community Pride Committee, Rural City of Wangaratta, CARN and we at the Skillsbank are already working on how we are going to celebrate Volunteer Recognition Day next year and we think what we have planned will be even better than this year's fantastic Volunteerscape. Without giving too much away there will be music, entertainment, food and fun for all so make sure you set aside 5.30pm May 15th in your brand new diaries, you deserve it.

Research on Volunteering by Melbourne University

The economic value of volunteering to Victoria has grown by over 130 per cent in 15 years, according to new research from the University of Melbourne.

The **Economic Value of Volunteering in Victoria** report developed by Melbourne University, placed the economic value of Victorian volunteering at \$16.4 billion in 2006, up from \$7.1 billion in 1992.

Organised volunteering through volunteering organisations, together with informal volunteering and volunteers' travel time, combine to give the total value of volunteering to the Victorian economy.

Regional Victorians contributed approximately \$2 billion dollars to their communities in terms of organised volunteering through volunteering organisations, with Melbournians contributing

around \$2.8 billion – so per capita, volunteering is a strong contributor to regional Victoria.

Other key findings of the research include:

- Volunteers provided a volume of work equivalent to 260,500 jobs in 1992 rising to 359,100 in 2006. This is equivalent to an additional 13.4 per cent people employed in Victoria in 1992 and 14.2 per cent in 2006.
- There was a 16 per cent rise in the average total hours per adult of volunteering in Victoria between 1992 and 2006.
- In dollar terms Victorian adults, on average, increased their volunteering time and associated costs by 95 per cent, from \$2,133 to \$4,152 each year.
- Women in Victoria contributed an estimated \$2.64 billion dollars of time and other inputs to volunteer organisations in 2006. In comparison, Victorian men's donation was 15 per cent less, about \$2.25 billion.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional and Rural Development Peter Ryan released the report saying it highlights the enormous contribution volunteers made to the state.

“By any standards these are significant contributions that make an enormous difference in our communities,” Ryan said.

Ryan said Victorians of various cultural and language backgrounds; the old and the young; and people of different abilities all played an important role through volunteering – from emergency services; health and ageing; education; social justice; heritage and culture as well as sport and recreation.

Recreation Volunteer

Job Code: RO002071

Volunteers are needed to work one on one, supporting young people with disabilities for activity days in school holiday programs in Wangaratta.

Activities include: Swimming, Sports, Art and Craft, Playground, Out and About, and Centre based activities. Our next activity days are coming up in July 2011 on Tuesday 5, Thursday 7, Tuesday 12 and Thursday 14. There are roles for both novices and more experienced carers.

Enquire at:

csb@nevictoria.skillsbank.com.au



INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS DAY

Wednesday 5th December

It's always special to celebrate International Volunteers Day in some way and take time to think about all the great volunteers all over the world who give their time caring about those who need assistance and help who ever they are. It's comforting to know that no matter where you are in the world and you find yourself needing assistance there is always someone there willing to come to your aid.

At the Centre's Community Skillsbank we have a terrific group of volunteers who come in each week to assist those people who are interested in volunteering find an organisation that they would be best suited to and enjoy giving their time to.

Linda Phillis our Coordinator invited all of us to have lunch to say Thank You for all the time we give to the Centre. While we were all gathered to head out for lunch Linda said a few words to us and her words were full of appreciation and thanks which were so touching and you could tell that she meant every word she said about us. The words were coming straight from the heart and we all knew she meant them it's a gift some

special people have and Linda is one of those special people.

Then Irene Grant Community Projects Manager gave us all a very nice certificate and box of chocolates and we all felt special and acknowledged. We went to enjoy lunch 6 people all different who get on so well celebrating this special day and rewarded with great company, lots of laughs and different conversations which strengthen our special relationships and ability to work with togetherness. That's why this day is so special for me and I know we all will be the Community Skillsbank Team in 2013.

Diane Farmer

Recreation Volunteer

Job Code: RO002465

A volunteer Mystery Shopper is required to conduct an undercover Customer Service Survey in the Salvation Army Salvo Shops. Volunteers could be required 3 times per year, if you wish to be an ongoing member of our Mystery Shopper Team.

Enquire at:
csb@nevictoria.skillsbank.com.au

Teacher's Helper

Job Code: RO002366

An Adult Community Education Organisation based in North East Victoria is seeking volunteers to take on a Teacher's Aide roles in Literacy & Numeracy. The roles would suit volunteers who have a desire to assist adult students in a class room situation: experience is not necessary. The volunteer's role is to support the Teacher and under supervision work with students on a one on one basis. Teaching staff are responsible for setting class activities. Volunteers would be briefed by the Teacher prior to commencement of class. The Teacher's Aide roles will be carried out from February 2013. Students are aged between 16 and 50.

Enquire at:
csb@nevictoria.skillsbank.com.au



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