

## Hello from Skillsbank



Well we have had some interesting times since last we went to print! So much has happened, where do I begin?

We had a workshop at The Centre with Andy Fryar that was truly passionate and inspirational for all those who attended. We had a mentoring program launch for the Golden Gurus program with Max Walker as the guest speaker. Again, it was a great evening and Max was fabulous. Many of you may have attended Volunteerscape for Volunteer recognition Day in King George garden, and what a

day that was. Over 200 people and 52 organisations participated. There was food, entertainment, speeches and giveaways, and a great day was had by all.

On top of that we have had changes at the Skillsbank with people moving on to employment and new people starting so all in all it has been a very busy few months. In September we will be running a Pathways program for any volunteer who would like to participate and there are lots of other events and things happening so stay in touch by watching the website.

We have some amazing volunteer opportunities at the moment so if you want to get involved give us a call or get on the website and let us know what you are interested in; you never know what will happen.

Cheers,

**Linda Phillis**  
Volunteer Community Skillsbank  
Coordinator

# Volunteers Corner

Meet Pam Bell, a special person who has been volunteering for over 20 years with some organisations. About 15 years ago she got connected to WPR Community Radio, which it was then called but is now known as Oak FM. Here is her story about that, in her own words.

In 1996 a fellow choir member Bob Cordwell asked me if I would be interested in trying out for a radio presenter position at the local community radio WPR FM as a Jazz programmer. My mother was ill at the time and then passed away. Six months later after more prompting from Bob I came to the station for my first lesson.

I was to share a program with Stan Roberts and he coached me for a month or so and after that I had full control of what Jazz I would play. Stan liked Trad Jazz and I liked the more modern style of Jazz. Blues I added to the



Pam Bell at OAK FM

program because they go together. I was then asked to do Classics on a Sunday afternoon and then my Jazz and Blues Sunday night; this I did for many years. The three Marks from Beechworth joined the station and took over the Blues section. After a bit of reshuffling I was asked if I'd like to do an easy listening morning program which I made a mix of Rock, Blues, Modern Jazz, World music and Australian Rock. Much of the modern Rock has Blues/Jazz inflections in it.

Over the years it has poured into a good mix re the many phone calls I received. I also had a position on the WPR FM committee for a short time and have helped out with the many fund raising activities over all the years. I have enjoyed the company of the presenters and the committee I've been involved with. While enjoying the listening public and trying to learn as much as I can about the music and

artists so I can pass on the information to them, this I have learnt they appreciate if you keep it short and to the point. The programs I have now are every second Monday 9am to 12 noon and every Friday 9am to 12 noon, plus I sometimes sit in for other presenters who are away or ill and try to play as close as possible to their style of music.

If my health holds out I hope to be still playing music for the community listeners of OAK FM for some time yet.

Pam Bell

I for one would like to recognize the contribution you have made, Pam Bell. You are a champion in my eyes and I congratulate you for your years of service and commitment as a volunteer.

By Dianne Farmer

## 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!

## A Taste of Life

Watch out for 'A Taste of Life' when we open the doors of The Centre and open the opportunities for experience. Remember to set aside 5 till 7 on Wednesday the 19th of September. It will give people the opportunity to sample a huge variety of hobbies, interests and volunteering opportunities. Whatever you do in spring don't miss out on this carnival of entertainment.

# Golden Gurus Launch

The golden Gurus launch was an event held to launch a mentoring program and a small business and home based business blog which has been developed by Darren Christie at The Centre. Daren gave a power point presentation which was fabulous and really showed the potential of what can be achieved and where business might go in the future. . It was really entertaining as well as stimulating and informative bringing social media into the business world. I spoke about the benefits of mentoring for the people involved and for the community as a whole.

Too often people leave the workforce and take the wealth of knowledge they have accumulated through a lifetime of experience and it is lost forever when through mentoring it can be handed down and help to make our community stronger and more productive.

# Andy Fryar Workshop

The Andy Fryar workshop was held at the Centre in mid-March and was a huge success. He spoke on the future of volunteering and what it means to volunteer from a management view and from a volunteer's point of view, the powerful connections made through volunteering and



Max Walker at the Golden Gurus Launch



A good mentoring relationship can be rewarding for both parties. The evening was rounded off by Max Walker who was our guest speaker and he was fantastic, he spoke on mentoring and the positive effects it had in his life.

He was of course very funny and entertaining at the same time, if you didn't see him on the night you really missed out on a great evening.

the motivations. He spoke with such passion and commitment that it was impossible not to be touched and inspired by what he had to say and to use his experience and knowledge in what we do. Everyone I have spoken to who attended the workshop was just as impressed

as I was and took away something they could apply to their own program or organisation. If you ever get the chance to hear him speak, I recommend you take the opportunity, because it is well worth while.



# A Volunteer's View of Wangaratta's Volunteers Recognition Day Event

What a beautiful day! Mr. Weatherman really outdid himself.

Walking around King George V Gardens and seeing the fabulous effort that all the 52 groups had put into the Volunteerscape was overwhelming and very enjoyable, and to read all about the different organisation activities that they do was very informative. Registering and receiving a stamp on your hand that said "I love Volunteering" captured how you felt, and then to receive a badge and a small token of appreciation made you feel special.

The socializing and talking to other volunteers was very reassuring. It made you feel that volunteering makes life worthwhile and rewarding.

To be thanked by the Mayor from the Rural City of Wangaratta, Jenny Johnstone from CARN & Community Skillsbank made you feel appreciated. Stewart Kreltshheim spoke about groups he had volunteered with and said how joining one group lead to connecting with another group. This is exactly what happens once you get bitten by the volunteer bug!

To think that an idea by Marg Pullen, Chairperson of Wangaratta Community Pride Committee, would become such a successful and enjoyable day for one and all! The day also proved to me how valuable it is volunteering for The Centre's Community Skillsbank, where they help organisations find the right volunteer for a position they need and vice versa for a volunteer looking for an organisation that can use their expertise and interest.

The day left me feeling proud and appreciated which is something a volunteer needs to be reassured about now and again. Thank you to all who arranged and organised such a terrific day.

**Diane Farmer**

## Pathways

Wednesday September 5<sup>th</sup>  
1.00pm-4.00pm

Tuesday November 13<sup>th</sup>  
1.00pm – 4.00pm

We will be running Pathways for volunteers at The Centre for all volunteers. Pathways covers all rights and responsibilities of volunteers and not-for-profit organisations with updates on current legislation and the National Standards for involving volunteers in not-for profit organisations. This is for anyone who would like to get themselves volunteer ready or just to stay current and updated. Anyone who wishes to enrol just call or e-mail Skillsbank on 57210256 or 57210258 or [csb@thecentre.vic.edu.au](mailto:csb@thecentre.vic.edu.au) or call in at the centre and leave your details.

## Volunteer Appreciation Day

Volunteerscape, the idea of Marg Pullen, was a great celebration of volunteering. Volunteerscape was a collection of silhouettes decorated by individual not-for-profit organisations to represent what they and their volunteers do. There were a lot of people involved, like the Community Pride Committee, the Rural City of Wangaratta and we at the Skillsbank. But there were many more people without whom the day would not have been anywhere near as successful. We had the Ukulele Band, and CARN brought activities, fabulous food and inspiring speeches. Well done to everyone who took part and I hope all the volunteers had a great time.



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