

Hello 2012

Well we are into a new year and already it seems that the time has bolted away. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and are all looking forward to a productive and positive year.

Most importantly this year is the 50th anniversary of the Centre so there will be plenty of opportunities for everyone to get involved throughout the year with an outside radio broadcast from The Centre on February 24th to start us off which should be very exciting with various events and exhibitions throughout the year



L-R: Joshua, Evelyn, Linda, Diane, Margaret

and culminate with a Gala Dinner in October.

Here at the Volunteer Community Skillsbank we have quite a few things lined up for the first half of the year which we hope you will add to your calendars. February 28th is International Women's Day, March 20th Andy Fryar is here to teach us how to turn our organisations into a volunteer magnet and on March the 29th, Max Walker will be here to help us launch the golden gurus mentoring program and a small

business blog developed by Daren Christie here at The Centre. It is all very exciting and I hope you will come along to some of these events and many more which we will announce throughout the year.

Have a great 2012

Linda Phillis
Volunteer Community Skillsbank
Coordinator

Golden Gurus and Small Business Blog Launch

Guest Speaker – Max Walker

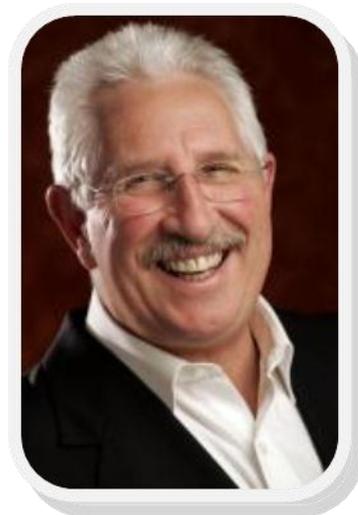
Venue – The Turf Club

When – 6:00pm March 29th

Come along to the launch of the Golden Gurus volunteer mentoring program and also The Centre's Small Business Blog.

There will be other guest speakers and loads of entertainment so come and join the fun.

Call The Centre to book 5721 0200.



We are having an event in March which is not to be missed, we will be launching the new Small Business Blog and Golden Gurus Mentoring program. The event is aimed at giving the small business person some tools and ideas to improve and develop their business in today's challenging economic climate.

We will have presentations, give aways, prizes to be won and of course the wonderful Max Walker who as well as being one of Australia's most well loved sports people he is also an astute business man and, architect.

If you would like to be in the audience give us a call at The Centre – 5721 0200 - to secure your place but be warned places are limited so get in early to avoid disappointment.

Awards

Congratulations to Josh Newth and Di Farmer for their 10th Anniversary of the United Nations International year of Volunteering awards on National Volunteers Day on 5th December 2011. Josh received his award for his work on the social and environmental newsletters and other IT work, as well as maintaining the Volunteer Community Skillsbank website. Di Farmer received her award for her tireless efforts on the Wangaratta Sustainability Network Restoring Our Waterways project. They both received a certificate, commemorative coin and stamp mounted in an attractive folder. There were only 1000 awards handed out Australia-wide so it really is a great honour for you both of you.

Andy Fryar will be at The Centre on March 20th

Andy Fryar, from South Australia, is the founder and Director of OzVPM (Australasian Volunteer Program Management) – a consultancy, training and resource company specialising in volunteerism www.ozvpm.com

Andy has contributed significantly to the Australian volunteerism community and his achievements, amongst many, include serving as President of Volunteering Australia.

Andy specialises in teaching you how to attract and maintain volunteers in your not-for-profit organisation. He will have his books available on the day for purchase.

\$30.00 covers the day with morning tea and lunch provided, numbers are restricted so please hurry to ensure you don't miss out.

If you are interested in attending contact The Volunteer Community Skillsbank at The Centre – 5721 0258 or 5721 0256 - and register now.



50 Years

We will be honouring its simple beginnings which have developed into the complex multi layered community support system it has become. Throughout this period The Centre has enriched the quality of life and enhanced the developmental opportunities for our entire community with an inclusive approach and constant drive to improve and evolve into a more relevant and positive force within the community.

Although education has always been an important part of what The Centre has to offer, it is also very strong in business development and community development programs such as CARN which works to help make sporting activities available to the disabled and the Skillsbank which works with the volunteer workforce to help make sure volunteering is the rewarding experience it should be.

What will the next 50 years bring I wonder, how will we be communicating our information on volunteering, how will we be receiving our education, what will

This year marks the 50th anniversary of The Centre and we will be celebrating all year with various events and displays.

the face of business look like and what new sports will we be supporting? Whatever the challenges and delights the next 50 years will bring I know that The Centre will be an integral part of the fabric of our community enriching and enhancing the life of every member of the community.

We want you- our local community to get on board and join in with the celebrations!

The 27 February 2012 marks the official anniversary date of The Centre for Continuing Education opening its doors in Wangaratta in February 1962.

The Centre was the first adult community education provider in country Victoria.

As part of our celebrations we will be hosting a range of events throughout the year including an Exhibition Event: '50 Stories/Images for 50 Years'.

This event will showcase the inspirational success stories from students, businesses, and staff

that have achieved and contributed to the local community and succeeded through The Centre.

The Centre invites the community to bring their story to help celebrate this significant milestone. Please contact Joanne Hughes at The Centre on 5721 0200, to tell your story.

A historical Exhibition showcasing the people and events of The Centre will be staged and an official opening will be held later in the year.

To continue the celebrations throughout the years it is planned to hold Open Days at The Centre, a Business Wangaratta event, Onsite Radio Broadcast at The Centre, a formal dinner with guest speakers to be held in October, and more.

For further information about The Centre and our 50th Anniversary celebrations, please contact us on 5721 0200.

A volunteer's view of the Community Skillsbank

Work at the Volunteer Community Skillsbank team is both entertaining and exhausting. Our team is very diverse, as are our skills. There are long silences as we work through the many organisations needing assistance, broken by excited chatter as someone matches another volunteer to an organisation. We run matches on the computer first, and then begin to contact potential volunteers by phone or email to see if they are available or interested in the particular role we have chosen for them. I am amazed at the number of people who are already volunteering elsewhere but are still prepared to put in an extra few hours for another organisation. Tuesdays so she can fill a role we found for her.

Why on earth would you want to work for nothing you ask? Satisfaction is one answer. So many organisations are dependent on volunteers to keep the wheels turning and they appreciate your assistance, and treat you well. The work you do is satisfying as you meet the mental challenges each day to find a niche for volunteers that suits them and the organisation you have chosen for them. Of course there is also the opportunity to make friends.

If you haven't volunteered with us for a while, have another look at our website or give us a call and we'll find a new challenge that suits you.

Community Skillsbank Snippets

Chantel left us just before Christmas in preparation for the arrival of her first child, a baby girl Kacey who arrived in February. We wish her all the best and will miss her happy smile and willing attitude. Amanda has also left us to further her studies in 2012 and concentrate on future employment opportunities. We wish her well for the future. Marissa has been gaining experience with us as a requirement for her studies in Community Services. It only took a few weeks for her to ask to join us as a regular volunteer when her studies were completed and she has just gained employment. Chris has recently joined us and he is happily learning the ropes.

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!

Learning about Community Services

Are you interested in learning more about the different community services available in your area?

A qualification called Certificate II in Community Services can help you do this. The course for this qualification is an excellent introduction to a range of community services and work options and learning pathways. The course information is useful for people who work in a paid or volunteer capacity. The course is conducted on a Tuesday and Friday over 8 weeks from 9.30am- 3.00pm each day and commences February 21.

For more information contact Heather: 5721 0223



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