

## Hello Volunteers & Friends

I started in July as the new Volunteer Skillsbank Coordinator for the Centre. Many locals may remember me from the Wangaratta Bookshop so it will be great to see you again in my new role here. I am thrilled to be part of the fantastic team and group of in-house volunteers. I would like to thank everyone for making me so welcome!

Our fabulous Skillsbank team is Di Farmer, Chantel Cook, Linda Phillis, Margaret Harvey, Amanda Dowling, Evelyn Parr and Joshua Newth. We are here to help, so call, email or drop by Chilsolm Street!



*L-R: Di Farmer, Chantel Cook, Linda Phillis, Margaret Harvey and Joshua Newth*

Remember, this is your newsletter to celebrate the great work of volunteers and the achievements of volunteering so join in and share ideas, we would love to have contributions from our readers so please feel free to offer articles or suggestions for our February issue!

For all your volunteer needs you can also visit our website: [nevictoria.skillsbank.com.au](http://nevictoria.skillsbank.com.au)

I would also like to wish a happy birthday to our volunteers and team members with September

and October birthdays - Chantel Cook, Amanda Dowling and Marg Harvey!

I look forward to working with you, so cheers for now and happy reading!

**Linda Phillis**  
Volunteer Skillsbank Coordinator

# Have you thought about passing on your knowledge?



If you have gathered a wealth of knowledge in your life and are 50 years or older, you might like to consider registering for the Golden Gurus program.

It doesn't matter what field your expertise is in, you may have even been a stay at home Mum with many pearls of wisdom to share.

This program was set up to provide mentoring to any not

for profit organisation. That can mean the local sporting club which is having trouble with balancing their books so there would be an opportunity for a mentor to step in for a specified amount of time to develop the skills needed to meet requirements.

It might be an organisation that is struggling to recruit a paid or volunteer workforce, a mentor who has knowledge of Human

Resources can provide advice and support to get them on track to having a stable and productive workforce.

If you have knowledge and a limited time commitment you might like to consider Golden Gurus, we have information and training available that will help you. Some times the most productive volunteering is done in bite size pieces.

## Keeping our Waterways Clear

Congratulations to Di Farmer and Josh Newth who worked tirelessly to create a short film about keeping our waterways clean and free of debris.

The film **“Even in winter there is beauty to be found”** representing WSN Restoring Our Waterways was entered in the Short Film Contest and they received notification that they were finalists.

The winners were announced on October 21st and Di and Josh took out runners up in their category!

Regardless of the outcome we congratulate them on their passion and hard work to produce a film of such high calibre.





*Di Farmer with her citation*



*All the nominees; first row Tanya Doige, Di Farmer, Brodie Gardner, Celeste Lowen, Back row Colleen Joseph, Selina Stenko and Jeff Kuhle*



*Brodie Gardner receiving her award from Councillor Peter Dun & Tracey Wearne who nominated Brodie*

## The Ann Pennington Awards

The Centre's annual Ann Pennington Awards honour the life and dedication of Ann Pennington, a former employee of The Centre. The Awards celebrate achievements in education and learning.

This year, the guest speaker Sally Thompson, CEO of Adult Learning Australia provided an insightful look at education for life. Anne Pennington's husband John

gave a speech which was very heart felt and entertaining.

The Centre board member Annesha Brown chaired the day and CEO Danny O'Donoghue thanked everyone for their contribution to The Centre.

Our very own Di Farmer from Skillsbank was nominated for all her achievements in self development along with Tanya

Doige, Brodie Gardner, Colleen Joseph, Selina Stenko, Jeff Kuhle and Celeste Lowen. The award was presented by Benalla Councillor Peter Dun to Brodie Gardner.

The Volunteer Skillsbank team congratulate all the nominees and especially the very deserving winner Brodie Gardner who has worked hard to achieve her education goals.

## National Volunteer Awards

The 5th of December 2011 is National Volunteers Day and Sophie Mirabella will be announcing the recipient of the National Volunteer for this region. We wish all volunteers could receive an award for all of the service you give, lets face it without you, the volunteer, our community would not function.

Whether you volunteer for one hour a fortnight or several days a week, I hope you all set aside this day to give yourselves a well deserved pat on the back and do something great for yourselves or each other. Take a fellow volunteer out for lunch or maybe a picnic in the park or maybe a glass of champagne to toast all the good work you have done.

For those of you attending the awards ceremony we hope to see you there. Good luck to all those who are nominated and congratulations to whoever wins, we're sure it will be a difficult decision.



## Changes in Legislation

Recent changes in legislation have come into effect as of August 1st this year. Essentially the legislation gives the volunteer the same rights and responsibilities as the paid worker such as workcover, discrimination and sexual harassment. This new legislation should be imbedded in the policies of all not for profit organisations and adopted into practice.



## Community Visitors Scheme

Become a special friend and play a vital role in improving the quality of life for an older person living in an aged care home. Help reduce their isolation and loneliness through weekly or fortnightly visits to provide companionship and build ongoing friendships.

To book into a free orientation training session in your area contact:

Jane Taylor, Hume Region CVS Program Coordinator on 1800 682 710, 0419 874 412 or jane.taylor@thecentre.vic.edu.au

# Board Vacancy - Expressions of Interest

The Centre for Continuing Education Inc (The Centre) is a Community College; a community based not-for-profit Registered Training Organisation that delivers high quality training and other community programs in Wangaratta, Benalla and more recently, in Shepparton.

The Centre has a long and proud history of providing quality services to the communities it serves and next year celebrates its 50th year of operation; The Centre was the first adult education organisation to be established in regional Victoria in 1962. The Centre employs over 40 staff, has a financial turnover in excess of \$3million and operates under the 'Carver' governance model.

It is financially sound, has excellent policies and procedures and operates under a rigorous quality system.

The Board of Governance is seeking expressions of interest to fill Board vacancies in a dynamic, contemporary Community College/Adult Education organisation. Interested members of the public in North East Victoria are encouraged to apply.

To express your interest and to obtain a pack containing further information, contact The Centre on 03 5721 0200 or reception@thecentre.vic.edu.au

Authorised by: Annesha Brown, Chairperson

## 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!



**The Skillsbank office**  
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