

VOLUNTEER SHOWCASE

- Office for Volunteers Website

The new Office for Volunteers website, has grown immensely since it was launched at last year's Congress.

It continues to provide all South Australians with access to an enormous range of information and resources ... and is growing every week.

There ... you can find information about grants and volunteer support programs, research and resources, policy and legislation ... and information about becoming a volunteer.

It's a fantastic source of information and provides a valuable insight into the volunteer sector in South Australia.

- Office for Volunteers television commercial

The State Government plays an enormous role in promoting volunteering in our community.

Over the past few years, a range of television commercials have aired on television, highlighting the value of volunteering.

This year, a brand new TV campaign titled, "*If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else*" was launched and screened on commercial channels to encourage people to volunteer.

These commercials built upon last year's successful campaign, "*It's a two way thing*", which demonstrated the mutual benefits of volunteering.

- Fact Sheets

As many of you would know, a range of fact sheets are available covering topics relevant to individual volunteers and community organisations.

Each fact sheet aims to give the reader a broad overview of a particular topic, in addition to providing a range of avenues to find further detailed information.

We now offer 13 fact sheets, concerning a range of issues affecting volunteers and community groups ... and more are being developed all the time.

In fact, just recently ... two new fact sheets have been released - *Protection for Community Board Members* and an update on the *Volunteer Protection Act*.

... And we are about to go to print on another updated fact sheet regarding *Free Police Checks for Volunteers*.

- The State of Volunteering On-line e-newsletter

The State of Volunteering On-line is a fortnightly e-newsletter developed by the Office for Volunteers ... and is distributed to more than 6,000 volunteers and community groups.

Events, news, announcements, training opportunities ... and more recently, volunteer stories ... have all been featured in the online newsletter.

The volunteers who have been profiled in the e-newsletter ... and I know many of you are here today ... all have fantastic and inspiring stories ... you should all be very proud.

If any of you would like to receive this fortnightly e-bulletin, just log onto the Office for Volunteers' website to register.

- Volunteer Appreciation Certificates

Every day, volunteers in our community are making a difference ... they are energetic and enthusiastic and do amazing things ... they deserve to have their efforts recognised and appreciated.

To assist organisations to demonstrate their appreciation, we have developed two levels of certificates which can be awarded accordingly.

The *South Australian Volunteer's Certificate of Recognition*, has been designed to allow organisations to show formal recognition to their volunteers ...

... This might include recognising them for the number of hours contributed ... the achievement of a particular outcome ... or purely for their dedication.

The *Premier's Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Volunteer Service*, has been created to recognise outstanding volunteer service ...

... The number of these certificates is limited - organisations can recognise up to ten per cent of their volunteer workforce with this certificate per year.

- Community Project Awards

Recently, I spent some time in Andamooka ... and I was humbled by the incredible pipeline project developed by members of the local community.

I wanted to recognise this fantastic achievement ... so I awarded the group an inaugural Community

Project Award, aptly named the *Andamooka* ... as a testament to their amazing work.

I understand there are so many great projects around our state, which result in great outcomes for the community ... so the *Andamooka* is now awarded annually, to recognise the most significant and outstanding community project in South Australia for the year.

The award is presented at the Volunteers Day celebration on the Queen's Birthday Public Holiday each year ... in front of more than 2,000 people.

The winner is also recognised in Adelaide's media and featured in the *State of Volunteering Online* e-newsletter.

In addition to the *Andamooka* award, the Premier's Community Project Award - the *Wombat*, has recently been introduced.

The *Wombat* is presented during a special morning tea for volunteers at Community Cabinets, which are held at different locations around South Australia over the course of the year.

The award, which is designed and handmade by South Australia's internationally acclaimed glass artisan Eamonn Vereker ... aims to recognise local volunteers who have undertaken a community project in the region of the Community Cabinet.

The first *Wombat* was awarded at the Kangaroo Island Community Cabinet in September this year.

Winners of the *Wombat* award, automatically become contenders for the state-wide *Andamooka* award.

- Community Voices Grant Program

The State Government has teamed with the Screen Studies Department of Flinders University ... to

develop community documentaries and community service announcements for volunteer-involving organisations ... to be used for promotion, or to retain and recruit volunteers.

The *Community Voices Grant Program* provides \$50,000 of in-kind services supplied by Flinders University.

Organisations are assigned students from the Screen Studies Department ... to develop concepts to promote and market their organisation.

You'll all be happy to hear ... that applications for this year's round of Community Voices Grants are still open ...

... So make sure you visit the Office for Volunteers' website for an Application Form before the 14th of December.

- Sustainable Online Community Engagement Program

A website is a valuable tool for any community organisation ... It provides a communication link between stakeholders, existing and prospective volunteers and the community at large.

The Office for Volunteers has partnered with the University of South Australia in an innovative program, that sees Uni SA students teaming with volunteer-involving community organisations ... to develop a free website, which is then hosted free of charge for 12 months.

Since the program's inception in 2001, nearly 300 websites have been developed for community groups.

Expansion of this program now means students can also help community organisations with things like event planning or overhauling communication

processes and databases ... as well as assisting in the development of promotional material, such as brochures, electronic newsletters, DVDs and more.

The University of South Australia have developed a new *Sustainable Online Community Engagement Course*, in line with the United Nations' specifications ... which sees students being partnered with community groups to develop these projects ... as part of the curriculum.

In fact ... Phil Marriot from the University of South Australia's School of Communication ... is about to leave for the United States, spending some time as "visiting professor" at a New York university.

Whilst in the United States, Phil will also be visiting the United Nations ... to explore formalising the agreement in linking the *Sustainable Online Community Engagement* program, to the UN online volunteer program.

As part of today's activities, Uni SA students from the program will be conducting interviews throughout the day ... I hope you'll all be happy to share your stories and experiences with the students.

Some interviews which have already been filmed, will be shown after the morning break today ... and they will also be made available on the internet.

- Volunteer Support Fund Grant Program

Grants of up to \$3,000 are available to community groups through the annual *Volunteer Support Fund*, administered through the Office for Volunteers.

Grants are aimed at helping volunteer-involving organisations (who are incorporated, non government and not for profit) ... to improve support to their volunteers.

A great example of the success of the Grant ... is an African Multilingual CD, which has been produced from the funds provided to Lutheran Community Care, from the Volunteer Support Fund.

With the funding, they have developed a tool to assist volunteers working with new arrivals from different parts of Africa ... The CD contains various common phrases used in Australia ... and their translations in a number of different African dialects.

This wonderful tool helps the volunteers overcome some of the language barriers, and ultimately helps the African migrants feel a part of the community sooner.

A great result ...

That concludes the Volunteer Showcase for 2007.

As you can see, there are many useful resources available to volunteers and community organisations in South Australia.

I would like to once again thank everyone for coming today ... and I'd now like to introduce our first keynote speaker, Dr Lorraine Kerr.

Lorraine is employed as *Manager of Social Development* at the City of Salisbury ... and is also a key researcher in the *Social Policy Research Group* at the University of South Australia.

She has a long research and publication history in the areas of employment, volunteering, social capital and the third sector.

Please join me in welcoming Lorraine to the stage.