

# Wimmera Volunteers

## Information Sheet

November 2007

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# INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS DAY 2007...

International Volunteer Day was created to acknowledge and show appreciation to all those people who dedicate their invaluable time and skills to the many community organisations across the world.

### **Why recognise volunteers?**

Volunteers should be acknowledged for the important contribution they make to the community. Many not-for-profit organisations would find it impossible to carry out their work without volunteers. Recognition lets volunteers know that others appreciate what they do. It gives them a feeling of accomplishment and motivates them to continue volunteering.

International Volunteer Day is the perfect time for an organisation to express gratitude to its volunteers. Designed to thank volunteers and stimulate a greater awareness of their contribution and the amazing work they do.

### **When should volunteers be recognised?**

Timing is important when recognising volunteers and it is nice to acknowledge contributions throughout the year, and not just on one day! Giving a small thank-you regularly can add up and means more to a volunteer than one huge thank-you at the end of a long project or once a year.

### **How to recognise volunteers**

Recognising volunteers is as simple as showing them your appreciation on a day-to-day basis. A regular and sincere thank you is the best way to build a good recognition program. This kind of recognition is really powerful, as praising work at the time it takes place and treating volunteers as important members of the team gives them a real sense of achievement and personal satisfaction.

Recognition can take many forms and one of the most important aspects is to understand what kind of recognition volunteers value individually. Some volunteers love the big yearly event, while others find it embarrassing, or don't care for it at all. Try and vary the way you give recognition with lots of small acknowledgements regularly and the occasional big celebration. It is a good idea to keep track of any cards, certificates or presents given out in the past, so that the same thing doesn't get given twice. Things like birthday, anniversary and 'life event' cards personally written and signed can mean so much and cost very little.

### **Tips to Recognise Volunteers**

Recognising volunteers doesn't have to involve spending a lot of money. There are many ways you can show them you appreciate them without having to spend a cent! Start by saying thank you on International Volunteer Day, and keep showing your gratitude all year round

Have a look on Volunteering Australia's website for some more tips...

[http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/html/s02\\_article/article\\_view.asp?art\\_id=2573&nav\\_cat\\_id=229&nav\\_top\\_id=67](http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/html/s02_article/article_view.asp?art_id=2573&nav_cat_id=229&nav_top_id=67)

### **So, what are Wimmera Volunteers doing for IVD 2007....**

- Hosting an afternoon tea at the Italian clubrooms, Harriet Street Horsham. The invitation will be for 2 volunteers from each group. We recognise that groups have more than 2 volunteers unfortunately with the number of groups, the number of volunteers exceeds our capacity. We will be sending out invitations to YOUR organisation soon.
- Wimmera Volunteers have contacted each other LGA (Hindmarsh, Yarriambiack, West Wimmera and Northern Grampians) and plan to hold an event in each area. Contact your local Shire office to find out what is happening in your area...

*Don't just stop on IVD. Recognising volunteers all year round is simple and easy!  
There are many ways in which volunteers can be recognised for their remarkable spirit of giving.*

Stay tuned for our next Information Sheet, on a topic to be announced, if anyone has suggestions feel free to email them through: [brooke@wimvol.com.au](mailto:brooke@wimvol.com.au) !!!

[HOME](#)