

Wimmera Volunteers
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The Volunteering Voice

July 2009



Helping
communities
help themselves

Wimmera Volunteers Blog.

You may have now well and truly noticed that Wimmera Volunteers is branching out into cyberspace with the introduction of a "blog". A blog is regularly updated online journal – a diary if you will. If you haven't seen our blog yet, you can find it by putting "Wimmera Volunteers" into the Google search engine or you can go to <http://wimmeravolunteers.blogspot.com>. The blog's title is called "Chipping in..."

The blog is another tool for us to help rural and remote groups and volunteers learn about aspects of volunteering and volunteerism. It's a more conversational style than most other forms of communication, but should be just as informative. Individuals are encouraged to make comment on posts with their views and ideas. What is said in a blog is usually the perspective of the author of that post and not necessarily "gospel" so, if you do want to say something in response to a blog post, feel welcome to do so! It is by sharing in the conversation about volunteering that we all get to learn and grow!

If you would like to be notified when a new post to the "Chipping in..." blog is available to read, there are two options.

The first is to make sure I have your email address and contact details. I will usually send out a quick email to everyone on my lists to let them know when a new blog post is available. The second and most efficient way is to put the "feed" of the blog, which is a special URL, into a blog reader tool such as Google Reader, or Bloglines or in your MS Explorer browser. The blog has a subscription button from which you can select the reader you would like the new posts to update to. Alternatively, if you have MS Explorer, you can check the little orange RSS button in your tool bar and go through the subscribe process there. A further option is to check for any new information from our website at <http://www.wimmvol.com.au>. The blog, as well as information sheets, newsletters and volunteer events can be accessed here as well.

If you would like to learn how to set up a blog or a page on Facebook for your own group, I may be able to assist. Call Michelle on 5382 5607 for advice and information about using the internet to connect with your volunteers and the community.

DID YOU KNOW?

Wimmera Volunteers now has a wonderful Badge making machine

Your group may use the machine for any labelling activity really, but some ideas could be:

- To identify program volunteers.
- To identify guests at a workshop or event
- To identify committee members and positions

The list is endless.

The machine is available for use at the Wimmera Volunteers office at 20 Firebrace St Horsham. A small fee will apply.

Coming Events

October 2nd & 3rd – Relay for Life. Get your team together now to raise money in the fight against cancer. Contact Team Manager Lyn Smith 53821936

October 11th to 18th - Back to Nhill Celebrations.

October 14th - Ride to Work Day. To register go to <http://www.registerridetowork.com.au/>

October 21st to 25th – Awakenings Festival. To volunteer contact Jacinda O'Sullivan jacindao@wimmera.unitingcare.org.au

October 30th to Nov 1st – Natimuk Frinj Festival. To volunteer contact natifrinj@hotmail.com or call 53871096

BOOST Wimmera meetings for September 2009:

" Meeting Procedures & Meeting Etiquette".

Dates for the meetings will be as follows:

Warracknabeal 1st, Nhill 7th, Stawell 9th, Horsham 14th, Edenhope 16th.

The BOOST Wimmera Network is for clubs, organizations and groups to share, resource, support & strengthen themselves and each other. At the next series of meetings you will learn some tips on meeting procedures and meeting etiquette. Contact Marcy Britten of the SHARE Volunteers Wimmera Project at 20 Firebrace St Horsham for more information.

Email share@wimmvol.com.au Phone: (03) 5382 5607

GRANTS

IMPORTANT: Make sure your group prepares for the **2nd round of The Wimmera Volunteers Small Grants Program**. Dates to be announced soon, but it is envisaged this next round will be for Sept/October 2009, so stay tuned!

Harold Mitchell Foundation. If you have Deductible Gift Status (DGR) and need funding for an Arts or Health project in your community, this ongoing funding opportunity is available. Website: <http://www.haroldmitchellfoundation.com.au>

The current round of the **FRRR Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program** is open until September 30th. Go to the following website for further information <http://www.frrr.org.au/programsDetail.asp?ProgramID=4>

The Helen & Geoff Handbury Fellowship Grants in partnership with RMIT are providing sustainability grants to individuals and teams to undertake fellowship projects that provide a direct and tangible benefit towards the sustainability of Western Victoria region and surrounds. <http://www.rmit.edu.au/globalism/communityformation/handburygrants>

The Australian Disability & Indigenous People's Education Fund (ADIPEF) is a new grant opportunity for disadvantaged disabled and/or indigenous individuals to further their education and life-long learning. More information is available from <http://www.adipef.org.au/>

NOTE: Please let your **eligible seniors** know that they can now access **concession fares** on interstate public transport systems as part of the National Seniors Transport Scheme. The scheme will provide incentives for seniors to spend their tourist dollars in Australia and is a boost for communities and businesses that depend on tourism

Training opportunities

VCOSS CONGRESS: This year's congress, *Protecting Social Equity When The Going Gets Tough*, will explore the challenges and opportunities for promoting social equity during the economic downturn. Thursday 6 August and Friday 7 August, RACV Club, 501 Bourke St, Melbourne

Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly, **Responsible serving of alcohol courses** will be held regularly in Horsham and other areas in the coming weeks. Contact David Terry and Sam Witmitz at the new shop front for the WRSA in McLachlan St Horsham opposite the RSL Club. 5382 4599

Open Space forum on authentic leadership: This is highly participative, adult learning, where you will form your own leadership philosophy, get to discuss any leadership issue that is important to you and take out of the day everything you need. The forum will be held on August 21st in Melbourne, and is \$299 pp. Contact admin@johncoxon.com.au for further information and to register.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SESSIONS will be at Wimmera Volunteers on Tuesday 4th August and Tuesday 1st September beginning at 10:00am. Registrations are preferred. This 2 hour session is recommended for all prospective and serving volunteers – and their managers - in groups and agencies from across the Region.

"Leadership: It's all about you" Volunteering Victoria will hold a workshop for all managers and coordinators of Volunteers. **When?** Wednesday 19 August 2009 from 9.00 am to 3.30 pm. **Where?** Clayton Utz Boardroom - Level 18 333 Collins Street, Melbourne. **Cost?** \$25 per person (includes morning tea and lunch). Limited to 50 participants. Contact Glen Sutherland at Volunteering Victoria on (03) 9934 0505.

New Volunteer Positions NEEDED NOW

Wimmera Volunteers needs many more Volunteer Vacancy descriptions to fulfill demand.

If your group needs volunteers, then please get in touch with Michelle at the Wimmera Volunteers office and register ALL your Volunteer Requests and Position Descriptions as soon as possible.

Volunteer Vacancies

The Wimmera **No Interest Loan Scheme** based in Horsham has a number of very interesting positions available for suitable volunteers. From simple administrative duties right up to being a fully fledged committee member, NILS will give volunteers the satisfaction of knowing that they are making a difference for very low income families in the region.

The **National Heart Foundation** is currently recruiting for Volunteer Doorknockers for its annual appeal. It is also seeking interested volunteers to engage in fundraising and speaking engagements. This community service organisation promotes and educates the community on healthy heart practices and has a strong volunteer support infrastructure.

Wimmera Woodturners Guild is seeking a Secretary for the group. There is no need to know how to make wooden objects, just an appreciation for the art and an enjoyment of participating in a strong Wimmera Club. The Wimmera Woodturner's Guild holds an amazing expo each year and the Secretary will be a key person in the development of this community event.

The Feed Melbourne Food Storage Campaign is aiming to raise \$1m dollars to help charities in Melbourne and in regional Victoria store, handle and deliver donated fresh food to those in the community who are doing it tough. If your organisation distributes food to disadvantaged families you may qualify to be a part of this program. Further information is available on the website <http://www.feedmelbourne.org.au/#>

MORE TRAINING OPTIONS

Our Community together with **The Australian Institute of Community Practice and Governance** has the calendar of training options now available. These training workshops are designed to help community groups and coordinators of volunteers maximize their ability to continue and develop the work they do.

Read more:

<http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/training/calendar.form#ixzz0LqdpzG3I>