

August 2010

Farewell Michael Collisson

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Sadly, last month we farewelled our Coordinator Michael Collisson, after seven years at Volunteer Network Michael decided its time to move onto his next adventure.

We will miss Michael and his sense of humour as he was a bit of a character always playing practical jokes on the staff & volunteers at Volunteer Network.

On a more serious note Michael was a great person to work with and has been a great mentor and friend to all of us. He will be sadly missed.

We take this opportunity to thank him and wish him all the best on the next chapter of his life.



Burwood Council
heritage • progress • pride

Changes at Volunteer Network

Julie Stralow is now Acting Coordinator and will be combining her Recruitment and Coordinator positions for the next three months.

Jacqueline Martins will be taking on the training role for Volunteer Network, as well as her other positions as TAB2 Coordinator and Woodstock programs.

If you have any enquires, please fill free to contact us on 02 9911 9855.



**Volunteer Network is a HACC
funded organisation**

2010 NSW VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Centre for Volunteering is promoting the 2010 NSW Volunteer of the Year Award and its call for nominations for individual volunteers, volunteer teams and corporate volunteers.

The Awards encourage individuals, community, corporations and Government to “Appreciate, Recognise and Celebrate” the 2.4 million volunteers across NSW.

Please spread the word about the benefits and positive community impact of volunteering.

Visit www.volunteering.com.au or call 02 9261 3600 for a nomination form.

Entries close 30 September 2010



The 2010 NSW Volunteer of the Year Award poster has been released and features a selection of selfless volunteers from around the state.



THE SPEAKERS CORNER PROGRAM



VOLUNTEER NETWORK AND CASS RUN ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES FOR LOCAL CHINESE COMMUNITY

CASS and Volunteer Network are currently running a joint program that is helping members of the Chinese community enhance their English conversation skills. The project known as the Speakers Corner is held in the grounds of Woodstock Community Centre every Wednesday during school term.

Volunteer Network Coordinator, Michael Collisson said “we are really excited about this project which has proved to be very popular with the volunteer tutors and participants alike. This program gives people the opportunity to engage in English conversation with volunteers in a non-threatening and social environment”

“We feel that this program will help participants to feel more confident over time about utilising their English skills out in the community and in everyday social situations” he said

The project is currently supported by 20 volunteers and is attended by an average of 40 – 60 participants.

If you would like to be part of this successful program either as a Volunteer Tutor or a participant you can find out more by contacting the people below.



Chinese Community at Speakers Corner

People from the Chinese community who wish to participate should contact Jennie Vien on 02 9789 4587



Volunteers at Speakers Corner

People interested in volunteering for this project should contact Julie on 02 9911 9855



The Ella Centre

Community Visitors Scheme



The Ella Centre runs a Community Visitors Scheme (CVS) which is a national program providing companionship to socially isolated people living in Australian government-funded aged care homes.

A community visitor is a person who sets aside time, at least once a fortnight, to visit and befriend a resident of an aged care facility.

This service aims to enhance the quality of life for residents in aged facilities, who may feel isolated and lonely due to limited family or friends, for cultural reasons, or through disability.

As part of the CVS program, The Ella Centre is seeking Community Volunteers to visit a resident on a regular, one-to-one basis for a chance to make a positive difference by stimulating social contact.

Volunteers and residents of aged care homes within the Inner West region of Sydney are matched to encourage enjoyment for both.

Those interested in getting involved in the Community Visitors Scheme please contact Araliya Gunasekera on 9798 5140 or Email: cvs@ella.org.au

SPARK

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW



VINNIES CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP SUPPORT REFUGEE CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS

SPARK is an after-school program that provides support to newly arrived refugee children and their families through primary schools in Central Western Sydney.

SPARK is looking for volunteers who can spare approximately 1.5 hours (3 – 4.30pm) a week (Mondays – Thursdays) at schools in Central Western Sydney. Volunteers are involved in assisting primary school aged children with their school work and English skills. By volunteering with SPARK you will be part of a very rewarding program that provides much needed assistance to refugee children and their families. No teaching qualifications or experience are required, as training is provided.

Next training sessions will be held in October 2010.

We are looking for people who are enthusiastic, friendly and patient, and who love working with children.

Those interested in getting involved in the SPARK program can call (02) 9568 0280 or email spark@vinnies.org.au.



If you are interested in volunteering but not sure what is available, please contact Julie at Volunteer Network on 02 99119855 or Email: julie.stralow@burwood.nsw.gov.au also you can check out our website: www.volunteer.network.org

NSW Multicultural Health Week

5 NEW LANGUAGE HEALTH RESOURCE INFORMATION LINES LAUNCHED FOR MULTICULTURAL HEALTH WEEK 2010

5 new language health resource information lines have been launched by NSW Health for this year's Multicultural Health Week (MHW). The new Arabic, Chinese, Dari, Korean and Vietnamese phone services will run during Multicultural Health Week to enable callers to speak to bilingual health workers and order information kits in their language which will include fact sheets on health topics relevant to them.

The Arabic, Chinese, Dari, Korean and Vietnamese health resource info lines:

Arabic: 1800 501 953

Chinese: 1800 501 952

Dari: 1800 112 954

Korean: 1800 091 424

Vietnamese: 1800 082 979

As this year's Multicultural Health Week's theme is "It's all about you – supporting healthy multicultural communities", the project aims to raise awareness about the health issues affecting culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities as well as address the communication needs of the ethnic groups in NSW. This year also acknowledges the achievements of various Area Health Services.

Peter Todaro, Director of the NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service (MHCS), the agency coordinating Multicultural Health Week since 2009 until 2012 believes that the phone lines are instrumental for members of ethnic communities who do not have a high English proficiency to have access to health information in their own language.

"Callers can just ring the health resource info lines in their language and leave a confidential message with their contact details and bilingual health workers will call them back," Mr Todaro explained.

This In Language Health Resource Information Line program is based on the Multilingual Quitline model. During 2006, Quitline NSW received 20 calls requiring the Telephone Interpreting Service or TIS. Following the inception of the Multilingual Quitlines in 2007, call traffic has increased over 3000 inbound and outbound calls over the last three years.

The Arabic, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese languages were chosen because these communities are listed as part of the top 10 highly spoken language groups in NSW. Meantime, Dari was included in the program because according to the 2006 Census it has had an increase of 48.3% since 2001 making it one of the largest language groups of the large emerging communities in Australia. Dari is also one of the top 10 languages that are being requested for Health Care Interpreters.

These phone lines are created in accordance with the NSW Health Policy which states that each person should have "The right of equality of access to health care services regardless of cultural origin or linguistic skill." It also acknowledges the responsibility of the health system to respond to its target populations which include people of non-English speaking backgrounds.

"This is a transparent operation which is easily accessible and significant as it will create an awareness of readily available in language health information that many people don't know is readily available to them." Mr Todaro highlighted. "These phone lines, if they are successful, will lead to more lines in other languages being established and targeting an even greater number of multicultural communities.

Multicultural Health Week 2010 is being held from 26th July to 1st August coordinated by MHCS in partnership with NSW Health, Local Government Shires Association (LGSA) and Special Broadcast Services (SBS).

For more information please visit www.multiculturalhealthweek.com or call MHCS on 02 9816 0347.

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Volunteer Network is an organization for people wishing to become actively involved in the local community.

We can help you find a rewarding volunteer position within a community service organization of your choice.

Your gift of time will help older people and those with disabilities live independently and comfortably in their homes.

You can choose when and where you work, within the Inner West Area.

We're on the Web!

www.volunteernetwork.org.au

Volunteer Network

TRAINING & WORKSHOPS

Hi my name is Jacqueline Martins and I'm currently acting in the position as the Training Officer for Volunteer Network for the next 3 months.

"Ever thought of providing training for volunteers and thought it was too expensive???"

We can provide a range of training for Coordinators, Managers and Volunteers in the following areas for free:

- Not Just a Volunteer
- Health & Safety
- Stress Management
- Communication Skills
- Disability Awareness
- Cultural Awareness



We can also provide training / information sessions and workshops taylor made to suit your needs for your organisation (generally free unless it's specialized) .

For more information, please contact Jacqueline Martins on Ph: 9911 9846

E: Jacqueline.martins@burwood.nsw.gov.au