



**NEWSLETTER FOR COMMUNITY AGENCIES
JANUARY 2003**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL
from the SEVRS!**

**International Volunteers Day on 5th Dec
2002**

International Volunteers Day was celebrated at Myuna Farm, Doveton by community organisations and agencies and their volunteers from the Cities of Greater Dandenong and Casey. The event and BBQ were attended by approximately 150 volunteers and family members who enjoyed the farm animals, pony rides, miniature train rides and the entertainment. We were entertained by singers and musicians from the Russian Welfare Society and the Monash-Aires and were treated to a display of Line Dancing, performed by the talented members of the "Jumbucks" from the Berwick North Senior Citizens Club.

Our thanks go to Bob Barker, Manager of Myuna Farm for his generous contribution and to his staff members, Daniel and Steve who were so helpful on the day. The South Eastern Co-ordinators of Volunteers Network also thanks the City of Casey; the City of Greater Dandenong; Coles at Dandenong Plaza; Baker's Delight, Princes Hwy, and the stall-holders of Dandenong Market for their contributions.

I would also like to acknowledge the wonderful contribution of our Network members who canvassed local businesses for donations; donated goods; accessed our great entertainers and provided assistance on the day with decorations, food preparation and as fantastic cooks at the BBQ. Thanks also to Quentin (formerly DCAB's student on placement) and Chisholm TAFE's Student Union for the use of the PA system.



SEVRS Website Launch

www.vicnet.net.au/~sevrs

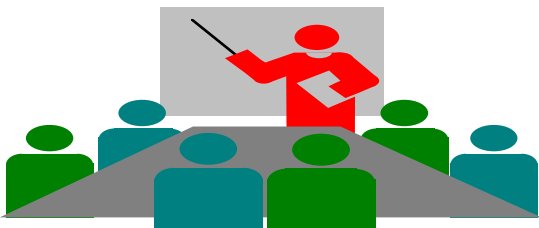
On 13th Dec 2002, the SEVRS Website was launched at the City of Greater Dandenong's Springvale office, a joint project of the SEVRS and the City of Greater Dandenong. Margaret Brown has been employed part-time to develop the Website for SEVRS. The SEVRS thanks the City of Greater Dandenong and Veroniker Spendier for their support and for hosting the launch, which was funded by the Department of Human Services.

Volunteers and agencies can access the website and register on-line with the SEVRS and become part of the community commitment to volunteering. There are links to other web-sites and everyone is welcome to browse.

International Volunteers Week for 2003

Carol Burnett from Volunteering Victoria is currently canvassing the idea of unifying the planning of events on a state-wide basis. This can be discussed further when more details are made available.

The National Volunteer Skills Centre (NVSC)



The National Volunteer Skills Centre (NVSC) is an initiative funded by the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services following on from the International Year of Volunteers 2001. The NVSC has issued an Information Kit aiming to support not-for-profit organisations with volunteer training and skills development.

The NVSC is setting up:

- generic and specialist training materials
- a comprehensive and up-to-date library of resources
- a communications strategy within the volunteer sector

The NVSC was officially opened on 5th Dec 2002 with project management being overseen by Volunteering Australia.

The Information Kit states that the NVSC aims to

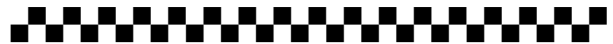
- reduce duplication of training materials across organisations
- provide training materials and training

- provide ongoing information and support in volunteer training

More information will be passed on to organisations as it is received by SEVRS.

SPECIAL REQUEST

If you need to update your organisation's details, please ask for an Organisational Profile Form. We can help you in your efforts to recruit volunteers if we have correct and up to date information. If you need a new form please contact Lara or leave a message or you can register on-line.



SOUTH EASTERN CO-ORDINATORS OF VOLUNTEERS NETWORK MEETING

NEXT MEETING:

DATE: Tuesday 11th February 2003

TIME: 9.30am

VENUE: Dandenong CAB

186 Foster St East

Dandenong

Guest Speaker:

Jessica Letch

Australian Red Cross, Victoria

Focus: Program Planning for 2003

If you co-ordinate/manage a program or service that involves volunteers you are welcome to attend these meetings - see above for details.



News from VOLUNTEERING AUSTRALIA

International Year of Volunteering Global Evaluation

A UK study of IYV 2001 indicates that the International Year of Volunteering was a 'significant success' in strengthening volunteering globally. The report also advocates encouraging governments to participate further through additional funding and resources to promote volunteering .



AGENCY PROFILE

Wellsprings for Women Inc

Wellsprings for Women is an organisation which aims to provide services and programs for women, mainly in the 40-60 age group.

Wellsprings offers a range of programs and classes, including computer skills, creative writing, Internet information and English conversation classes. Other interesting classes are relaxation and meditation, personal development, yoga and belly dancing.

Wellsprings provides community programs with volunteers through the Southern Health Respite Care Program and their Home Visiting Program for young mothers isolated in the community.



VOLUNTEER PROFILE

PETA and the CFA Edithvale

Peta came to the SEVRS in September 2002 to look for some volunteer work as she has been unable to participate in paid employment for three years. Peta cares for her young son, and has hobbies include camping and swimming, but she was looking for a new focus and new interests to enable her to become more active in the community.

After considering several volunteer options, Peta settled on the CFA at Edithvale. After participating in CFA systems training, Peta is now a committed volunteer and works in the office doing a range of administration, data entry and telephone work. Peta assists the CFA in their fundraising activities and is looking forward to future fundraising events. Peta stated that her volunteer work is a real morale booster and makes her feel that she is making a positive contribution to the community. The SEVRS wishes her well in the future.

2003 Royal Mint

Six Coin Proof and Uncirculated Coin Set

"Australia's Volunteers - *Making a Difference*"

These newly issued coin sets celebrate the goodwill of Australia's volunteers helping in the community. They are available from Australia Post and come in beautifully presented boxed sets

Volunteer vacancies

The CFA at Edithvale is looking for more volunteers to work in their office.

A training program is available.

Wellsprings for Women Inc is looking for volunteers to participate in their Home Visiting Program.

If you can assist

please contact Lara Barrett at the
South Eastern Volunteer Resource Service
9791 8344

About our Guest Speaker

**Jessica Letch is a
Detention Case Worker
for Tracing and Refugee Services
for the Australian Red Cross,
Victoria**

Harmony Day

will be held on Friday 21st March

sponsored by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs

in partnership with Volunteering Australia

Information and Harmony Day Kits will be issued shortly

South Eastern Co-ordinators of Volunteers Network Meetings

These are held monthly and provide an opportunity to share and swap ideas between organisations. By meeting together in this way, we can utilise our resources, so we can all benefit. If you haven't attended one of these meetings yet, now is the time to join. These meetings are also a good time to pop into the Volunteer Resource Service.

Do you have something you would like to contribute to this newsletter?

You might like to announce your AGM, publicise training programs, announce events, share ideas, or you may just like to share a story with other readers.

Please fax your articles to:

Lara Barrett - Co-ordinator, South Eastern Volunteer Resource Service
9792 1111 or email to

dandvol@vicnet.net.au