



Volunteer Network

June 2011



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VOLUNTEER NETWORK HAS MOVED PREMISES

Volunteer Network has undergone a number of significant changes over the past few months including moving premises.

During mid April we moved from our location at Woodstock Community Centre to Burwood Council in Elsie Street.

Burwood Council has office facilities, rooms for training, seminars and functions, it is accessible by public transport and has an underground car park.

Now that we are here we are eager to commence work and look forward to meeting and working with many of you over the coming months.

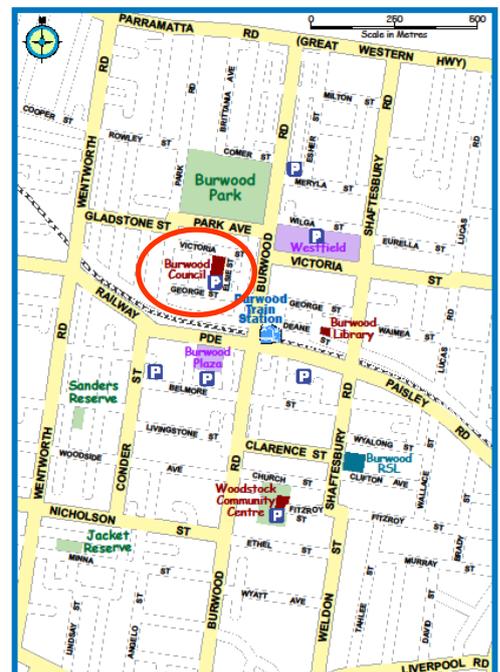


Burwood Council
heritage • progress • pride

If you are interested in advertising your Organisation in our newsletter, please send articles, pictures and logos to julie.stralow@burwood.nsw.gov.au



Burwood Council Chambers



Volunteer Network is a HACC funded organisation

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We're on the Web!

www.volunteernetwork.org.au

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.

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.

"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
- Basic 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



Volunteer Profile

Danielle Pham

Danielle Pham volunteered for Volunteer Network for 6 years for 3 hrs twice a week. Danielle was a Guest Speaker at one of our workshops and spoke about her time with us, this is her story.



My name is Danielle Pham and I am 27 years old and I have Down syndrome. I live with my Friend and carer Liz in Croydon Park she is like an extended member of my family. We have known each other since I was a baby and have lived together on a permanent basis since I was 5 years old. My family who come from Vietnam live in Brisbane and we all have a good relationship. I have 3 sisters, 1 brother, 3 nephews and 2 nieces.

I went to St Scholastics College in Glebe and did my high school certificate life skills which I did very well in.

After school I went to Tafe and did Hospitality, child care and office skills and a computer course. It was then I decided that I would like to work in an office.

I joined a job agency but paid jobs for people with disabilities are very hard to find especially in an office. Liz found me some volunteer jobs in various offices.

I worked with the Spastic Centre, Accessible arts, Cid, Special Olympics and with the Volunteer Network Centre at Woodstock.

These jobs were all on a volunteer basis and they included various office jobs, like photocopying, shredding, typing, filing, mail delivery, some cleaning jobs and various other things. Liz said it was a good thing to do cos i did get a support pension from the Government so I was getting paid and it was great not to sit at home and do nothing.

During this time I had 3 different job agencies and none of them could find me a permanent job although I did have one for a few hours a week for a 3 month period.

Three years ago I was lucky enough to go on a backpacking holiday with Liz for 3 months to Vietnam to see where my family came from, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. It was a great experience and I enjoyed every minute of it.

When I came back I had lost all my volunteer jobs which was a bit depressing but Woodstock let me come back to them which was great.

I would like to tell you about my volunteer job at Volunteer Network Service in Burwood. I worked there since 2005 as a volunteer 3 hours twice a week.

My duties included photocopying, computer work, general office duties, assisting with annual Burwood Festivals at Burwood Park and attending International Volunteer Breakfasts at Burwood RSL and assisting with morning teas and expos.

I enjoyed working with Julie, Jacqueline and Michael and they are such wonderful people to work with.

Working at Volunteer Network service made me feel happy, and kept me busy. I gained confidence and it helped to improve my office skills and social skills. I think it is fantastic to help and care for others.

People did not treat me any differently and I felt happy and useful.

We should give people with disabilities a chance. If they can't get paid work more places should let them do volunteer work. This will give them confidence, and help them gain new skills. The volunteer network service is a fantastic service which helps in all areas.

I left the service last year in November because I was lucky enough to get a job with the ABC at Ultimo. I work 4 hours a day Tuesday to Friday doing office duties. I am very happy there and love the people and what I am doing. They say I am doing a very good job.

I enjoyed volunteering at this service and I think it is great to work with such wonderful friendly people and in a friendly office environment. If I had not been lucky enough to do volunteer work I may not have got this job. I would have been very bored and not gained all the skills that I have done. If people wish to volunteer if they have a disability, please give them a fair go and this would make a BIG difference to their lives it would make them feel worthwhile.

I want to thank everybody for giving me that opportunity.

Danielle Pham



Volunteers are the life blood of our community and are often unrecognised for their valuable, selfless commitment. The annual NSW Volunteer of the Year Award recognises the outstanding efforts of the 2.4 million volunteers in NSW, promotes the importance of volunteering to the community and to organisations.

The NSW Volunteer of the Year Award was launched in 2007 by The Centre for Volunteering. It is the sole annual awards program committed to recognising all volunteers in NSW.

The 2011 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards are now open for nominations.

Nominate online or download a nomination form to complete at your leisure.

Please visit www.nswvolunteerawards.com for further information or to nominate.

Nominations close on 31 August 2011.



International Year of Volunteers 10th Anniversary 2011

'Australia Volunteers: Inspire the Volunteer in You'

This year will mark the tenth anniversary of the United Nations International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10).

Do you know that about five million Australians contribute their time, energy and expertise each year to volunteering, giving around 730 million hours of unpaid work per year.

This is a great opportunity for volunteer organisations and individual volunteers to make their contributions, at local, national and international levels.

There are many ways you can get involved to mark IYV+10:

Visit World Volunteer Web

www.worldvolunteerweb.org is the space where you can find news, background information and useful tools for IYV+10.