

Merry Christmas

The Way We Were

Welcome to our last newsletter for 2009, it is hard to believe that another year has ended. It is even harder to believe that we are nearly 10 years into the 21st Century and I'm sure most of you who remember growing up in the 1900s would have probably marvelled the same thought at one point.

I remember the days milk came in milk bottles and was delivered to your door by the milk-man. When riding your pushbike around town was safe and free from parent concern. Or the telephones, my 13 year old daughter saw a picture of a dial phone and said, "mum how do you use these phones? WOW, the simple things that many of us grew up with, is automatically perceived that everyone knows, but of course if it's not a part of your life.....,then how can you possibly know it.

Let's not forget the motor vehicles, no longer do we directly put water in the radiator, and if memory recalls, at least once a week. When air conditioning was 4 windows or an air vent and it cost more to buy an automatic than a manual.

I look forward to what life will bring us in the Year 2010.

Thank You For Your Support

I'd like to take this time to say **thank you** to the providers who have taken time out of their busy schedules throughout the year to meet with me and of course for some the many phone calls. I would also like to say **thank you** to your volunteers for the wonderful support and time they give to your staff and consumers without their assistance the workload would be far more demanding. A big **thank you** to providers and volunteers for the great response to and participation in training. The volunteers interest in learning more about the sector they work in and the providers input to recognised training needs has supported Volunteering Services' response to delivering relevant training, including the high attendance of volunteers throughout the year.

Gratification of volunteering does not stop at a volunteer organisational level, we are very fortunate within Logan City to have a council that supports and recognises the value and contribution that volunteering brings to our city. **Mayor Pam Parker** has for the past decade supported the people in the community and as Mayor, Pam still continues on a higher level to support the people and is very passionate in acknowledging the wonderful work that volunteers bring to the community. On page 2, **Mayor Parker** sends her message to all volunteers.

Thank you Pam for your heart felt message.



*A special message to our wonderful Volunteers from
Mayor Pam Parker – City of Logan*

"On behalf of Logan City Council, I would like to extend a very special thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers and community organisations that make our local community the fantastic place that it is.

Our volunteers are often the unsung heroes of this great Nation. They give freely and selflessly of their personal time, working hard and sometimes in less than favourable conditions. They commit themselves wholeheartedly to providing comfort and assistance to those in need, and all the while, they never expect or ask for anything in return.

I truly believe our volunteers deserve the highest praise and thanks for the invaluable and much needed support they provide. In commemoration of International Volunteer Day, I would like to thank all of our dedicated volunteers and community support groups from the bottom of my heart for their valuable contribution to our community. They are without doubt the reason that Logan and the surrounding areas are blessed with a community spirit that is second-to-none, and the reason why our Nation is known as the Lucky Country!

Christmas Blessings and a Safe Holiday Season to all



Rudely Interrupted

We all receive many emails and of course, many that we just delete, but sometimes we open up one or two that not only surprises us, but gives hope and inspiration to our lives and the understanding that anything is achievable. I had the wonderful opportunity of viewing a rock band, now you may say this is nothing unusual. However the rock band consists of six young males, who all share a range of both physical and intellectual disabilities, Blindness, Deafness, Aspergers, Autism and Down Syndrome. After listening to their music and their interview, it was amazing to see the strengths, talents and endurance level that these young boys have. Take the time and visit www.rudelyinterrupted.com , it demonstrates how physical and intellectual limitations do not have to be limitations.





CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS



Tamborine Mountain Community Care provided an afternoon tea to celebrate Christmas with their team of dedicated volunteers. The president, Dr John Youngman presented each volunteer with a certificate of appreciation for the work provided throughout the year along with a special thank you speech.

LANDS Community Services each year provides a Christmas dinner for their paid and unpaid workers. This year the dinner was held at the Hyatt Regency, Sanctuary Cove and a great night was had by all. However on the 22nd December an additional event will be held specifically for their volunteers, called the "Annual Volunteer Recognition Day." This event will focus on giving thanks to the volunteers for their wonderful contribution to the organisation throughout the year.

Logan Central Respite Centre fundraised throughout the year to provide for the paid and unpaid workers a memorable and enjoyable night out at the Outback Spectacular to see the Light Horse Brigade Show. Fay Jones, manager stated that all of their volunteers attended the Christmas dinner and show, and the evening was fun, exciting and enjoyed by everyone. The perfect way for paid and unpaid staff to celebrate what has been a very busy year and give thanks to our workers for their participation in providing services to our consumers

Flexible Support Services Australia and Ability Care Ltd, celebrate their volunteers together, due to the aged care and disability services operating from the same venue. Each year a special Volunteer's Christmas dinner is provided for their volunteers with the intent of management and paid workers waiting on the volunteers. This occurred by providing a sit down 2 course meal, entertainment and of course Santa visited the centre and gave each volunteer a Christmas present. The volunteers look forward to the Christmas Party each year, as there is lots of fun and laughter throughout the evening.

RSL Care celebrated their volunteers by providing a special lunch at the Sunnybank Community Sports Club. Each volunteer were asked to invite a client of their choice to be a part of the festive occasion. Volunteers received a ticket to go into the draw for a lucky door prize and each volunteer received a prize. What another exciting way to celebrate your volunteers.

*Volunteers benevolently give their time and Christmas
is a great time to give a little extra back to your volunteers.
Volunteers are more likely to continue their roles
When they're feeling appreciated.*





The Christmas Tree of Christmas Spirit



½ cup of Hugs
4 teaspoons of Kisses
1 cup of Holiday Cheer
½ cup of Peace o Earth
3 teaspoons of Christmas Cheer
2 cups of Goodwill Towards Men
4 cups of Love

1 Sprig of Mistletoe
1 large bag of Christmas Snowflakes

Mix Hugs, Kisses, Smiles and Love,
Blend in Holiday Cheer Peace on Earth,
Christmas Spirit and Goodwill Towards Men.

Use the mixtgure to fill a large, warm heart where it
Can be stored for a lifetime, for it never goes bad!
Serve as desired under Mistletoe, sprinkle liberally with

Christmas Snowflakes.

It is especially good when accompanied
By Christmas carols and a family get-together

LOVE to ONE and ALL



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