ON THE COVER:
Kara Page and Marilyn Nungala at The Purple House in Alice Springs.

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CEO, Volunteering SA&NT

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Minister for Volunteers

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LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS
Advertise through VSA&NT.

WHO WANTS TO VOLUNTEER IN SA?
Download the WeDo app to discover volunteer positions in SA.

Don’t miss

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FROM THE CEO

EVELYN O’LOUGHLIN
CEO, VOLUNTEERING SA&NT

In 2015 world leaders drew up an historical global agenda – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It outlines 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and recognises that the work of volunteers is central to achieving the goals; and that the resources, knowledge and ingenuity of volunteers is essential in complementing the efforts of Governments in supporting those achievements.

The 2030 Agenda creates a new role for ‘volunteer groups’ and a seat at the table. As the implementation phase progresses we must ensure that the voices of volunteers are heard and that their work is recognised, measured and supported at international, national and local levels.

To support this occurring, the United Nations General Assembly has called on ‘volunteer groups’ "to autonomously establish and maintain effective coordination mechanisms for participation" in its implementation. The Agenda also encourages member states to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven”.

Two important participation mechanisms are outlined below.

Since the inaugural International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) World Volunteer Conference in 1970, it has been the premier gathering for people who share a commitment to volunteering. This bi-annual gathering brings together leaders in volunteering from around the world as IAVE’s founders envisaged – exchanging knowledge and learning from one another, so that volunteering can be a means to build a bridge of understanding between people and nations.

In November 2016 I was very honoured to be a part of this experience as a presenter at the 24th IAVE World Conference in Mexico City. I was joined with my colleagues Adrienne Picone, Volunteering Australia CEO and Mara Basanovic, Volunteering Queensland CEO.

The IAVE Conference theme, Volunteering for Social Change, could not have been timelier with the SDGs barely one year-old, and Australia along with other signatory countries, on a countdown to 2030 the target achievement date.

In another IAVE-led initiative, Volunteer 2030, is a campaign to highlight the value and importance of volunteers and their work in successfully achieving the SDGs. The campaign aims to both share personal experiences of volunteers and volunteer involving organisations, and also to serve as a valuable resource centre to the global volunteer community on these goals.

Does your work contribute to the SDGs? The Volunteer 2030 website (www.volunteer2030.org) features a new volunteer story every week and they would like to hear from you. Organisations are encouraged to share stories in engaging ways that focus on quality and diversity. Let’s show the world our amazing work by contributing to this important initiative!

We proudly launched Volunteering NT on International Volunteer Day on 5 December 2016 at a reception hosted by The Right Worshipful, The Lord Mayor of Darwin, Ms Katrina Fong Lim. The event was an exciting opportunity to bring together government, local community organisations and volunteers to outline our exciting new 2016 – 2019 NT Strategic Directions and officially launch the Volunteering NT brand! See page 27.
Volunteering is an essential part of the State Government’s strategy towards promoting social participation and contribution to our economic prosperity. As Minister for Volunteers, I am extremely proud of South Australia’s history of helping others.

Our Government proudly continues its strong support of our volunteers through the Volunteering Strategy for South Australia 2014-2020. This partner-driven strategy between government, local government, the not-for-profit sector, and the corporate sector addresses key challenges affecting volunteers.

I am proud to be part of such an innovative approach towards strengthening our volunteering sector and acknowledge the strong contribution being made to the partnership by Volunteering SA&NT.

The government also extends its support to South Australian volunteers in many other ways, providing funding for community programs, equipment, resources and training.

The younger generation of our volunteering community has benefited from some more recent initiatives such as the Youth Volunteer Scholarship awards, which recognised and funded 27 young volunteers to pursue tertiary study.

In September, we launched the WeDo app, developed by Volunteering SA&NT on behalf of the State Government. This exciting new program for smartphones and tablets enables volunteers to record their hours in a “bank” and search for local volunteer groups. The app provides a great opportunity to build resumes, connect with the community and carry the volunteering spirit wherever you go!

I thank you all for your ongoing commitment to promoting volunteering and making your communities better places to live.

Volunteering SA&NT would like to thank the Minister for Volunteers for her ongoing support of our organisation.

Volunteering SA&NT is proud to be the peak not-for-profit body for volunteering in South Australia and the Northern Territory.
On 5 December 2016, Volunteering SA&NT held a successful volunteer parade, with more than 200 participants marching from the Torrens Parade Ground into Victoria Square to celebrate and recognise the efforts of volunteers world-wide. This was followed by an official acknowledgement of International Volunteer Day. A big THANK YOU and a round of #GlobalApplause to everyone who attended the Parade, it was a fantastic day.
Mentors make a difference!

DAVID JACQUIER
PROGRAM SUPPORT OFFICER, VOLUNTEERING SA&NT

A mentor is someone who sees the big picture from an objective perspective, someone who can see ‘the forest from the trees’. When things seem complicated, a mentor can help create a plan and a strategy from which to move forward with confidence. At Volunteering SA&NT our mentors have been busy doing just that.

Volunteering SA&NT mentors work with individual mentees from not-for-profit organisations to help them achieve their goals and aspirations. Through support for Multicultural Communities Council of SA’s (MCCSA) Successful Communities project, mentors also work with community groups to develop their governance, event planning, strategic plans, and vision and mission.

People can benefit enormously from the mentor/mentee relationship. One of our former mentees says “The mentoring experience helped me to achieve my short term goals, and to build a plan for long term goals. On top of that, our meetings were very enjoyable”. Organisations also benefit, by having more confident and capable leaders and managers, as a result of the mentoring process.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor or a mentee, details are available on the Volunteering SA&NT website www.volunteeringsa-nt.org.au or email mentoring@volunteeringsa-nt.org.au. Community groups can find more information about MCCSA’s Successful Communities program on their website: www.mccsa.org.au or by emailing megs.lamb@mccsa.org.au.

Physical activity = healthy community

DAVID JACQUIER
PROGRAM SUPPORT OFFICER, VOLUNTEERING SA&NT

Volunteers play a crucial role in the delivery of services in the Aged Care sector. At the Vietnamese Community of Australia – SA Chapter, Dr Huy Le, Aged Care Manager, is very proud of the achievements of all staff and volunteers in delivering their current programs. Recently, the organisation received one of the #CelebrateAge Awards from Active Ageing Australia, in recognition of their physical activity programs. Dr Huy Le says that the outcomes from the exercise programs are always positive; physical movement is very important to the clients’ overall well-being, and they show an increase in movement and range after the sessions. Not only is clients’ physical health improved, but there are also the added social and community benefits, as a result of these group activities.

The Vietnamese Community SA Chapter has a long history of delivering needs-based community services, including youth service; alcohol and other drugs service; problem gambling; legal issues; a gender equity project (anti–violence against women); and family support programs. Dr Huy Le wishes to express his gratitude to the volunteers in all organisations who willingly and selflessly give their time and support to worthwhile community activities. Volunteering SA&NT would like to congratulate the Vietnamese Community and its staff and volunteers on receiving well-deserved recognition of their work, and congratulate all recipients of the #CelebrateAge Awards.

The Vietnamese Community in Australia is always looking for new volunteers – please visit the website for further information: www.sa.vnca.org.au.
Pam’s helping hand

BRIONY PETCH
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR, ELDERCARE

Pam Horsnell is a much-loved member of Eldercare’s Trowbridge House community where she has volunteered for more than a decade. Pam says volunteering with Eldercare has made her feel worthwhile.

Adelaide retiree Pam Horsnell said she had to make a new life for herself after her husband passed away.

She chose to spend her time helping people and it is a commitment that has included volunteering at Eldercare residential aged care facility Trowbridge House in Payneham, for the past ten years.

Pam volunteers for a full day every Tuesday where her mornings involve giving residents shoulder and back massages with her ‘trusty massager’, looking after Trowbridge House’s pet birds as well as chatting with residents and enjoying walks in the garden.

Her afternoons consist of entertaining residents by reading and discussing the daily newspaper, sharing jokes and leading a popular Scrabble club.

“I’m sure we are the noisiest Scrabble group in town!” said Pam.

“Residents enjoy it, we get a good laugh out of it and we all help each other – it’s a fun afternoon.”

Pam became an Eldercare volunteer when she had a friend living at Trowbridge House.

“I was visiting her and decided that maybe I could do some volunteering and visit my friend at the same time.

“I started off doing two hours a week and gradually increased to a whole day a week – I also help out on extra days if needed.”

Pam received the Federal Member for Sturt’s Long Term Commitment to Community Service Award in 2015 and said her relationships with residents brought a lot to her life.

“By doing volunteer work, I get as much out of it as the residents seem to, and I feel happy that they are happy.”

Pam urged anyone with time on their hands to try volunteering because it’s very rewarding.

“Whether it is a couple of hours or a whole day, it will bring a lot of satisfaction to your life.”

Eldercare is one of the largest not-for-profit aged care providers in South Australia operating throughout the Greater Adelaide and Yorke Peninsula regions.

Visit eldercare.net.au or telephone (08) 8291 1030 to learn more about volunteering.

“By doing volunteer work, I get as much out of it as the residents seem to, and I feel happy that they are happy.”
For many young people interacting with police can be a confronting experience.

In South Australia, as with all other jurisdictions, the age of criminal responsibility is 10 years old, meaning that young people from this age onwards can be and are arrested if they are suspected of committing an offence.

When a young person is arrested it is their right to have a parent or guardian attend police interviews with them in order to provide support. The Young Offenders Act 1993 (SA) provides that the parent or guardian of a young person arrested on suspicion of having committed an offence must be informed and invited to be present at interview by police as soon as practicable. But what about those young people who don’t have a parent or guardian in their lives? Or whose parent or guardian cannot or will not attend their interview? Who supports these young people? A team of dedicated, trained volunteers from Red Cross.

Culturally appropriate support for young people who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander is available from the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement. Red Cross Police Call Outs program has been supporting young people in police interviews since 1 January 2016 and, since its inception, has supported over 170 young people in police custody across Greater and Metropolitan Adelaide.

A volunteer driven service, this program is made possible by a team of dedicated community members with a desire to assist some of South Australia’s most disadvantaged young people. More than 40 Red Cross volunteers are ready to provide support 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to attend police interviews on an on-call basis.

Police Call Outs team members act as objective observers of the interview process and seek to ensure due process is followed. They act as a witness to the truth and are present to ensure that there have been no threats, promises or inducements made during the police interview. Many volunteers find this to be a fulfilling and worthwhile experience. Police Call Outs volunteer Rhonda Nemer describes her experience:
Creating stepping stones

CHRIS BOWMAN
PRISONER’S KIDS COMMUNITY ADVOCATE, SECOND CHANCES SA

Sitting close to the corner of South Road and Richmond Road, Second Chances Furniture Warehouse is not only raising funds to support the children and families of prisoners through the sale of quality, pre-loved furniture – it is also becoming a stepping stone for some volunteers as they make the move into paid employment.

For Furniture Warehouse manager Liam, the development and growth he sees in volunteers during their time at the charity store is impossible to miss. Watching volunteers grow in their confidence and in the responsibilities they take on is part of what makes it all worth while for him.

Every week, Second Chances Furniture Warehouse is dependent on volunteers to drive the truck, pick up and deliver furniture, take phone calls and provide customer service - job skills which are helping to prepare and transition volunteers into the workplace.

Over the past twelve months, at least six Furniture Warehouse volunteers have since transitioned into paid employment with other businesses and although Liam rejoices with his volunteers as they find work, he acknowledges it is a bittersweet occasion.

“These are individuals who have become part of the community here at the Warehouse and they will be missed. Plus, once you’ve found and trained a great volunteer – it’s never easy to say goodbye. They’re not easy to replace.”

Volunteers like Darren, Rama and Cindy have found work elsewhere. After over 18 months volunteering as a truck driver for Second Chances Furniture Warehouse, Darren recently started a part-time job as a contracted industrial cleaner. Rama has secured himself a paid position with a business as a truck driver and after just a few months of volunteering at the warehouse, Cindy has obtained work as an office cleaner at a corporate facility.

For Liam and Second Chances SA Chief Executive, Helen Glanville, watching volunteers as they grow in confidence and learn new skills is a key part of building a mutually beneficial relationship between volunteers and charity organisations. For Helen, “Seeing people succeed makes me happy and proves that volunteering does pay off in the end!”

Second Chances Furniture Warehouse is open six days a week. For more information phone (08) 8352 7722.

For more information
telephone (08) 8272 0323, email office@secondchances.org.au
or visit www.secondchances.org.au
Growing together – family volunteering

KAREN JENKINSON
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, ADELAIDE CITY COUNCIL

At Adelaide City Council, we believe in giving volunteers the opportunity to share their passions, abilities and skills in meaningful ways that strengthen community capacity. With that in mind, we are now welcoming families to join our volunteer programs.

Caron and her son Charlie were the first to trial this new initiative. Together they weed, plant and harvest herbs and vegetables in the raised garden beds at the Box Factory Community Centre.

Caron says Charlie loves getting out in the fresh air, learning about different herbs and vegetables and picking up new gardening skills.

“It’s great that, with more sunshine on its way and some spring rain, we know these herbs and vegies will grow quickly for the community centre to utilise,” said Caron.

“Harvesting herbs and vegetables has given Charlie a fun new hobby and he’s also taking much more of an interest in using fresh produce to cook our own healthy meals.”

“Getting out in the Box Factory Garden also means that we connect with our neighbours and make new friends”.

Following on from the success of this trial, the Council’s now inviting families to join the Bushland Restoration program in Wirrarinthi area (Park 23) on the first Saturday of each month. Under the guidance of the Park Lands Ranger, volunteers of all ages will undertake a variety of tasks that are hands-on, educational, fun and family-orientated. Activities in the Bushland program include weed identification and management, planting of local native plants, animal and plant surveys and erecting and monitoring bird, bat and possum boxes.

In time, we anticipate providing more opportunities to parents/guardians and their children to spend quality time together as they share their passions with the community and reap the rewards of being a volunteer.

The Red Team at ANFE

FRANCES MCINERNEY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ANFE

Associazione Nazionale Famiglie degli Emigrati Inc. (ANFE) was established in 1961 by the late Antonio Giordano at a time when volunteering provided the Italian community a connection through shared language and culture.

Supporting Antonio was a small number of volunteers who received very little financial assistance, training or formal recognition for their efforts. ANFE’s focus at this time was to aid newly arrived Italian migrants and help them assimilate into Australian society.

In the 1980s the organisation received its first funding grant to assist migrants with settlement and help overcome cultural barriers. Prior to this ANFE had no financial support and was sustained solely by volunteers.

The landscape of volunteering has changed since ANFE’s inception in 1961. Volunteers today at ANFE are issued with a uniform, provided training, a range of resources to undertake their roles, reimbursement and annual events recognising their contributions. They are now the support team who wear red, affectionately known as ‘The Red Team’.

Today our Volunteer Program provides a vital support system to staff. We now have volunteers from twelve different backgrounds who provide services to the culturally and linguistically diverse community.
Volunteers helping students to reach their dreams

GRAHAM JAESCHKE
GENERAL MANAGER SA&NT, THE SMITH FAMILY

Volunteer duo, husband and wife Bruce and Julianne, agree that mentoring a high school student through The Smith Family’s online iTrack program is a small time commitment but can have a huge impact on a student’s life.

iTrack was developed more than 10 years ago by the national children’s education charity in response to research which shows that many young people from disadvantaged backgrounds face barriers that make it more difficult for them to complete Year 12.

The program provides support for students in Years 9 to 11 from disadvantaged communities with direction on their post-school options.

For an hour per week over two school terms, mentors chat with their student via a monitored, secure online chatroom to provide guidance, advice and encouragement on work, study and career opportunities.

Bruce, who is self-employed, and Julianne, who is working full-time, have been volunteering in the program since the start of 2016. They’ve both found the program rewarding, and easy to fit into their busy schedules, and Bruce even took on an extra challenge and made the decision to mentor two students.

“They were vastly different - one knew exactly what job they wanted to do when leaving school and the other had no idea,” said Bruce.

“The first few weeks were just about getting to know each other and finding out what was important to both students. Both had similar wants and needs, so often when researching information for one, I could use it for the other.

“Helping them to look at things differently and to research subjects about employment and studying opportunities is the main focus of what we do.”

Julianne referred Bruce to the program after she was invited to take part through her workplace’s corporate volunteering program.

“Bruce and I often talked about the things we communicated with our students in case it might apply to one of the others, which it did on a couple of occasions,” she said. “It was great to share this experience together. We’d remind each other that it was ‘Mentor Day’ and would check in to see how it went after each session.”

Volunteering though the iTrack program is a great opportunity to expand skills and experience, and boost wellbeing by knowing that you’re having a genuine impact on a student’s future. It’s one of the charity’s easiest volunteering opportunities as the program is run entirely online, meaning mentors can participate from anywhere providing they have access to the internet and a computer.

Bruce added that the program has been just as valuable for him as it was for his students. “I enjoyed the program immensely and gained some valuable insights into myself by sharing with the students, and I got a real buzz from their boundless energy and enthusiasm that can only come from being young,” he said.

“I know from their comments that they gained some insight into what their futures could be if they act on those dreams, and most importantly believe in themselves.”

For more information about The Smith Family or the iTrack program please visit www.thesmithfamily.com.au
Family Court support

SHANNON PEAKE
INFORMATION PROJECT OFFICER, WOMEN’S INFORMATION SERVICE

The Women’s Information Service provides information to South Australian women online, over the phone and in person. We aim to increase access to information that promotes choice and empowerment.

Part of the Office for Women, the Women’s Information Service, or WIS as it’s affectionately known, includes a team of skilled and dedicated volunteers who provide support to South Australian women through the shopfront in Grenfell Street and as part of the Family Court Support Program.

Last month 13 women took part in our Family Court Support Volunteer training program and we are delighted to welcome them on board. The next phase of their program and we are delighted to welcome

Family Court Support Volunteer training

the Family Court Support Program.

The Family Court Support Program began in 2006 and has supported countless women in the courts over the years. In the last financial year alone our Family Court Support volunteers generously contributed 154 hours of their time providing support to women involved in Family Court matters.

WIS recognises the Family Court process can be stressful and sometimes long. Women can spend a lot of time waiting around in the courts and if they are on their own, this can be incredibly daunting. Over 90% of the women we provide support to have experienced domestic violence and as part of the service we provide, we require women to make use of the secure room facilities at the court to increase their safety and the safety of our volunteers.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life and provide an invaluable service to the community. They’re there for the women before and during a hearing. They also provide information about the courts and its processes, liaise with security staff and provide supportive listening and referrals to other services if needed.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers for their passion, effort and dedication to women’s safety now and in to the future.

For more information visit www.wis.sa.gov.au telephone (08) 8303 0590

The game of life

LINDA JORDAN
MEDIA PROJECT OFFICER, BAPTIST CARE

Brad Crouch was living a comfortable middle class life when a family tragedy ‘rocked’ him and his wife; challenging them to live in a way that makes a difference to the world.

They spent a year travelling throughout South East Asia, volunteering with aid organisations. With his degree in computer science and electronic engineering, Brad even built a small computer lab from broken computers and became a computer and maths teacher in an Indian Orphanage.

On their return, Brad and Miriam donated a year’s salary each to projects they’d visited overseas. Amongst other things, the money built a girls hostel and a school.

More recently, Brad’s discomfort in the face of local poverty has seen him join a team at Baptist Care’s WestCare Centre – which provides support for people in areas such as housing, health, meals and a sense of community.

His role as a Pastoral Care Volunteer is one that has seen him co-exist in the starkly contrasting worlds of well paid, corporate information technology work and the often difficult life of people living on Adelaide’s streets or in vulnerable housing situations.

"Coming into a place like the WestCare Centre where people don’t have much, and the value of a dollar is very different - it’s taught me a lot," he says.

"I grew up in a really loving family and got given a great education – you know, good health – these are all good things to be very grateful for. And I feel like we should have compassion for those who didn’t have that, or who made a couple of poor choices which have led to a life of living on the margins," he says.

So how has he gone about forming relationships with the people who come to the Centre?

"People here are wary of new faces. Especially with the younger guys - they would find it very confronting if you just walked up to them and started to chat. Men need to be doing something together..."

"We have pool and table tennis here," he explains. "Playing a game is one of the best ways you can get to know people. I was quite shocked at the standard of table tennis that’s played here. I mean – some of the guys are really good."

Brad recently organised a knockout table tennis tournament for people who come to the Centre. The competition was fierce and drew crowds throughout the day. Soon after the trophy presentation, demands for a further tournament were already being made.

"Seeing real change takes a lot of time," he says. "But if I can be part of it, then I think I’ve done my bit."
Three dedicated volunteers who have contributed to preserving the rich history of Adelaide’s oldest cemetery have notched up their 10th anniversaries as volunteers.

Bob Sutherland, Jan Smith and Michael Barnett all started volunteering for the Adelaide Cemeteries Authority in late 2006 having all seen the same newspaper advertisement calling for assistance.

“Like Bob and Michael, I saw an advert from the Adelaide Cemeteries Authority in my local Messenger newspaper asking for volunteers for a range of activities at West Terrace Cemetery,” recalls Ms Smith.

“The advert particularly caught my attention because I actually spent the first two years of my life living at West Terrace Cemetery when my father worked there as the caretaker.

“It’s certainly funny how life works to first live in a cemetery, and then decades later, go back to the same place to volunteer.”

Ms Smith has played an important role in the success of West Terrace Cemetery’s popular guided tours, helping research, develop and host tours as well as manage bookings.

“It’s such a lovely place to come and visit with so much history about South Australia. When you think about it, it really is an open-air museum,” she said.

Mr Sutherland and Mr Barnett agree, and believe many South Australians don’t realise the full extent of what West Terrace Cemetery has to offer.

“So many people would drive past the cemetery every day, but would never have entered for a look to see just how much history there is among the grave sites,” said Mr Sutherland, who has photographed each and every grave site within West Terrace Cemetery for records purposes.

“It’s a really pleasant place, and being such a unique place also, it’s been really enjoyable to volunteer here for the past decade.”

Adelaide Cemeteries Authority Chief Executive Officer Robert Pitt congratulated and thanked the trio and the many other unpaid helpers who have contributed to the growing popularity of West Terrace Cemetery in recent years.

“The Adelaide Cemeteries Authority is lucky to have such a dedicated group of loyal volunteers, particularly Bob Sutherland, Jan Smith and Michael Barnett who have contributed so much to West Terrace Cemetery over the past 10 years,” he said.

“It is good people like this who form the backbone of places like West Terrace Cemetery. I congratulate Bob, Jan and Michael on their 10-year milestones as volunteers, and hope they’re able to continue giving up their time in the future to help the Authority, and particularly the operations of West Terrace Cemetery.”

West Terrace Cemetery currently offers eight separately themed guided tours led by volunteers on a rotating basis every Tuesday and Sunday morning from 10.30am. Groups can also book private tours any day of the year.

In addition, night tours of the cemetery are also conducted every Friday evening where visitors are treated to a theatrical sound and light experience – the only experience of its kind in South Australia.
Contribution of CALD volunteers celebrated

ANDREW LEAN
PROGRAM SUPPORT OFFICER, MULTICULTURAL AGED CARE

Our culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) volunteers were recognised during the recent Multicultural Aged Care Annual General Meeting in October 2016. The Hon Zoe Bettison, Minister for Volunteers acknowledged volunteers from CALD backgrounds for their contributions to multicultural communities. Those in attendance paused to show their gratitude for the time, expertise and effort dedicated over many years by dozens of volunteers. These individuals were representative of the significant work volunteers perform for Multicultural Aged Care,

Guiding the way

LIS BRITTAN
MANAGER, WCHN VOLUNTEERS

It can be a highly stressful and daunting experience for families and carers to enter the complex hospital environment. Despite great signage and efforts to be welcoming under such conditions, there is nothing like a friendly face to greet you.

That’s why in May, during National Volunteer Week 2016, the Women’s and Children’s Hospital Volunteer Guide Team was introduced. The Guide Team was a direct response to visitors’ needs and the Women’s and Children’s Health Network’s (WCHN) approach to Person and Family Centred Care.

Most of us have entered a hospital, worried about a loved one, anxious about where to go and been overwhelmed by the maze of corridors. Visitors were clear in telling us that we could make things easier if we had a dedicated workforce to assist them to navigate the hospital and demystify their experience.

Consumer representatives assisted in the ‘design’ of the new team from conception to recruitment and continue to provide ongoing feedback. The Guide Team volunteers were specifically recruited for the role and have wonderful life and work experience to offer.

The aim has not only been to transform the visitors’ experience, but also expand the opportunities of our volunteers to make a positive difference.

What a difference they have made! In the first three months of operation the guides assisted over ten thousand people and connected them with who they needed to see and the places they needed to go.

The feedback from both staff and the visitors has been outstandingly positive. WCHN CEO, Naomi Dwyer calls them “our directors of first impressions” and says they have “created a new vibe and something very special”.

The guides themselves love their role and say things like “I love it! I’m really helping people!” and “I’m keeping fit and my brain’s keeping active. I love it!” Marilyn, a volunteer guide said “The opportunity to help a stressed family member feel a little more relaxed is rewarding and I personally feel very blessed.”

The Guide Team are easily recognised when you enter the Women’s and Children’s Hospital (WCH) Kermode Street foyer wearing their teal shirts and bright smiles. They have literally changed the face of the WCH.

The Guide Team volunteers are a fabulous addition to an already caring and dedicated team of 200 + volunteers contributing their time and skills to the Women’s and Children’s Health Network.
The Royal Geographical Society of SA (RGSSA) was founded in 1885 and is located in the Mortlock Wing of the State Library of South Australia, North Terrace.

We have around 55 regular volunteers collaborating to contribute to some strategic directions for the support for geography. We’re open 4 days per week for around three hours per day (presently Tuesday to Friday) with meetings and focus groups outside of these hours. We regularly receive enquiries both nationally and internationally.

There are many facets to the RGSSA which are all delivered through volunteer activity. These include:-

- Publishing
- Library Operations
- Relics Management
- Lectures and Events
- Administration and Finance

Volunteers need to be members who are self starters and keen to get involved in either the history, or the current settlement patterns of humankind through varying environments, in particular our sphere of the world, Oceania. They may be able to contribute to some strategic direction for the support of geography and history through community education. International volunteers are welcome and especially volunteers from sorority geographical societies.

The RGSSA’s resources are internationally significant, being one of the largest privately own geographical libraries in the Southern Hemisphere.

Some of the tasks volunteers contribute to are:-

- Catalogue or assist with library services, research or indexing.
- Evaluate and source publishing content for in-print or web based output.
- Information Technology and digitisation.
- Liaison with ACARA for resource identification and national cultural institutions for exhibitions.
- Manage core volunteer groups.
- Market the products and services of the RGSSA, including welcoming national and international visitors.
- Repairs and maintenance of some rare paper-based materials.
- Research and source national speakers on geographical/historical topics.
- Strategic direction for the RGSSA in relation to the nation’s curriculum needs.

Our Annual Report captures a yearly summary of our activity, visit www.rgssa.org.au.

To see some material from our collections, visit www.rgssa.org.au/Exhib2016.pdf

For more information telephone (08) 8207 7265
email: admin@rgssa.org.au or visit us at
The State Library complex,
cnr Kintore Ave & North Tce Adelaide
Growing a better community together

TONY AMATO
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR, CITY OF TEA TREE GULLY

For decades Tea Tree Gully residents have engaged in many and varied volunteer activities that make an invaluable contribution to our thriving community. Now they are working in partnership with the City of Tea Tree Gully (Council) to deliver much-needed programs and services.

For many of Council’s unpaid helpers, getting involved in volunteering is the beginning of a rewarding association that continues for years, with most building lasting relationships with each other and the community.

Peter Ferguson is one of many volunteers to join the City of Tea Tree Gully. After driving buses on the O-Bahn Busway for 10 years, Peter was forced to quit his job to take on the role of full-time carer for his wife. Peter looked after his wife for three years before seeking employment. Unable to find work, he signed up as community bus driver, a role he has occupied for more than four years. Not yet eligible for retirement, Peter’s three days a week fulfil his Centrelink requirements, and allow him to continue to do something he loves.

“It’s not just about shopping, it’s about the socialising. Everyone is friendly and fun, and when they smile and say, ‘See you tomorrow’, it makes my day. I like to be social, and my daughter says this job is right up my alley,” Peter said.

Like Peter, anyone who loves helping others, has a passion for teaching children or just wants to build a better community, may enjoy volunteering with the City of Tea Tree Gully.

The Council is currently looking for enthusiastic people to join its volunteer program. They have two volunteer opportunities available. The first involves assisting frail, aged or individuals with a disability to do their shopping or attend medical appointments. The other is teaching children basic road and cycle safety at the local Road and Cycle Safety Centre.

For more information telephone (08) 8397 7444 or visit www.cttg.sa.gov.au/volunteers

PETER FERGUSON WITH A COLLEAGUE AT CITY OF TEA TREE GULLY
Which sessions will you and your teams attend this year?

CAROLE ROGERS
TRAINING COORDINATOR, VOLUNTEERING SA&NT

The 2017 Training Calendar is already starting to fill up with a mix of tried and true sessions and exciting new formats that will cater for our diverse members and clients.

In South Australia, we are pleased to continue offering our suite of Free Introductory courses with support from the SA Government Office for Volunteers. We now offer six different free sessions for volunteers on a rotating basis three times a year.

As well, our Webinars for Volunteer Managers offer support and professional development opportunities for people in regional areas.

We are also pleased to be providing more learning and development sessions in Darwin, Palmerston, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine during 2017. Volunteering NT will be hosting a number of different professional development opportunities for both volunteer managers/coordinators and volunteers such as training sessions, network meetings, webinars and workshops.

Which session is for you?

INTRODUCTORY SESSIONS: a mix of free and subsidised sessions offering basic information and skill development for volunteers and volunteer managers new to the sector.

INTERMEDIATE SESSIONS: for people with some experience in volunteering or working with volunteers and wanting to increase skills and knowledge.

ADVANCED SESSIONS: for experienced, skilled professionals in the volunteer sector who want to engage and collaborate with like-minded peers and broaden their networks through forums, master classes and professional training.

TAILORED SESSIONS: a cost effective way of delivering training to your group – have Volunteering SA&NT’s trainers come to your organisation. If you’re interested in exploring this option, please contact Volunteering SA&NT for a quote. As well as our essential volunteer management workshops, Volunteering SA&NT can provide training on topics such as Event Planning and Marketing, Grant Writing, Governance, Customer Service and Strategic Planning.

Registration for each training session is easy! Follow the links on our website or call our offices for assistance.

Visit our website for full program details.

www.volunteeringsa-nt.org.au
**Volunteers**

Individuals working in the volunteer sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Training Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SA &amp; NT</td>
<td>Volunteering 101 – FREE</td>
<td>Introductory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Communication: Communicating Effectively – FREE</td>
<td>Introductory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Communication: Communicating with Confidence - FREE</td>
<td>Introductory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Communication: Skills Development</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Communication: Customer Service - FREE</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Communication: Volunteering with Older People - FREE</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Mentoring for Beginners – FREE</td>
<td>Introductory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Mentoring: Professional</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Mentoring: Tailored</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Grant Writing: For Beginners</td>
<td>Introductory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Grant Writing: Refining Your Application</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Grant Writing: Finessing Your Application</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Volunteer Management**

Coordinators, managers and other staff in management and supervisory positions supporting volunteers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Training Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Making Teams Work - FREE</td>
<td>Introductory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Brand Champions &amp; Social Media</td>
<td>Introductory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Event Management &amp; Marketing</td>
<td>Introductory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Communicating with Confidence - FREE</td>
<td>Introductory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Communication: Conflict Resolution</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Communication: Speaking in Public</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Communication: High Level Skills</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA &amp; NT</td>
<td>Communication: Challenging Behaviours</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Communication: Advanced Public Speaking</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<tr>
<td>SA &amp; NT</td>
<td>Volunteer Management: The Essentials</td>
<td>Introductory</td>
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<tr>
<td>SA &amp; NT</td>
<td>Volunteer Management: Supervision</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
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<tr>
<td>SA &amp; NT</td>
<td>Volunteer Management: Tricky Situations</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Volunteer Management: Tools for Advocacy</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Volunteer Management: Professional Development Forums</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA &amp; NT</td>
<td>Recruiting: Finding New Volunteers</td>
<td>Introductory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA &amp; NT</td>
<td>Recruiting: Writing Role Descriptions</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
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<tr>
<td>SA &amp; NT</td>
<td>Recruiting: Interviewing Techniques</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
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<tr>
<td>SA &amp; NT</td>
<td>Recruiting: Induct, Reward, Retain</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Recruiting: CALD Volunteers</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Recruiting: Engaging Gen Y</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA &amp; NT</td>
<td>Recruiting: Selection Strategies</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Organisations**

Governance for small, medium or large organisations, operating with full or partial volunteer support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Training Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Grant Writing: For Beginners</td>
<td>Introductory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA &amp; NT</td>
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<td>Intermediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Grant Writing: Finessing Your Application</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA &amp; NT</td>
<td>Governance: An Introduction</td>
<td>Introductory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Governance: Skills for Boards and Committees</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Governance: Meetings – Do’s and Don’ts</td>
<td>Introductory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Governance: Treasurer’s Role in small NFPs</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Governance: Financials, Meetings and More</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA &amp; NT</td>
<td>Governance: Risk Management</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Volunteering SA&NT 2017 Training and Development Program

### Introductory

To develop foundation skills – for:
- people new to the volunteer sector
- people keen to gain new skills and information on volunteer related issues.

### Intermediate

To build on existing skills & knowledge – for:
- people working in the volunteer sector with some experience & skills
- people looking to upgrade their skills, share experiences with peer colleagues and increase their networks.

### Advanced

To bring accomplished professionals together – for:
- people in the volunteer sector who are highly experienced & skilled
- people wanting to engage and collaborate with professionals from existing networks, other sectors and business.

### Training in South Australia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 15 February</td>
<td>Mentoring for Beginners</td>
<td>10:00am – 12:00pm</td>
<td>FREE training supported by Office for Volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 16 February</td>
<td>National Standards for Volunteer Involvement Workshop</td>
<td>9:30am – 1:30pm</td>
<td>$120.00 VSA&amp;NT Members $145.00 Non-Members includes hard copy &amp; e-workbook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 22 February</td>
<td>Working in Teams</td>
<td>10:00am – 12:00pm</td>
<td>FREE training supported by Office for Volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1 March</td>
<td>Volunteering with Older People</td>
<td>10:00am – 12:00pm</td>
<td>FREE training supported by Office for Volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 8 March</td>
<td>Communicating Effectively</td>
<td>10:00am – 12:00pm</td>
<td>FREE training supported by Office for Volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 15 March</td>
<td>Grant Writing for Beginners</td>
<td>10:00am – 12:00pm</td>
<td>$25.00 VSA&amp;NT Members $30.00 Non-Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 16 March</td>
<td>Webinar: National Standards for Volunteer Involvement Workshop</td>
<td>10:00am – 12:00pm</td>
<td>$55.00 VSA&amp;NT Members $66.00 Non-Members includes e-workbook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 22 March</td>
<td>Making Customer Service Simple</td>
<td>10:00am – 12:00pm</td>
<td>FREE training supported by Office for Volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 29 March</td>
<td>Finding &amp; Keeping Volunteers</td>
<td>10:00am – 3:00pm</td>
<td>$72.00 VSA&amp;NT Members $90.00 Non-Members (Lunch not included)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 6 April</td>
<td>Volunteer Management 101: The Basics</td>
<td>9:30am – 4:00pm</td>
<td>Members only $115.00 includes lunch. ($99.00 Early Bird by 15/12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19 April</td>
<td>Leading Volunteers</td>
<td>10:00am – 3:00pm</td>
<td>$72.00 VSA&amp;NT Members $90.00 Non-Members (lunch not included)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All sessions held at Volunteering SA&NT:
Level 5, 182 Victoria Square Adelaide, unless otherwise noted.
Registration required at www.volunteeringsa-nt.org.au or telephone (08) 8221 7177

FREE training supported by funding from Office for Volunteers
# Volunteering SA&NT

## 2017 Training and Development Program

**Introductory**
- To develop foundation skills – for:
  - people new to the volunteer sector
  - people keen to gain new skills and information on volunteer related issues.

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- To build on existing skills & knowledge – for:
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  - people looking to upgrade their skills, share experiences with peer colleagues and increase their networks.

**Advanced**
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  - people in the volunteer sector who are highly experienced & skilled
  - people wanting to engage and collaborate with professionals from existing networks, other sectors and business.

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## Training in Northern Territory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 16 February</td>
<td><strong>Finding Volunteers - Darwin</strong></td>
<td>10:00am – 12:00pm</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 22 February</td>
<td><strong>National Standards For Volunteer Involvement Workshop - Darwin</strong></td>
<td>9:00am – 1:00pm</td>
<td>$50.00 VSA&amp;NT Members $65.00 Non-Members (includes lunch and workbook)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 16 March</td>
<td><strong>Cultural Awareness - Darwin</strong></td>
<td>10:00am – 12:00pm</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBC</td>
<td><strong>Cultural Awareness – Alice Springs</strong></td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 23 March</td>
<td><strong>Katherine Networking Meeting/ Finding &amp; Keeping Volunteers - Katherine</strong></td>
<td>10:00am – 12:00pm</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 20 April</td>
<td><strong>Induct, Reward, Retain Volunteers - Darwin</strong></td>
<td>10:00am – 1:00pm</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 21 April</td>
<td><strong>Induct, Reward, Retain Volunteers - Palmerston</strong></td>
<td>10:00am – 1:00pm</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBC</td>
<td><strong>Tennant Creek Networking Meeting/ Finding &amp; Keeping Volunteers - Tennant Creek</strong></td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 4 May</td>
<td><strong>Managing Event Volunteers - Darwin</strong></td>
<td>10:00am – 4:00pm</td>
<td>$50.00 VSA&amp;NT Members $65.00 Non-Members (includes lunch and workbook)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBC</td>
<td><strong>Managing Event Volunteers – Alice Springs</strong></td>
<td>10:00am – 4:00pm</td>
<td>$50.00 VSA&amp;NT Members $65.00 Non-Members (includes lunch and workbook)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Darwin sessions held at Volunteering NT, Darwin Office, Charles Darwin Centre, Level 16, 19 Smith Street. Telephone (08) 8963 5624 for information.

VSA&NT reserves the right to cancel or reschedule courses that do not meet the minimum number of attendees.
When Jeanette ‘Nettie’ Davidson’s husband passed away three years ago, she decided she wanted to keep his tradition of volunteering at the University of Adelaide’s Waite Campus alive and stepped into his shoes.

Nettie is the University’s oldest volunteer, a very spritely 90 year old. She visits the Waite gardens once a week to prune the roses and weed the gardens, just as her husband Torben had done for 18 years before her.

Torben was an active volunteer when he passed away at 91 and Nettie remembers how much joy he got from volunteering.

“He used to come home and say, ‘they are so lovely, such a lovely group’,“ says Nettie.

“Some months after he died I thought, ‘I need to take his place now’ and I have been coming here ever since.”

Torben had a long connection to the Waite as his father, Professor James Davidson, was the first Professor of Entomology at the campus.

With fond memories of picnics with her husband and grandchildren in the gardens, Nettie says she is happy to spend time volunteering in the beautiful surroundings.

“We are so fortunate to have the arboretum, why wouldn’t you want to volunteer in such a serene and beautiful place?” she says.

“It’s amazing how many people don’t know it’s here.”

Now a great grandmother, when she’s not volunteering Nettie keeps herself busy with her family and weaving, calling herself a ‘crazy weaver’.

Her thoughts on the title of ‘oldest’ volunteer? “I don’t really feel like I’m 90 but I suppose it must be true!”

There are volunteer opportunities available at the Waite Arboretum, Urrbrae House Gardens and Conservation Reserve. Our volunteers work with nature and make a practical difference in a fun, supportive and inclusive environment with like-minded people.
University of the Third Age

Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life. Volunteer roles are the same.

University of the Third Age (U3As) are all-volunteer, self-help groups which retirees in a community create for themselves. They provide affordable educational and leisure activities to retirees or anyone over 50 who is no longer in full-time employment.

Many members think becoming eligible for U3A was the best thing about turning 50. It is all about staying sharp and making the most of your retirement years doing things you enjoy with like-minded people.

The founders of U3A, back in the 1970s, discovered something which has sustained the movement ever since. Amongst the seniors in any community there’s a lifetime of experience and extensive knowledge on a wide range of subjects which could be passed onto others.

There are 19 U3As in South Australia, split between metro and country, and they are all different. Groups are totally autonomous and set their own curriculums according to the interests of their members. The groups range in size from 50 to 950 members, and their offering can vary from a panel of interesting guest speakers to a comprehensive syllabus of 65 subjects.

Members join to teach, learn, and find people who share their interests. Someone might join as a tutor to share their passion for photography and find that they also enjoy the friendships they have made in the book group, or plan to enrol in kayaking next term.

Activities such as learning computing or exercise classes are less daunting when shared with people of your own age group.

The motto of U3A in South Australia is Staying Active: Mentally, Physically and Socially because research has shown that keeping mentally alert, physically active and having a good group of friends helps ward off the negative aspects of aging. These three points can be the key to people staying in their own homes for longer, leading happier and healthier lives.

It is frequently the people who put in most who receive most benefit.

If you have knowledge or skills to share, consider joining a U3A. Sometimes a skill can be something you take for granted like being a whizz with an iPad or on social media or a passion for cryptic crosswords.

“Teaching other people really keeps you on your toes whether it is answering probing questions in the classroom or searching the internet for teaching materials. Even joining the administration team helps keep you abreast of new technology and website design. Not to mention the new friends. My trips to the local supermarket can now take twice as long as I keep stopping to chat with fellow U3A members.”

Claire Eglinton
Caring for nature in Mitcham for 20 years

TANIA KEARNEY
MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, TREES FOR LIFE

This year Karen and David Jones are celebrating 20 years of bushcare volunteering with South Australian environmental organisation, Trees For Life.

The couple approached Trees For Life in 1996 as they wanted to show their children, then aged 10 and 12, that they could do something positive for the environment.

In their first year Karen and David ‘adopted’ Mitcham site Karinya Reserve West, just five kilometres from their home. They have been caring for it ever since.

Karinya Reserve is a bushland triangle of 1.70 hectares in Eden Hills. It is considered mixed woodland and in spring there is a parade of colour with many lilies, orchids and small bushes.

“Even though we have been on the site for 20 years, we still occasionally find a new plant. It was many years before one hot summers day when we were lucky enough to see the flowers of the beautiful delicate Tall Lobelia (Lobelia gibbosa) which had been on our species list all those years. There are always new delights,” Karen said.

For several years the Jones’s children helped them care for the site and in recent years have been joined by two more enthusiastic local volunteers.

“We always do our sessions as a group and we have a morning tea roster and take a break together. While we all work at the site at the same time, sometimes we split up and work in different areas. But we like to get together to have a social chat as well as to discuss bushcare.

“There is something flowering all through the year and the sight of new plants appearing is always a delight. Once we were lucky enough to be joined by four Tawny Frogmouths on one of our recent group activities!”

Karen said through the Bush For Life Program they help reduce the threat environmental weeds place on South Australia’s native bushland, allowing the natural bush to regenerate.

“We feel privileged to be able to care for an area of remnant bushland with excellent biodiversity and to enjoy its beauty. There are over 90 native plant species now on our list. We are proud that we have been part of the process of getting it to that condition.”

Trees For Life regularly holds Introductory Bush Regeneration Workshops throughout the year for people who would like to get involved as a volunteer or learn skills to manage their own bushland.
Volunteers step up for Operation Flinders

CAROLYN PICKERING
MANAGER, OPERATIONS & LOGISTICS, OPERATION FLINDERS FOUNDATION

Forty Operation Flinders Foundation (OPFlinders) volunteers helped round out a successful year’s challenging and life changing treks for youth at risk in the last exercise in late October.

OPFlinders, a registered charity, provides a remote area, outdoor trek experience for schools and agencies, working with a wide range of youth who are at risk of disengagement and social dysfunction. The challenging eight day, seven night trek involves up to 10 teams of youth in a program designed to support positive change through outdoor challenges.

OPFlinders volunteers play a pivotal role in delivering this program through a wide range of activities in Port Adelaide and on the Foundation’s property, Yankaninna Station, adjacent the Gammon Ranges, the Northern section of the Flinders Ranges, in the State’s North East.

The Foundation runs five exercises per year between March and October, with Tangos (teams) arriving and starting in a staggered formation with schools and agencies from throughout South Australia and Victoria.

Right from the start, OPFlinders warehouse volunteers assist in carrying out logistical tasks such as ration packing, vehicle checks, repairs to equipment and a wide range of small construction and mechanical projects.

At Yankaninna, OPFlinders volunteers help set up campsites and exercise infrastructure in what is called Pre-Advance. These volunteers deliver and set up night locations (camps) in the weekend ahead of the arrival of exercise staff and other volunteers. The exercise volunteers are defined into two categories; Base which includes command and support staff such as logistics, general hand and cooks; and Field who lead teams through the beautiful yet challenging landscape of the Northern Flinders.

The participants experience a range of additional activities and challenges during their trek including abseiling, cultural, where they learn about country from the local indigenous community and a wide range of team building challenges. The volunteers are also accompanied by peer group mentors, former participants who have had follow up training, and stepped up to support the next generation of participants with their own experiences.

There are many opportunities for volunteers, both young and old, particularly those who love bushwalking or being in the outdoors, or who have specialised skills such as trades, truck and forklift driving accreditation, warehouse experience or who love cooking for big groups. For those wishing to work directly with OPFlinders which is based in Port Adelaide please visit www.operationflinders.org or telephone (08) 8245 2666.
Building community connections through volunteering

Suzanne Heaton
Volunteering Program Coordinator, Barossa Village INC

An opportunity for a leading South Australian business to connect with the Barossa community has led to a rewarding relationship between Phil Hoffmann Travel and Barossa Village.

Nuriootpa travel agency, Phil Hoffmann Travel is one of 10 agencies within the group, headed by Phil Hoffmann, a former teacher. Adam Hunt, Branch Manager and Co-owner, explains how the philosophy of volunteering evolved within the organisation: “Through Phil’s experience as a teacher and then establishing a successful South Australian business, he wanted to give back to the state.” Adam says. “As part of our Wellbeing Program, all employees within the group are allocated two days leave a year specifically for volunteering, giving our people the opportunity to experience a different perspective of their community”.

Phil Hoffmann Travel has an existing partnership with Barossa Village, establishing a ‘Travel Bank’ where staff, residents and their families receive a travel bonus and in return Barossa Village gains a rebate which is “banked” to be used towards a specific project or program. This concept evolved into a volunteering opportunity following discussions between Volunteer Program Coordinator, Suzanne Heaton, and staff at Phil Hoffmann Travel.

“We were wondering where we could direct our Wellbeing Program in the Barossa, so we approached Barossa Village to see if there was any way we could tie into volunteering”, says Adam. “We started at the end of 2015 and have since participated in an induction day, helped to establish raised garden beds, spread pine bark through gardens at The Residency, tidied and organised an activity room and assisted with activities during a games day.”

Adam sees the volunteering days as fantastic for team bonding, where staff can share their experiences. “I spent a day working in the gardens and it was great to get out of the office, be outdoors and chat to some of the residents”.

Suzanne says, having corporate volunteering involved with Barossa Village has many benefits which include contributing new skills, knowledge and technical expertise, forming teams of volunteers who can periodically perform major tasks, creating wider community awareness and improving understanding between our organisation, volunteers and the community.

“We started at the end of 2015 and have since participated in an induction day, helped to establish raised garden beds, spread pine bark through gardens at The Residency, tidied and organised an activity room and assisted with activities during a games day.”

For more information telephone (08) 8562 0300 or email csreception@barossavillage.org

THE TEAM AT PHIL HOFFMANN

Barossa Village Incorporated
Many organisations advertise their volunteer opportunities via their own websites and other social media pages. This works well for organisations with a high public profile, however, for organisations less well known, traffic to their website may be slow.

This is where registering to advertise volunteer positions with Volunteering SA&NT can help you broaden your reach and better meet your volunteer recruitment needs.

When we load and activate your positions to our website, they automatically appear on the GoVolunteer website as well as the volunteering page of SEEK. This is a great way of extending your reach to more people and boosting your public profile.

The SEEK website alone gets a minimum of 7,000 visits, and on average, 8,000 expressions of interest to volunteer positions per month.

All you have to do is fill out an electronic Volunteer Position Vacancy form with your positions details and email it back to us – we do the rest!

Not only do we manage this database, but we send you an email reminder when a position has expired. We can also provide assistance to help you get the most out of your advert. Our volunteer team of database loaders can assist you with how best to word and sell your position to potential volunteers.

Our advertising program is available to all not-for-profit organisations which have current Public Liability insurance and current Voluntary Workers Insurance.

There are no fees involved and you don’t need to be a member of Volunteering SA&NT to utilise this service. Added member benefits include having your position featured on dedicated pages of the VSA&NT website.

“We were successful in obtaining an appropriate committee member and I would like to thank Volunteering SA&NT for making that possible.”

TESTIMONIAL – VICTIMS OF CRIME NT.
International Volunteer Day & the launch of Volunteering NT

International Volunteer Day was celebrated on 5 December 2016 to acknowledge the commitment and enthusiasm of all hard working NT volunteers. This year’s theme “#GlobalApplause – give volunteers a hand acknowledging volunteers worldwide and all they do in making peace and sustainable development a reality.

We held special events in Darwin and Alice Springs to celebrate International Volunteer Day and to launch ‘Volunteering NT’, the peak body for volunteering in the Northern Territory.

We were honored to have the Lord Mayor, Katrina Fong Lim host the Darwin event in partnership with Volunteering SA&NT at the Civic Centre, with more than 80 volunteers and volunteer involving organisations attending.

Volunteering SA&NT CEO Evelyn O’Loughlin was proud to launch the newly branded Volunteering Northern Territory. "Our commitment to growing volunteering in Northern Territory remains steadfast and we are confident this new chapter in our history will achieve strong community partnerships and successful outcomes for all". Whilst Volunteering NT will remain a division of Volunteering SA&NT, Volunteering NT will be the face of volunteering in the Territory.

In Alice Springs, Volunteering NT held a Volunteer Expo at the Alice Plaza, with the Alice Springs Mayor Damien Ryan opening the expo and thanking local community members for their invaluable contributions to volunteering. NT Committee member Rex Rooney (Alice Springs Town Council, CEO) launched the new brand and thanked all the volunteer organisations and volunteers involved!

We are thankful to local businesses in both Darwin and Alice Springs for their generous contributions in various forms such as catering, venues and donated prizes to give away, all of which enriched the events and celebrations of our invaluable volunteers overall.
Darwin

Alice Springs

VOLUNTEERING SA&NT
NT Volunteer Awards – Darwin & Alice Springs

The 12th and 13th of July 2016 marked yet another successful Northern Territory Volunteer of the Year Awards in Darwin and Alice Springs.

An initiative of Volunteering SA&NT, in collaboration with the NT Government, the Awards celebrate exemplary volunteer work and recognise the contribution that volunteers make to communities all across the NT.

The Award ceremonies have been held in the NT for almost a decade, and it was great to see the highest number of nominations – with 104 nominations received.

The 2016 Award winners are:

- The Volunteering SA&NT Award for Organisational Excellence (Small): Winner - Multicultural Youth NT / Highly Commended - Alice Springs Beanie Festival
- The Volunteering SA&NT Award for Organisational Excellence (Large): Winner - St John Ambulance NT / Highly Commended: Vinnies Alice Springs
- The Chief Minister’s Medal for Volunteering Achievement: Winner: Donna Hunter – North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) / Highly Commended - Dianne Tynan – Bushfires NT
- The Chief Minister’s Medal for Volunteering Service: Winner: David Joyce – Bushfires NT / Highly Commended: Peter Poole – St John Ambulance Service NT
- The Chief Minister’s Medal for Emergency Service: Winner: Ron Green – Northern Territory Emergency Services

We also presented 34 Certificates of Appreciation to volunteers at the ceremonies.
The Indigenous Giving and Volunteering Forum held in August 2016 in Darwin was a huge success. The forum was a collaboration between the Australian Government Department of Social Services, Prime Minister’s Community Business Partnership, Cultural and Indigenous Research Centre Australia (CIRCA), Australian Red Cross Northern Territory, Volunteering SA&NT and the NT Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation.

Forum attendees included community organisations interested in broadening their volunteer base, volunteer organisations interested in engaging with Indigenous organisations and Indigenous organisations seeking support for their own volunteer efforts.

Presentations on the Indigenous Giving and Volunteering Research by CIRCA, followed by the ‘Changes and Challenges of Volunteering’ by Andrea Lee (Red Cross) were held, followed by a workshop on addressing key questions around volunteering and giving in Indigenous communities, with attendees identifying the barriers to volunteering and giving, learning practical initiatives to build bridges for Indigenous volunteering and giving, and translating the research into practical and innovative action.

Pino Migilorino, Facilitator and Managing Director, CIRCA, acknowledged the forum as a successful event and recognised the support from Volunteering SA&NT and the Australian Red Cross.

Kate Frances, Principal Consultant, CIRCA “The Darwin forum was a huge success, thanks in large part to Andrea’s contribution and support, as well as Volunteering SA&NT. In particular, it was an opportunity for local people, working within the same space, to meet each other, share ideas and generate perhaps new or different ways of working that will be more inclusive of Indigenous volunteers, organisations and communities. At the very least, it has provided the opportunity for participants to extend their network-base.”

For more information visit www.communitybusinesspartnership.gov.au/about/research-projects/
Katherine Volunteer Unit

RON GREEN
DEPUTY UNIT OFFICER, NTES

Katherine Volunteer Unit is part of the Northern Territory Emergency Service (NTES) and is responsible for an area of approximately 22,500 square kilometres, including the town of Katherine and RAAF Base Tindal. The Unit is made up of a small but dedicated group of people drawn from all walks of life, backgrounds and professions.

Similar to SES units, Katherine Volunteer Unit provides assistance to the community during times of severe weather events and disasters, and when NT Police need the skill sets or equipment that the Unit offers. Katherine Volunteer Unit is also the primary flood boat response for the Region, with the pride of the Unit being their two twin motor flood boats, the QEIII and ESV401.

Over the past 10 years Katherine boat operators have been called upon to assist in the Katherine Floods (2006), Daly River evacuation (2011) and Daly River floods (2015/16). Flood Boat Operators were also on location at the end of 2011 after rescuing a couple washed off their vehicle when the Edith River Rail Disaster played out in front of them.

According to Ron Green, Katherine’s Deputy Unit Officer, “Our volunteers have put in over 440 operational hours during the past 12 months, which says a lot about the commitment of our small team.”

With in-excess of 40 years of Emergency Service experience between the Katherine volunteers, it has created a crew that is confident in their abilities, competent in what they do and a Unit to be proud of.

14 year old Volunteer of the Year

TONY BECKITT
COMMITTEE MEMBER, PALMERSTON FOOTBALL CLUB

The Northern Territory Palmerston Football Club has chosen 14 year old Andrew Simoes as its 2016 Volunteer of the Year. He was nominated as ‘Captain’s pick’ by Bill Miller, Club President who has also been a club VOTY, is a life member of the club and had the grandstand in the club’s stadium named after him. The nomination was strongly supported by the club committee with comments such as “a good choice” and, “a worthy recipient.”

Mr Miller made the presentation to Andrew at the club’s presentation evening and described Andrew as a very hard working young man. He mentioned that Andrew had arrived at 7am (1.5 hours before the start of play) every Sunday to help set up the seven fields for the days’ competitions. He then donned his referee’s uniform and typically refereed three games a week “because it is hard to get referees”, he said.

Andrew, who is a huge Stephen Hawkings fan, also said, “I am not here to become famous, I want to commit to the club to show my appreciation of it helping me”.

The Palmerston Football Club (playing the “world game”) competes in the Northern Territory Norzone competition, which is based in Darwin and surrounds, was only recently introduced to Volunteering SA&NT through a September “Finding & Keeping Volunteers” workshop held in Darwin. The club committee is looking forward to working with VSA&NT to strengthen the club through its volunteers.

Congratulations Andrew Simoes.
Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation (The Purple House) is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service. We started with an auction of paintings at the Art Gallery of NSW, raised a million dollars and set up the first community controlled dialysis service in the NT. Recently The Purple House received funding from the Erica Foundation to ramp up our volunteer activities. Kara Page is our Volunteer Coordinator, so we thought we’d ask her a few questions about her new role and opportunities for volunteers.

Why do you like working at The Purple House?
“I LOVE working here because I enjoy being part of an organisation where the patients always come first. I like that it doesn’t matter what your job description says, you get to spend time with people and learn about their lives and know that what you are doing contributes to supporting people to be at home with their family.”

How is the volunteer program going at The Purple House and what are your priorities at the moment?
“The program’s moving along nicely! Recently we’ve been able to put more of a framework around engagement with volunteers to offer them a better orientation. I’m focusing on working with the different teams to identify interesting opportunities for volunteers. Our directors, Aboriginal people from remote communities, see the volunteer program as an important way to encourage cross cultural understanding and share their love of this part of the world and its cultural and spiritual significance.”

If people are interested in volunteering with us, what can they expect?
“The Purple House is a real place of optimism and positive energy... there’s so much good stuff happening around here for people to get involved in. Every day is different. We have a drop in centre, we cook tails, make bush balms, go for hunting trips and picnics as well as practical welfare stuff.”

What will 2017 bring?
“We are working to set up dialysis in a number of new communities. One of them is Pukatja (Ernabella) in South Australia and we are looking at ways to raise money to help get this established.”

For more information, visit www.westerndesertdialysis.com/contacts/ email enquiries@wdnwpt.com.au or Facebook /The Purple Truck
Jye Thorbjornsen is a third year Civil Engineering student at Charles Darwin University (CDU) who has offered hours of his time voluntarily in Darwin over the past 12 months to talk to Northern Territory school students about his pathway through senior secondary school and into engineering.

Jye has a knack for public speaking, engaging audiences at every event for which he has volunteered, and is consistently reliable, professional, friendly and a pleasure to work with.

Jye was a panellist at the ‘Welcome to CDU Open Day’ event attended by 250 Northern Territory school students, families and school staff. He later spoke at length with a student and his parents. The parents said “we had a good chat with him, very impressed”.

On the preceding Friday evening, Jye volunteered at the Darwin Waterfront at an event jointly run by Engineers Australia, the CDU School of Engineering & IT, and the CDU Aspire Program. Over 50 interested students, parents and school staff attended to listen to Jye and a number of early career engineers and CDU students who spoke about why engineering interests them and advice they have for senior secondary school students.

Jye’s assistance, enthusiasm and willingness to volunteer his time have been invaluable and greatly appreciated.

JENNY EDDIE
COORDINATOR, ASPIRE PROGRAM, CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY

For more information visit
www.cdu.edu.au/aspire
International volunteers engaging in conservation activities across Australia

JULIET SALTMARSH
VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT OFFICER, CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

Conservation Volunteers inspires people of all ages to connect with nature. Established over thirty years ago as a non-for-profit organisation, we make it easy for people to care about the environment by offering unique volunteering experiences around Australia and overseas.

Our volunteers experience a diverse range of conservation projects and visit unique sites while travelling. We offer a variety of experiences from single day projects to overnight stays up to several months for a full experience. These opportunities are available to volunteers from anywhere in the world with no prior skills or experience needed.

Asami Nagao from Hokkaido, Japan, has been volunteering with Conservation Volunteers across Australia for 23 weeks. She began her experience in Perth for 12 weeks taking part in coastal and wetland restoration and also tree planting in bushfire recovery areas. She then travelled to Darwin and participated in a range of projects from conducting bird surveys, helping to reduce cane toads numbers at targeted sites, and maintaining a local community garden. She also helped collect marine debris at different beaches around Darwin and recorded data for a national marine debris program – Tangoroa Blue.

“I wanted to know more about nature and the environment so I searched on the internet and found Conservation Volunteers. It seemed like a great opportunity to see Australia, meet new people, and surround myself in nature. Many people don’t know about environmental issues unless they experience them directly. If I didn’t participate in these projects I wouldn’t know about the impact people can have on the environment, and how I could make a difference.”

We asked Asami:

Why should people volunteer?

“It is a great opportunity to get involved in the community of the place you are visiting. I have learned a lot about each city I have visited by volunteering. I have met so many new people, it has been good to listen and talk with so many people to broaden my English skills.”

What would you say to people who want to get involved in volunteering for Conservation Volunteers?

“Volunteering is such a great learning experience, everyone should do it to teach themselves about how we can help the environment and make a difference. Join at least once in your life so you learn to appreciate the environment and have respect for it.”

“My opinion is ‘stay longer’, one or two weeks is not always enough time to fully experience the region you are in. You need time to see all the different places, I’m proud to stay for almost 3 months and experience the full program. I would recommend to travel interstate and visit different Conservation Volunteer offices while you are in Australia to have the best experience.”

What was your favourite project that you participated in while you were in Darwin?

“I felt like I was making the biggest difference while doing marine debris surveys and helping to clean up the beaches around Darwin. It felt good to know I was helping to reduce the amount of litter and helping the local sea creatures, and I also got to see Darwin’s beautiful beaches. I helped to sort out the debris and categorise the data to be sent away to a national database. I also got the chance to use my initiative many times and input my thoughts into gardening projects.”

For more information visit www.conservationvolunteers.com.au or telephone (08) 8981 3206 or email darwin@conservationvolunteers.com.au
September 2016 was an exciting one for Red Cross as they officially opened two new sites in Darwin and the Tiwi Islands.

Judy Slatyer, CEO of the Australian Red Cross commented on the Darwin office opening “It’s a great step which means we can better coordinate services across the Territory, bringing together Red Cross people from a wide range of programs including: personal support and wellbeing services; food and nutrition programs; helping refugees and those seeking asylum; people who teach first aid and emergencies.”

[Tiwi Islands office opening] “The opening was a day of great celebration of our partnership. Our new building is an important step for Red Cross working alongside Tiwi people. Red Cross’s partnership with Tiwi has grown over 15 years and the new office reflects our ongoing, long term commitment to working with Tiwi people.

We support programs that have been determined and driven by the community - from a school holiday program to a team of 11 local staff building community capacity, providing youth and mental health programs and emergency preparedness. The new building is an important step for us working alongside Tiwi people, developing sustainable opportunities in education, employment and business.”
Who wants to volunteer in SA?

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8. It won’t be too long before the right person gets in touch with you
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