



## Community Connections

Esmé Barratt - Hills Volunteering Project Officer

### National Volunteers Week - Every One Counts

Article provided by the Office for Volunteers

The theme for this year's National Volunteers Week is Every One Counts. Minister for Volunteers, Ian Hunter said the week provided an opportunity to celebrate the vital contribution of all volunteers.

"Since being appointed Minister for Volunteers in October 2011, I've had the pleasure of meeting a variety of people and community organisations across South Australia," he said.

"I've been impressed by the passion, generosity and dedication of our volunteers."

During National Volunteer Week, the Adelaide Hills will be celebrating its volunteers in a variety of ways. A Volunteer Movie Day will be held on Thursday 17 May, hosted at and supported by Wallis Auchendarroch Cinemas in Mount Barker.

It is also sponsored by Adelaide Hills Council, The District Council of Mount Barker, Alexandrina Council and Hills Volunteering.

"This is a great demonstration of organisations coming together to thank volunteers in a tangible way. The South Australian Government is committed to supporting volunteering in the Hills," said Mr Hunter.

Recognising the need to support volunteering in local communities, the State Government provided \$200,000 in funding to South Australian councils to help them set up volunteer resource centres.

The Adelaide Hills and Mt Barker District Councils were among the first to launch their new volunteer service, Hills Volunteering, in 2009 through this initiative.

"Through the efforts of organisations like Hills Volunteering, volunteering has been supported and given a boost in the Adelaide Hills and Mt Barker region," Minister Hunter said.

"This benefits volunteers and local community organisations and services alike." Mr Hunter said he was pleased to have the opportunity to further improve the way in which the Government supports volunteering through strategies such as providing grants to support free training for volunteers, an extended Bonus Book programme to reward even more volunteers, highlighting volunteer efforts through the South Australian Volunteer Awards and celebrating volunteerism at the annual Volunteers Day concert.

Mr Hunter said that the recent redesign of the South Australian Volunteer Awards builds on the theme of "Every One Counts".

"The Joy Noble Medal has been significantly expanded into an award that can recognise any volunteer in the State, not just those participating in government programmes," he said.

"The new Premier's Award for Corporate Social Responsibility recognises the strong contribution the corporate sector makes to our communities in a variety of ways such as through philanthropy, partnerships and corporate volunteering.

"The Andamooka Community Project Award will continue to recognise a community, or group of volunteers, who have undertaken a community project resulting in significant community benefit." Mr Hunter said he was looking forward to presenting the awards with His Excellency the Governor at the annual Volunteers Day celebration on 11 June 2012.

"This is an important event on the volunteer community's calendar, and this year Debra Byrne, one of Australia's most cherished artists, will feature."

Registrations are now open. For further information visit the Office for Volunteers website at [www.ofv.sa.gov.au](http://www.ofv.sa.gov.au)



## New Book Shed seeking volunteers

The Birdwood Book Shed was opened on March 10th, 2012 and is housed in what was the original library at the Birdwood Institute. The Book Shed sells quality, preloved, adults' and children's books, both fiction and non-fiction, and magazines.

There are over 1000 books on sale and a wonderful range of non-fiction subjects.

The Book Shed, an initiative of the Friends of Birdwood Institute Inc, provides a much needed service to the local community and is the major fundraiser to provide funds for the renovation of the Institute. The next project is the kitchen which is a high priority because the current kitchen is unusable for cooking food. This makes the building a less suitable venue for hiring out to other community groups.

There are also a number of exciting programs that the Institute committee will run once the kitchen has been completed.

The Book Shed is run purely on a voluntary basis and is open only on Saturdays at present and behind the scenes one day a week to sort and price books. However, there may be the opportunity to open one extra day per week later in the year.

In the five weeks that the Book Shed has been open, it has been very well supported with donations of books and book sales. These are coming mainly from the local area, although there have been visitors from interstate and overseas who call in to the Book Shed to browse.

"If you love books, love talking about books and have a happy disposition, the Birdwood Book Shed may be the ideal place for you to spend a few volunteer hours," said Cyndy Hannan, Book Shed organiser.

"We are looking for people who would be prepared to work in customer service or assist with sorting and pricing books."

For further information please contact Cyndy on 0402 704 928.



### Are you a volunteer, or interested in becoming a volunteer?

Why not attend one of the following free workshops?

### Introduction to Volunteering

- What is a volunteer?
- The 'big picture' - roles and statistics
- Rights and responsibilities
- Policies and procedures



DATE & TIME	VENUE	RSVP
Friday May 25 1.30 to 4pm	The Mount Barker Family House, 31 Princes Rd, Mt Barker	To register phone 8391 2747 or e: <a href="mailto:familyhouse@internode.on.net">familyhouse@internode.on.net</a>
Friday June 1 1.30 to 4pm	The Hut Community Centre, 1 Euston Rd, Aldgate	To register phone 8339 4400 or e: <a href="mailto:reception@thehut.org.au">reception@thehut.org.au</a>

## THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

If you are looking for a volunteering opportunity but do not see a vacancy here that suits your interests, please call Esmé on 8339 4400 (Wed) 8391 7015 (Mon&Fri) SMS: 0437 034 806 E: [hillsvolunteering@thehut.org.au](mailto:hillsvolunteering@thehut.org.au)

**The Hut Community Centre is looking for a volunteer cook for the Tuesday Club.** This club consists of community members who come to The Hut every Tuesday (except the first Tuesday in the month) via the community buses, for morning tea and lunch, with games and social chit chat in between. On the first Tuesday of the month the members go out to lunch. The cook provides a cooked lunch, to a set budget. If you are interested in every Tuesday or can offer your services for one or more Tuesdays, we'd be pleased to hear from you. Please contact Jo on 8339 4400 or email [jo@thehut.org.au](mailto:jo@thehut.org.au)

**Lutheran Community Care New Neighbours Settlement Support** aims to provide practical assistance to individuals and families from a refugee and migrant background, and empower new and emerging communities.

- Are you interested in meeting people of different cultures?
- Would you like to lend a hand to

someone in your community?

- Looking for a volunteering role with flexible hours?

We are seeking **Volunteer Housing Mentors** to assist newly-housed people from refugee backgrounds to manage their properties. This may include organising yard care, making sure things are well-kept for landlords' inspections, encouraging tenants on Centrelink to use Centrepay for rent and **Document Mentors** to assist High School, Uni or TAFE students with their homework, assignment and improve their written English grammar and language.

Volunteers receive ongoing support and reimbursement of all out-of-pocket expenses. This role offers flexible hours and the opportunity to connect with a family in your community. Volunteers receive the satisfaction of making a positive difference in the lives of refugees and new arrivals.

New Neighbours Settlement Support is funded by the Department of Immigration & Citizenship of Australia

This volunteering opportunity is located in the surrounding suburbs and in 5084 postcode. For additional information please contact Thanuja Hiripitiyage on 8269 9333 or 0408 986 636.

**Can you spare one or more Saturdays a month?** Can you spare some time in the week? Are you looking for some voluntary work to meet your Centrelink requirements? The Carer Wellness Centre Adelaide Hills Community Courtyard Op Shop would love to hear from enthusiastic, motivated people to join their team of volunteer sales assistants, to help raise much needed funds for carers within the Hills. Join a wonderful team, receive fabulous discounts, develop your skills and support a great cause! For more information please contact Vicky on 8389 7383 [victoriag@carerslinkah.org](mailto:victoriag@carerslinkah.org)

**Would you like to assist with memorable food experiences for children?** The Littlehampton Primary School is looking for volunteers for its Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden

Foundation program. The program is aimed to encourage children to form the basis of positive, good, lifelong eating habits. Volunteers will work with small groups of students in the vegetable garden and new five-bay kitchen with their garden and kitchen specialists on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please ring Margie Sarre on 8391 1194.

**Can you help people who feel isolated?** Volunteers are needed for the Social Options Program to assist HACC residents to reconnect and link with their local community. The following choices are available:

- Friendly Visitors for isolated residents in their homes or to take them into their local community.
  - Barker Blokes to attend with men on social group outings
  - Club Links to support clients to integrate into local groups and clubs.
- Phone Lorraine on 8391 7234.

**Disability support services with a difference!** Based in the Adelaide Hills,

Community Living and Support Services (CLASS) is thrilled to be delivering a new and exciting program. They are providing increased opportunities for individuals with disabilities living in the local community to engage in community based activities. Contact Sheryl Penno if you are looking to embark on a new journey, want to foster new friendships, develop new skills or hope to provide quiet companionship as a volunteer at CLASS. Sheryl's usual working days are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and she can be contacted on 8536 5800.

**Do you have a free couple of hours (or more) a week?** The Summit Community Centre is looking for outgoing people who would like to be at the heart of the Norton Summit community, welcoming visitors and chatting to people on the phone. They can help you prepare for work in an office or meet your Centrelink requirements. Call Pip or Heather at The Summit 8390 0457 (Monday - Friday 9am to 3pm) or email [pgare@ahc.sa.gov.au](mailto:pgare@ahc.sa.gov.au)

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