

# AAVA Newsletter

Newsletter Date

## Editorial – Sharing the Good Stuff

Hi and welcome to our first newsletter of 2010. I am delighted to be volunteering to edit the newsletter this year and the first thing I want to do is to ask for your say on what you would like to see in our newsletters. Please email us your suggestions to [aava@aava.asn.au](mailto:aava@aava.asn.au)



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One area I would like this newsletter to focus on is our successes and our stories. There are great things happening out there in volunteer management. But I believe we don't hear enough about it! Have you attended a great conference, retreat or training event? Please share it with us. Are you part of a dynamic network? – we'd love to hear about it. Have you had success at your own agency? - please let us know.

As this is your newsletter we want to involve you more. Got a good story, quote or poem? Write us! Is there a secret writer within you bursting the get out? Unleash it with AAVA NEWS! Got an opinion? Share it here with your AAVA colleagues.

*DJ Cronin*

## Message from the President

This year began with an air of excitement for me with regards to AAVA and the profession of volunteer management. The old adage that says that things get worse before they get better and I have certainly had my share of worse as with the Profession of Volunteer Management so I am so much looking forward to the better in this coming year!!!

I am excited because as a board we have great and exciting things in store that we believe will elevate our members to that next level for us to collectively take charge of our future as Volunteer Managers.

If I can leave with you just on thing it would be to not lose heart....stick in there with courage because there are brighter things ahead of us.

This is our year to shine as Volunteer Managers – we need to celebrate our uniqueness. To be bound by imitation is to live a life of mediocrity. Escape while you can. Tap into the uniqueness that resides within you today, and surprise the world with yet another moment of superb genius.

Attach passion to everything that you do, every word that you write, and every syllable that you speak. Bring with you – in all you do or say – trace elements that enrich and empower those with whom you meet. Leave them filled to overflowing, busting, gorged, stuffed – replete.

*Leticia Vargas*

### Quote me!

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*“Leadership is diving for a loose ball, getting the crowd involved, getting other players involved. It's being able to take it as well as dish it out. That's the only way you are going to get respect from the players.” – Larry Bird*

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## E-Volunteerism Free for our Members!

A reminder to our members that one of the benefits of AAVA membership is free access to e-volunteerism.

Combining the best characteristics of a printed professional journal with the explosive potential of Internet technology, e-Volunteerism caters to volunteer leaders/managers who want to go beyond the mundane in the volunteerism field. e-Volunteerism is a quarterly "publication," in which a table of contents is posted at the start of each quarter (January 15, April 15, July 15, October 15), with a few items "ready" from the first day of the quarter. More items are posted until, at the end of three months, the entire issue is hotlinked and available. EVERY item in the publication is interactive, inviting you to contribute comments and additional materials. At the end of each quarter, that issue is made permanent and archived, its major articles and features continuing to be accessible and interactive.

## 2010 Australasian Retreat: Report

The 5th annual Australasian Retreat for Advanced Volunteer Management was held successfully at Hahndorf, in the Adelaide Hills, from March 17 - 19, and brought together 57 leaders in the volunteer management community from across Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

The sold out event was led by a faculty made up of retreat founders Andy Fryar of OzVPM and Martin J Cowling of People First –Total Solutions and invited American expert Jayne Cravens. A component of the Retreat has been the involvement of leaders from the profession locally to assist them in their personal development and provide retreat attendees with grassroots experience. This year DJ Cronin from Greenslopes Private Hospital and Meg Webb from Volunteering Tasmania were the guest faculty. This year's event included a number of key people from Volunteer Centres around the country, and it was wonderful to be able to have their input into the deliberations of exactly where volunteerism could be heading in the Australasian region.

The three day event included a mix of practical sessions, philosophical discussion and opportunities for participants to reflect upon their own work role and situation: The group explored the question of *'what does it take to grow and change volunteer management ...really?'*

Feedback from the event indicates that for many people present the event was extraordinary:

*"My first retreat-well worth attending-meet others in the volunteer sector who run very different programs to mine"*

*"the retreat has many 'aha' moments and is a life-changing experience"*

*"thank you for broadening my mind and my world of volunteer management"*

*"thank you everyone for reinforcing my belief in myself and my role as a volunteer manager"*

*"it was the boost I need to put ideas information into action never a dull moment. Upbeat and challenges to our current way of thinking . Overall very engaging to mix with dynamic and diverse professionals"*

After the Retreat, Jayne Cravens presented at six locations around Australia for State and Regional Volunteer Centres. The support of these state and regional volunteering centres and Volunteering New Zealand in the Retreat and the tour is greatly appreciated. We are pleased, further, that Volunteering New Zealand will partner on the 2011 Retreat to be held in that country in conjunction with the New Zealand National Volunteering conference in April.

If you would like to be kept in the loop for developments for the 2011 event, register your interest by visiting the retreat website at [www.vpmretreat.com.au](http://www.vpmretreat.com.au)



2010 Retreat Graduates.

## Meet our New Board Members

### **Alison Marshall**

Alison has had a long time interest in and involvement in volunteering and the development of volunteer management as a profession. Based in Hamilton, New Zealand, Alison is the National Manager Volunteer Services for the Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind. Alison is the chairperson of Volunteering New Zealand, a position she has held since 2002.



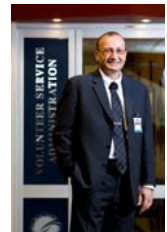
### **Paul Paulson**

Paul is currently the Relationship Manager at Reconciliation Australia who oversees the RAP program for the corporate and not for profit sectors in an effort to Closing the Gap between non-indigenous and indigenous people across Australia.



### **Joe Capozza**

Chief Executive Officer of Women Housing Association, SA, Joe has had over 12 years experience in the Non-Profit industry working with both corporate volunteers and health related services. He was Executive Officer for various Industry Associations with Business SA for 2 years, and prior to that, 6 years with the Australian Kidney Foundation as State Manager SA/NT.



### **Dianne Ball**

Diane is CEO at the Australian College of Health Service Executives, South Brisbane QLD and has 30 years experience in service organisations including management of volunteer groups and public relations in senior management and executive positions.

### **Kaye Mahomet - Co-opt Mentoring program**

Kaye, a vibrant and enthusiastic supporter of volunteering and, in particular of volunteer managers in their special role, has extensive work experience in both the Federal Government and the private sector. Kaye joined the volunteer peak body, Volunteering SA (later SA and NT) in 2000 and assumed the role of Volunteer Manager. Kaye now manages the Northern Territory offices.



**And a big thank you to Leticia Vargas our president and Karen , Donna Amos and Peter Heyworth for continuing in their roles!**



## Industry News from Around OZ & NZ

### Management Matters: Survey of volunteer management capacity in New Zealand:

In partnership with Volunteering New Zealand, Victoria University of Wellington undertook a nationwide survey of Managers of Volunteers between November 2009 and February 2010. Funding for this survey was received from the Tindall Foundation. The initial response rate has been in excess of 800 individual replies to the survey with the replies coming from a broad range of Manager of Volunteer sources. A summary of the preliminary findings of the study are now available on Volunteering New Zealand's website - <http://www.volunteeringnz.org.nz/>

### Paramedics volunteer plan draws backlash

Story from ABC News

An Upper Hunter community has rejected a New South Wales Ambulance Service proposal to use volunteers to help single officers. The service is understood to be in discussions with organisations in Merriwa, Murrurundi, Stroud, Bulahdelah and Gloucester to begin a trial of the volunteer program. The NSW Ambulance Service has recently told ABC News, it is holding talks about a "back up" arrangement for its Murrurundi paramedics. The Merriwa and District Progress Association president Ken Fenley says locals are opposed to the idea. "We can see as a community we're being jeopardised by not getting the same level of service as someone in the city," he said.

### Marine rescue service 'on life support'

Story from ABC News

A Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) service in north-west Queensland's Gulf country says lives are at risk because of inadequate funding from the State Government. There has been no funding increase to the state-wide VMR for 17 years. Gulf VMR vice-president Paul Poole says in Gulf communities like Mornington Island the problems are intensified because there is no ability to fundraise and top up their coffers. "It puts the efficiency at risk ... the training falls off because petrol costs over there have got to be approaching \$2 a litre," Mr Poole said.

### Training opportunity in Queensland

In December, Volunteering Queensland offered 5 'One-Day Scholarships' for Not-for-Profit Financial Management. This initiative was presented in partnership with Westpac, as part of VQs capacity-building approach to support the voluntary sector.

In 2010, Volunteering Queensland are offering an opportunity to enroll in the Not-for-Profit Financial Management Workshop at a heavily discounted rate.

Normally valued at \$495 per person, the workshop, held on Friday, 23 April, is available for \$30 per person for Volunteering Qld members and associates. They can also accommodate 2 participants for \$50. Contact Volunteering Queensland for more details.

## Quote me!



*"I suppose Leadership at one time meant muscles; but today it means getting along with people" - Gandhi.*

## More News From around NZ & OZ

### 13th National Conference on Volunteering

The conference will be held in Melbourne from the 27th to 29th October. Planning is well advanced and the call for abstracts will be issued shortly. The conference aims to provide a national forum to initiate discussion, debate and analyse issues affecting volunteering, discover new technologies that can affect or support volunteering and examine initiatives that will grow volunteering and promote best practice in volunteering.



### Around the globe in 80 words

This year **colleagues in England** will be attending a National conference on volunteer management. This event will provide the opportunity to develop skills in managing volunteers and provide opportunities for sharing learning and networking among different groups of practitioners in the area of volunteer management.



**Volunteering Ireland** has secured the bid to host the IAVE International Volunteer Conference in Dublin in 2012. The IAVE conference is an important event for civil society activists, leaders and organisations from around the world

### Retreat to hit NZ in 11

The organisers of the Australasian Retreat for Advanced Volunteer Management are delighted to announce that the 2011 Retreat will be held in New Zealand for the first time. Speaking to AAVA News Martin J Cowling said "After five successful Australasian retreats held in Australia, we are excited to be taking this amazing event 'across the ditch'. This will make the 2011 retreat more accessible to New Zealanders. We really appreciate the support of Vol NZ and the volunteer centres in bringing the retreat to NZ. We will be exploring ways to ensure as many Aussies can join the event."



### Humour Corner

This is the humour corner. There are no jokes yet. We will wait for readers' contributions. All humour must be clean and respectful. Absolutely no political jokes! – as George Bernard Shaw once said "the problem with political jokes is that they get elected"

## AAVA Board News



### Quote me!

"Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The trouble-makers. The round heads in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules, and they have no respect for the status-quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify, or vilify them. But the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do" - Author Unknown

March 20 – 21 saw the Board of Directors of AAVA have their planning week end for the year ahead. We came away refreshed, re focused and very excited!

We wish to inform you of some plans we have for the coming year and hope that as members you will be excited with the vision and focus we are taking in this coming year.

One of the discussion points was that of our association name. We felt as a group that it did not correctly embody the group of professionals we represent and have therefore toiled with some suggestions and have finally decided that a name change to the Australasian Association of Volunteer Managers would be the best representation of our members and that of our mission.

We have also discussed the fact that we are currently registered in SA being first conceptualized and initiated in that fine State. We thought that as we have matured as an association it was timely for us to look in to incorporating nationally and internationally to incorporate our New Zealand Members.

These tasks along with some other very exciting events and concepts will be our focus in the coming year. We would appreciate your support where possible as we know that we have a wonderfully talented membership database so if you feel that you are able to assist with any of the practical aspects of these tasks please let us know.

We are also currently looking for a Minutes Secretary for our Board meetings – any volunteers? ☺

