



VCONNECT

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CEO's Message

Welcome to this edition of VConnect. FNQVI staff are in planning mode for our first major event for the year, National Volunteer Week (NVW), May 10-16. In collaboration with volunteer coordinators, this year's event, "A Taste of Volunteering", is aimed at connecting new and existing volunteers around the region with various volunteer celebrations hosted by community organisations.

More news on these events will be available over the next few weeks leading up to NVW.

Westpac has also come on board as a sponsor for this year's event and we look forward to working with the local team in making the event a success.

This year Senator Jan McLucas is also adding her support to recognising the contribution of volunteers during NVW. Senator McLucas is inviting community organisations to nominate one outstanding volunteer for special recognition during National Volunteer Week 2010. Nominations close Friday, April 23, 2010. To obtain nomination forms contact the Senator's office at: Daielle.Henderson@aph.gov.au

We are excited to have Westpac on board as a community partner for the next few months to deliver six, free financial management work-

shops specifically aimed at the not-for-profit sector. Westpac's interactive workshops cover a range of financial management concepts in an easy-to-follow, practical format. Each workshop is presented by an experienced Westpac facilitator. More information on workshop dates is available on page 4.

We have also been successful in receiving funding through Telstra's Connected Seniors community grant programme. The grant will be used to facilitate a series of community education workshops for Senior members of the community and volunteers to use modern communication technology such as the internet, email, mobile phones and Skype. Information on dates and location for workshops will be available soon.

2010 is shaping up to be another busy year for volunteering throughout FNQ. We hope you can join us to keep our communities strong, safe and healthy through volunteering.

Ellen Barnes, CEO

Community Grants

QLD State Government: Dept of Communities. Close 4pm, Friday 16 April 2010. Max: \$5,000 to support community members and organisations to use their creativity to carry out a project that includes and welcomes people with a disability. www.communityservices.qld.gov.au

Community Heritage Grants.

Close 14 May 2010 Up to \$15,000 available to assist in preserving cultural heritage collection of national significance. Application form available from: www.nla.gov.au/chg/ or contact 02 6262 11 47 or email chg@nla.gov.au

Cowboys Community Benefit

Fund. Close 21 May 2010 \$20,000 worth of grants going to eligible not-for-profit organisations who can demonstrate their projects will deliver real community benefits to the people of North Queensland, and \$5,000 as Educational Awards for full-time students. Applications www.cowboysleagues.com.au or email: Helen@cowboysleagues.com.au

Qld Gov Local Sport & Recreation

Funding now open. For more information visit: www.sportrec.qld.gov.au or contact a Sport & Rec advisor on 1300 656 191.

Volunteer Grants. Close 2 pm Friday, April 16, 2010. Grants between \$1,000 and \$5,000 are available to help eligible non-profit organisations to purchase much-needed equipment, cover fuel costs, and, for the first time, provide financial help with the cost of volunteer training courses such as first aid or cultural awareness training and background checks.

To apply visit www.fachsia.gov.au or call 1800 183 374 or for assistance contact FNQ Volunteers Inc. on 4041 7400.



FNQ Volunteers Inc.'s Lisa Lorusso, Follow Up Assistant, received feedback from Jax Bergensen, from Kuranda Community Nursery, and we couldn't help but share this with our readers:

"Thanks, Lisa. Yes, we are having considerable success with FNQ Volunteers. Today two of your enthusiastic volunteers got a new pig trap set up. It took days of work, but today we set the trap. I do hope we catch a pig tonight. It would give the two boys (Tyson and Todd) such a buzz."

Jax, Volunteer Coordinator.

Membership News

Volunteer Referral Follow-Up Process

FNQ Volunteers Inc. is required to follow up on volunteers referred to member organisations. This enables us to monitor the status of volunteer referrals to our member organisations. There are two key follow-up components: the monthly follow-up and the quarterly follow-up.

Monthly Follow-Up emails/faxes are sent out in the first week of the month to Volunteer Coordinators/Managers for the monthly follow-up of any

volunteer referrals received in the previous month, e.g. for volunteers referred in March, the Volunteer Coordinator/Manager will receive an email in April to complete and return.

Quarterly Follow-Up emails are sent out three months after the initial referral e.g. a volunteer referred in January is followed up in April. These are completed for each volunteer who had accepted the referred position three months previously. Quarterly Follow-Up emails continue until the volunteer is no longer actively volunteering at the organisation.

Please note: Monthly and Quarterly Follow-Up emails are sent

on the same day, and member organisations may receive both, depending on the volunteers' commencement timeframe.

Should you have any queries relating to the follow-up process please do not hesitate to contact me.

I am contactable Monday-Friday, 8.30am-4.30pm.

Tel: 4041 7400, or email: admin@fnqvolunteers.org

Glenice
Membership Administration Officer

Two Cultures

Recently FNQVI organised a workplace cultural awareness session.

George Skeene, an Aboriginal Elder who has been volunteering for many years at the Cairns Historical Society, conducted a presentation about life in Cairns' Aboriginal reserves.

His presentation on Two Cultures started with a great symbolic message told in a story about Old Man Crocodile held everybody's interest.

George also shared his stories and information about the Aboriginal reserves in the Cairns area, and the constant transformations that happened over the past century.

Included in his stories were photographs from his childhood, school years, and of many members of his family and neighbourhoods.

Many thanks to George for taking the time to share his stories with us.

Gabriela Billik, Volunteer Editor



FNQVI staff studying details on the map of the Aboriginal reserves in the Cairns area.



George Skeene with his autobiography "Two Cultures". George's book, "Two Cultures", is available at the Cairns City Library and the Cairns Historical Society.

New Disability Standards for Access to Premises

On the March 15, 2010, the Australian Government launched the disability Standards for Access to Premises, which cover accessibility features of buildings such as office blocks, shops, hotels, motels, and common areas of new apartment buildings. The Standards will commence on 1 May 2011 and will ensure that people with a disability can access employment, services and the community on an equal basis with other Australians. The Disability Standards for Access to Premises and related documentation is available at: www.ag.gov.au



Volunteering at Cooktown Discovery Festival: June 12-14



FNQ Volunteers Inc. is playing its part in keeping Queensland's history alive by offering assistance to the Cooktown Discovery Festival. This year marks the 51st re-enactment of Captain James Cook's landing on the Queensland coast in 1770, to repair his ship, the HM Bark Endeavour, after it ran aground on the Great Barrier Reef.

The festival, which is held in June, over the Queen's Birthday weekend, celebrates the various meetings held between Cook, his crew and the local indigenous people.

This year the festival has a new attraction with an exhibition of prints of many of the previously unknown flora discovered by Cook's naturalist, Joseph Banks, during his time at the Endeavour River. Other highlights of the festival include the premiere performance of a Malgari (song and dance interpretation) by the local Guugu Yimithirr peoples.

The festival is run completely by volunteers, and this year has a new director, Vanessa Gillen, who was previously the head of events for the ABC.

Vanessa said: "We are happy to have formed a partnership with FNQ Volunteers, which we hope will be mutually beneficial. The festival attracts visitors from all over Australia, and this year will be bigger and better than ever before. However, we couldn't stage it without the help we get from our volunteers."

For more information on the festival visit: www.cooktowndiscoveryfestival.com.au or to volunteer, contact FNQ Volunteers on (07) 4041 7400, or email: info@fnqvolunteers.org

Chris Ellis
Volunteer Editor

New Volunteer Contributions

Our Community has recently recalculated their estimation of volunteers' per-hour value.

The latest figure of \$24.59 an hour is based on newly released Australian Bureau of Statistics earnings estimates dating from November last year.

More information on this is featured in the March edition of *Our Community Matters*. To subscribe, visit: www.ourcommunity.com.au

Volunteer Awards

Australia Volunteer Coast Guard Association Award QF 9 Cairns Flotilla presentation was conducted on February 14, 2010, at the foreshore of Cairns Trinity Inlet. The marquees were erected and chairs were lined up ready to welcome Cairns Coast Guard Volunteers to be formally recognised and officially awarded for their hard work in the past years.

Master of Ceremony, Deputy Commander Ann Fag, opened the meeting, welcoming everybody and outlining the programme.

After a short speech acknowledging the importance of volunteers in the community, the Federal Member for Leichhardt, Mr Jim

Turnour, presented the National Medal for 15 years of Service in the emergency field to Judy and Peter Buckley for Services to Coast Guard and SES, to Brad Duck and Mark McCombie for Services to Coast Guard, and to Arthur Wales for Services to Coast Guard and Queensland Fire Service, together with the First Clasp to the National Medal for 25 years of service in the Emergency Field to Merv Robson, for Service to Coast Guard.

Following this presentation, the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard's National Commodore, Ray Campbell, presented the Meritorious Service Awards—Operations, to the following



The awarded Coast Guard Cairns Volunteers.

members: Ben Hemphill, John Stocks, John Donovan, Tony Knight, and a Distinguished Service Award—Operations to Arthur Wales. Gordon Hogarth received a Radio Service Award with Clasp – for 1,000 hours of logged radio operations.

Contributed by volunteer Gabriela Billik, on behalf of the Cairns Flotilla.



Jim Turnour, Federal member for Leichhardt, chatting with Mark McCombe, Flotilla Commodore Coast Guard.

FNQ Volunteers Inc.

www.fnqvolunteers.org

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**PHONE:
07 4041 7400**

**FAX:
07 4041 7500**

**E-MAIL:
info@fnqvolunteers.org**

Community News

FNQVI Community Education Workshops

Free Not-for-Profit Financial Management Workshops: Managing Cash Flow & Planning & Break Even. All sessions are facilitated by Westpac expert facilitators.

Cairns Workshops

5 May —9am—12.30pm
2 August —1pm— 4.30pm
8 September —9am-12.30pm
3 November —9am-4.30pm

Tablelands Workshop

7 July —9am-4.00pm
To register for a workshop contact FNQVI on 4041 7400.

Cairns Community Legal Centre Inc. - Community Legal Education Talks

22 April 2010

Motor Vehicle Accidents: I've had an accident – What do I do?

27 May 2010

Domestic violence—What is it? —Who's covered?—Court Orders

22 June 2010

Introduction to Criminal Law: Know your rights. For more information phone : (07) 4031 7688

Lifeline courses for 2010: Help I've got a Teenager

22 April 2010

Six-week course for parents

Psychological First Aid 7 May 2010

Accredited One-Day Course
For information about Lifeline courses phone (07) 4050 4955.

Sugarworld Playgroup Fridays, 9.30am to 11.30am

Sugarworld Gardens, Mill Road entry is free for children and their families who want to attend playgroup. Activities are designed for children between 0-5 years old. There will be access to support and family services, guest speakers, events and much more.

For more information call Melissa on (07) 4033 6966.

"Parasites & Natural Remedies" 20 April 2010 10am—12pm

A presentation by Nikola Wilke, a naturopath from Gordonvale. Naturopathic Clinic will be held at the Hambledon House Community Centre (Morning tea provided). For bookings (essential) and more information call (07) 4045 0222, or email: hambledonhouse@cairns.qld.gov.au

Cairns Youth Mentoring 2010 Trivia Night 8 May - 7pm

Michaelmas Cay Ballroom – Reef Casino Hotel. Entry: \$10 each (team tables of 10 for \$100). For more info: call (07) 4041 5844, fa (07) 4080 9200, or email: quiz@cairnsyouthmentoring.org

A Keepwell Cairns Discussion Group 15 April 2010

Based on 'Victim to Victor' by Ron Coleman, Paul Baker and Karen Taylor. This discussion group is for you if you have just been diagnosed or have had a mental health problem or illness for many years. 'Victim to Victor' is an introduction to understanding your recovery, discussing topics such as jargon used, your supports, stepping stones, your story, mental health services, medications, advanced medical directives, and your future.

Venue: Mental Health Resource Service, 10 Thomas St, North Cairns. For expressions of interest or any questions, phone Susanne on (07)4051 9622.

Community Participants Needed in Mossman

Mossman Community Centre is hosting a series of community projects in 2010, and is now registering local participants. This is an opportunity to take part in professionally organised projects that are interesting, fun, and have lots of learning opportunities. Programmes take place in June, July, September and October. To find out how you can be involved, contact Jill or Michelle at the Mossman Community Centre, on 4098 2005.

2010 Nonprofit Master Classes in Advanced Strategy, Risk and Governance For more information visit: www.conscious-governance.com or email: leonie@conscious-governance.com