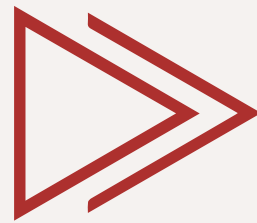




volunteering
VICTORIA

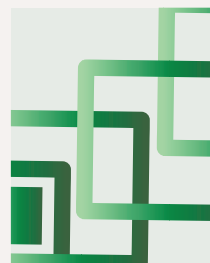
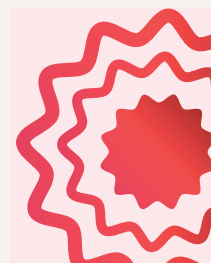
STATE
CONFERENCE
2024



shake it up:
BOLD CHANGE!

Event Program

19-20 JUNE 2024





In the spirit of reconciliation, Volunteering Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Victoria and their connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in attendance.

Artwork by Chloe Jones (Dungala Creations), a proud Yorta Yorta woman.

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WELCOME

Message from our CEO and Board Chair

**Welcome to the
Volunteering Victoria
State Conference 2024!**



We are thrilled to have you join us for this year's event, themed 'Shake it up: Bold Change!'. Our theme reflects a commitment to addressing the urgent need for innovation and adaptation in the volunteering sector across Victoria. Change is never easy and can be unsettling, but when our desire to involve more people in the community through volunteering surpasses any reluctance or our inertia, we can achieve extraordinary outcomes together.

As you look around, be inspired by individuals dedicated to making volunteering a dynamic force in every sector. Our communities face unprecedented challenges, making it crucial to explore new strategies and foster collaborations that drive impactful change. Our carefully curated program features presenters beyond "the usual suspects" to challenge, inspire, and instruct you.

Over the next two days, you'll hear from leading voices, engage in interactive workshops, and connect with like-minded professionals committed to making a difference.

There are many people we need to acknowledge who have helped make this conference possible. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to:

- Our sponsors and exhibitors for their generous support and investment in the growth of the sector.
- Our dedicated team of volunteers working behind-the-scenes. In particular, the Conference Advisory Panel, whose input into selecting speakers and designing the program has been invaluable, and our on-site team of event volunteers who are here to help you have an amazing conference.
- The Volunteering Victoria staff for their tireless efforts and commitment to creating an exceptional event.

Lastly, to all the delegates joining us – whether that be in-person, online, or from our inaugural regional hubs – thank you for being part of this journey. We look forward to having you involved in the vibrant discussions that will shape the future of volunteering.

Let's embrace bold change together!

Geoff Sharp
Chief Executive Officer
Volunteering Victoria

Bronwen Clark
Board Chair
Volunteering Victoria



FOREWORD

Message from the Minister

I am delighted to share my best wishes for Volunteering Victoria's State Conference 2024, recognising the invaluable contribution volunteering makes right across Victoria.

As Minister for Carers and Volunteers, I am privileged to see this remarkable spirit first-hand. Whether it is volunteering for a community event, delivering food relief, or supporting emergency services, volunteering takes many forms and creates a positive impact felt both locally and across the state.

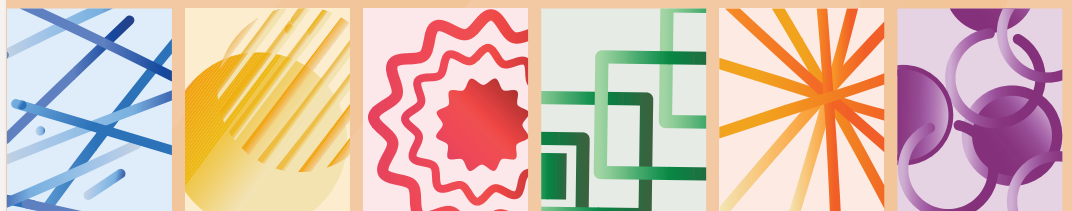
Volunteering not only builds stronger and more resilient communities but delivers enormous benefits for volunteers themselves.

The Victorian Government is proud to continue our support of the Volunteering Victoria State Conference. I hope this year's theme of 'Shake it up: Bold Change' challenges, inspires and creates opportunities for leaders of volunteers to connect in a meaningful way.

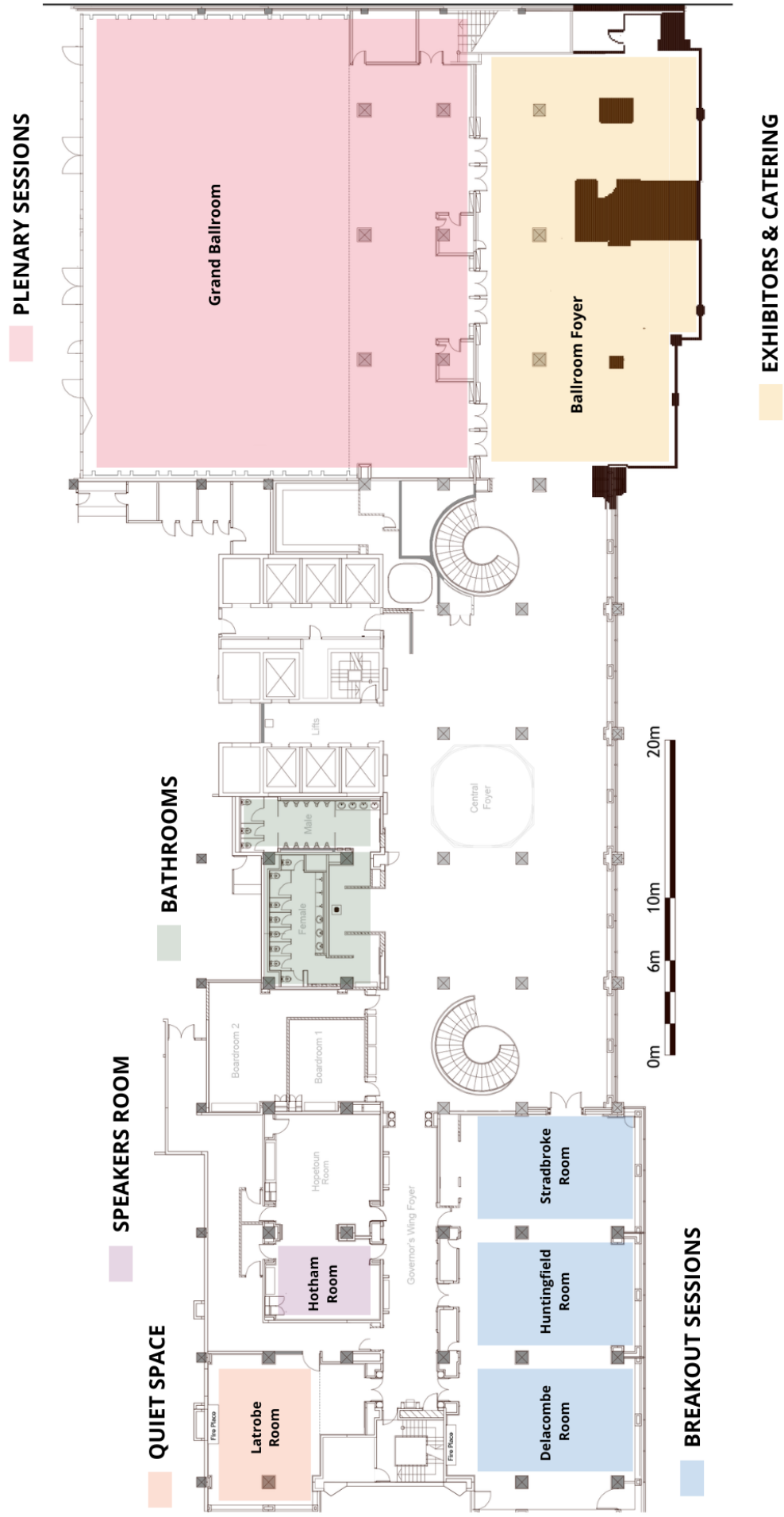
I would like to extend a huge thank you to each of you for the vital role you play in building stronger, healthier and more connected Victorian communities.

With warmest regards,

The Hon Ros Spence MP
Minister for Carers and Volunteers



VENUE FLOOR PLAN



Pullman Melbourne on the Park

192 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne

Quiet space

Need a break? There is a dedicated Quiet Space in the **Latrobe Room** for delegates to use throughout the conference.

The space will be available at all times, except during the Yarning Circle (Day 2, 1:00pm – 2:15pm).

Break areas

All meals will be provided throughout the conference, with catering available in the **Ballroom Foyer** during morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea breaks.

The Exhibition space will also be open during break times, where you can chat with exhibitors about their services.

Emergency procedure

In the event of an evacuation please follow the directions of the wardens and evacuate to the **south-east corner of the Fitzroy Gardens** (across Clarendon Street), to the Emergency Assembly Area.

SLIDO INSTRUCTIONS

We're excited to be using 'Slido', a web-based tool for real-time audience interaction. This will enable us to engage with the audience – both in-person and those tuning in remotely – through live questions and polls.

Slido can be used to:

- Submit questions during plenary sessions (eg: Keynote Addresses, Panel Discussions)
- Participate in polls during The Great Debate
- Access the conference agenda
- Provide feedback on the conference sessions and presenters

How to get involved:

1. Open your device browser

2. Go to www.slido.com

3. Enter our event code: #VV2024



Scan QR code

STATE
CONFERENCE
2024
shake it up:
BOLD CHANGE!





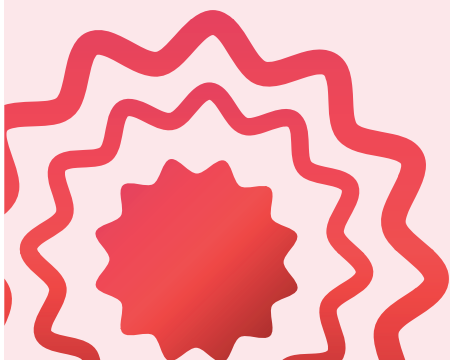
EXHIBITORS



AON

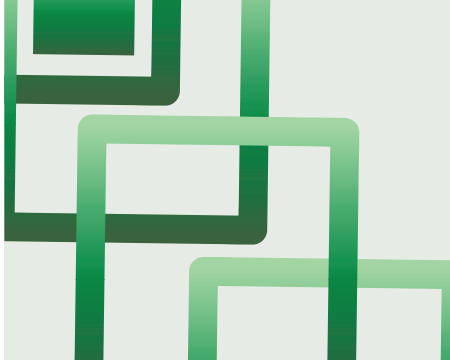
Aon is a leading global provider of risk management services, insurance and reinsurance brokerage, and human capital consulting.

business-insurance.aon.com.au



Crimcheck delivers a fast, secure and affordable web-based national criminal record checking system.

crimcheck.org.au



FreddyMatch is a simple and secure volunteer recruitment and management platform, designed to help make volunteering easier for both organisations and volunteers.

freddymatch.org



Polaron

Language Services

Polaron offers translation and interpreting services in over 170 languages, designed to deliver a complete solution to any language barrier.



polaron.com.au



Better Impact is volunteer management software built to help you engage your volunteers throughout the entire volunteer life cycle and save you time at every step.

betterimpact.com.au



Energy,
Environment
and Climate Action

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) supports thriving, productive and sustainable communities, environments, and industries.

deeca.vic.gov.au



Justice Connect helps people and community groups connect with free legal help, so everyone can have a fair chance at a better life.

justiceconnect.org.au / nfplaw.org.au



SEEK Volunteer is Australia's largest free online source of volunteer opportunities, helping connect people to roles that enrich their communities, lives, and careers.

volunteer.com.au



Volunteer West is the volunteer resource centre of Australian Multicultural Community Services (AMCS). Its volunteer referral service matches your skills, experiences, interests, and availability with volunteer roles available in Melbourne's west.

volunteerwest.org.au / amcservices.org.au

EVENT SCHEDULE

DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE

8.30am	Day 1 Conference Sign In
9.30am	Welcome and Opening Rana Hussain – Conference MC
10.00am	Keynote Address Dr Sandro Demaio – CEO, VicHealth
10.30am	Panel Discussion – ‘Shaking up the Future’ Facilitator: Rana Hussain Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr Sandro Demaio – CEO, VicHealth• Jessica Christiansen-Franck – CEO, Neighbourlytics• Matt Walton – CEO, Dog and Bone• Paula Henry Mantilla – Senior Project Manager, Climateworks Centre
11.30am	Morning Tea Optional activity: Perfect Match – Conference ‘Speed Dating’ Facilitator: Hazel Maynard – Volunteering Victoria A fun introductory activity for those new to the sector or attending their first conference.
12.00pm	Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Round 1) Choose from 4 concurrent workshops and multi-presenter sessions.
1.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Round 2) Choose from 4 concurrent workshops and multi-presenter sessions.
3.00pm	Afternoon Tea
3.30pm	Panel Discussion – ‘Shaking Up The Funding Cycle’ Facilitator: Doug Hume – Social Ventures Australia Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gill Whelan – General Manager, the DECJUBA and TANK Foundations• Julie Abramson – Commissioner, Productivity Commission• Lyndon Galea – Founder, Eat Up Australia• Simon Lewis – Lead Partner, GoodWolf
4.20pm	Day 1 wrap up
4.30pm	Networking Function (Optional – ticket required) Catch up over a drink and some nibbles.
6.30	Day 1 concludes

DAY 2 – THURSDAY 20 JUNE

8.30am	Day 2 Conference Sign In
9.00am	Day 2 Welcome Rana Hussain – Conference MC
9.15am	Keynote Address Nornie Bero – Restaurateur, Author & First Nations Advocate
9.45am	Panel Discussion – ‘A Big Conversation About Big Ideas’ Facilitator: Geoff Sharp – CEO, Volunteering Victoria Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AJ Kulatunga – Business Strategist • Hassan Noura – Founder, People Economics • Nornie Bero – Restaurateur, Author & First Nations Advocate
10.45am	Morning Tea
11.15am	Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Round 3) Choose from 4 concurrent workshops and multi-presenter sessions.
12.30pm	Lunch
1.00pm	Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Round 4) Choose from 4 concurrent workshops and multi-presenter sessions.
2.15pm	Afternoon Tea
2.30pm	The Great Debate (A conference favourite!) Topic: ‘Our Culture is Killing Volunteering’ Moderator: Scott Miller – CEO, Freedom Solutions Australia Affirmative Team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marg Joiner (Team Captain) • Dan Poynton – GippSport • Alex Bignell – City of Casey Negative Team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rory Sackville (Team Captain) – Good2Give • Sarah Wilson – Volunteering Australia • Leesa Riley – Melbourne Water
3.30pm	Closing Keynote Address ‘Tomorrow Better Than Today: How to Influence Change’ AJ Kulatunga – Business Strategist
4.00pm	Day 2 wrap up
4.10pm	Event concludes

CONFERENCE MC

RANA HUSSAIN

Rana Hussain, a pioneer in the realms of inclusion and belonging, has charted an extraordinary journey through the landscape of sports administration, community engagement, social work and the media.

With a career marked by a relentless pursuit of positive change and a deep commitment to fostering inclusivity, Rana stands as a powerful advocate for social integration and reduction of discrimination.

Continuing her mission to create a bigger impact, Rana started Good.Human, bringing all the facets of her work together in one place: Expertise, Advocacy and Impact. It's a movement focused on changing people's lives, cultures, and leadership all over the country.

Good.Human is an invitation to celebrate our shared humanity, supporting one another through life's ups and downs, aiming to build a world where everyone feels valued and included as they are. Rana's vision is a more inclusive and brighter future for all.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

DR SANDRO DEMAIO

Opening Keynote Address – Day 1



Dr Sandro Demaio is the CEO of VicHealth, a medical doctor and a public health expert and advocate.

He previously held the roles of Medical Officer for non-communicable conditions and nutrition at the World Health Organization, and CEO of the EAT Foundation; the science-based, global platform for food systems transformation where he oversaw the global launch of the EAT-Lancet Commission. Sandro is a member of the Nutrition Strategy Advisory Board, for Pictet Group in Switzerland.

In his pro bono work, Dr Demaio co-founded NCDFREE, a global social movement against chronic disease which reached more than 2.5 million young people in its first 18 months. In 2015, he founded festival21, assembling and leading a team of experts in staging an unprecedented free celebration of community, food, culture and the SDGs in his hometown of Melbourne. Then in 2018, he established an independent, not-for-profit foundation focused on improving the health and nutrition of young Australians.

NORNIE BERO

Opening Keynote Address – Day 2



Nornie Bero is an Island girl - from the Komet Tribe of the Meriam people of Mer Island, and she was raised in the Torres Strait.

As a professional chef for over 20 years in Melbourne and London, Bero is passionate about sharing the food culture she grew up with on the Islands. She is the owner and Executive Chef of Mabu Mabu, a hospitality and food business in Melbourne that celebrates the fantastic Indigenous produce and flavours from across this big Island now known as Australia.

Through her retail products, recently published cookbook, and flagship restaurant Big Esso at Federation Square, Bero is on a mission to get native herbs, spices, fruits, vegetables, and sustainable meats in every Australian kitchen pantry.

AJ KULATUNGA

Closing Keynote Address – Day 2



AJ Kulatunga is a Business Strategist and Global Keynote Speaker who specialises in Business Creativity and Humanising Innovation.

Leveraging experiences from a 20-year entrepreneurial career in business and technology, AJ's unique perspective and Get It Done™ methodology are empowering leaders around the world with clarity and confidence to transcend disruptive change and lead boldly into the future.

As a former Young Achiever of the Year, AJ believes we have the power to make tomorrow better than today. His presentations and programs challenge conventional business-as-usual thinking and inspire leaders and teams to reimagine how things get done inside their organisations. His captivating energy will leave you feeling like you can overcome the toughest challenges and achieve the impossible.

PANELLISTS

Panel Discussion: 'Shaking up the Future' (Day 1)

The volatility and uncertainty of the last few years have triggered immense change to many aspects of our lives, including volunteering. Join our panel guests as they discuss the big demographic, technological, and societal changes that are coming, how they will impact volunteering, and what sort of bold responses may be needed.



JESSICA CHRISTIANSEN-FRANCK

Jessica Christiansen-Franks is an award-winning technology leader, unlocking the power of big data and social analytics to transform cities around the world.

As CEO and Founding Director of urban analytics company Neighbourlytics, Jess has combined cutting-edge data science with decades of experience in urban design, to reimagine the future of city-making and property development.



MATT WALTON

Matt Walton is the CEO of technology consulting company, Dog and Bone, who provide independent advice to not-for-profit organisations on how to leverage technology. He has been involved in the community sector for 30 years, starting as a volunteer youth worker at the YMCA, working his way up the organisation, which saw him managing IT for YMCA nationally.

For the past 10 years, Matt has been working with the not-for-profit sector to help them with various technology initiatives, all with the underlying goal of making technology work for organisations that improve the world.



PAULA HENRY MANTILLA

Based in Canberra, Paula is responsible for managing the end-to-end delivery of collaborative projects aimed to produce significant impact on national and sub-national economies in Australia. She is currently involved in the delivery of the Raising Ambition project which focuses on the government role accelerating action towards achieving net zero emissions. Paula has also worked alongside businesses' stakeholders (Public and Private), to support Corporates understanding and commitment to strong, credible action towards net zero emissions and limiting warming to 1.5 C degrees.

Paula developed most of her career internationally, working in sustainability development projects across Latin America and Africa. Her volunteering work for the UN Peacekeeping mission in South Sudan is what brought her to Australia.

Panel Discussion: 'Shaking up the Funding Cycle (Day 1)

This panel session will explore the evolving landscape of philanthropy and fundraising, including how organisations are adapting to attract and retain funding. Our guest panellists will examine recent shifts in the sector, the opportunities these changes present, and emerging trends to watch. They will also discuss insights on strategies for securing increased and improved funding into the future.



DOUG HUME – Facilitator

Doug is a social impact strategy consultant, with a passion for social justice and addressing structural inequity. He is a Principal consultant with Social Ventures Australia and has been with the team since 2017.

At SVA, Doug supports clients with strategy, outcomes management and evaluations, with a particular focus on the philanthropy sector and First Nations initiatives. Major projects include developing the Blueprint to Grow Structured Giving with Philanthropy Australia (which inspired the recent Productivity Commission Inquiry into giving), and developing a vision to grow the community foundation sector. Doug also supported development of a First Nations-led tertiary education model in Arnhem land; and an evaluation of Marram-Ngala Ganbu, a First Nations-designed initiative in the Children's Court of Victoria.



GILL WHELAN

Gill Whelan is the General Manager of DECJUBA Foundation, the philanthropic arm of leading fashion retailer DECJUBA. Working closely with DECJUBA Owner & CEO, Tania Austin, Gill is establishing and steering partnerships with local and international charity organisations with the aim of positively impacting 25 million lives by 2025. Gill is also GM of TANK Foundation (Tania Austin's family foundation).

Gill's previous role was Senior Partnerships & Public Relations Manager at not-for-profit organisation, St Kilda Mums. She brings insights from her experience in fundraising to her approach to philanthropy, with a preference for untied funding, capacity building and longer-term partnerships.



JULIE ABRAMSON

Julie Abramson was appointed a part time Commissioner with the Productivity Commission in December 2015 and reappointed for a further 5 years in 2020. She is also currently a Co-Commissioner on the Philanthropy Inquiry.

Julie is a lawyer with over 30 years regulatory experience at both State and Federal levels. She was also a part-time Commissioner with the Victorian Essential Services Commission from August 2014 until August 2016.

Her career in public policy includes working with Government, industry bodies (VECCI, Civil Contractors Federation), the private sector (National Australia Bank) and a Regulatory Agency (Australian Securities and Investments Commission). She has particular expertise in economic related regulatory matters, such as financial services and competition policy. She is also a member of the Higher Education Council and Chair of the Regulatory Compliance Committee of a dual sector Higher Education Provider.



LYNDON GALEA

Lyndon believes that no child should go hungry at school in a country as fortunate as Australia. He strives to ensure that children who would otherwise be too hungry to learn are provided a well-rounded lunch, and ultimately the opportunity to enjoy their time at school and fully leverage the power of a great education.

As Founder of Eat Up Australia, Lyndon has led the growth of a free national lunch program for disadvantaged school children who would otherwise go without. Starting in his hometown of Shepparton in 2013 on his Mum's kitchen table to help 2 local schools, to today supporting over 650 schools nationally, and having delivered over 3 million lunches. Lyndon has seen first-hand the generosity of the Australian community to volunteer their time to make a difference in the lives of hungry kids.



SIMON LEWIS

Simon is the lead partner at GoodWolf, an impact advisory team working to align funders, non-profits, and community service organisations to amplify their impact in society. Drawing on his experience in philanthropy, family offices and trustee services, Simon works with a growing network of charitable organisations and community partners dedicated to creating positive change.

An active volunteer himself, Simon currently serves as Trustee of the Reichstein Foundation and Chair of the Australian Outward Bound Development Fund. Being from Zimbabwe, Simon has always been a passionate advocate for more regional and international philanthropy from Australians. In 2018 he co-founded and is inaugural Chair of the Australian International Development Network, fostering stronger collaboration with foundations and philanthropists working abroad.

Panel Discussion: 'A Big Conversation about Big Ideas'

Presented in two parts, this session will start with guest panellists from diverse disciplines giving their perspectives on trends shaping the future of volunteering. The panel will interrogate big ideas and themes raised throughout the conference, focusing on bold changes that are required for the volunteering landscape. The second part will involve a facilitated conversation with the audience, enabling delegates to actively contribute to the discussion.



GEOFF SHARP – Facilitator

Geoff is the recently appointed Chief Executive Officer of Volunteering Victoria, having taken on the role in January 2024. Geoff has been involved with Volunteering Victoria for a number of years as a Board Member, and previously through Volunteering Ballarat and the Victorian Volunteer Support Network (VVSN). He offers over 20 years of experience in senior leadership roles across international Aid and Development, the Philanthropic sector, Volunteering and the Early Years Field.

Most recently Geoff has been specialised in Strategy, Systemic Change and Leadership across the not-for-profit sector, as he has consulted and worked to drive long-term systemic change and collaborative approaches to complex social issues and place-based change.

Geoff has held multiple current and past Directorships, is a member of the Worldwide Institute of Learning Professionals, and takes great joy in his wonderful little farm on Wathaurong Country in Western Victoria.



HASSAN NOURA

Hassan is an independent strategic advisor, economist and management consultant who is passionate about helping leaders build inclusive economies and social systems that empower people. He is also the Founder and Director of boutique consulting firm People Economics.

Hassan has 20 years of experience advising ministers, senior officials and CEOs across Australia, South-East Asia & the Pacific, and the Middle East. He has held senior executive roles at the Australian National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and consulting firm McKinsey & Company. He has also worked at the Australian Department of the Treasury and at the World Bank.



NORNIE BERO



AJ KULATUNGA

THE GREAT DEBATE

Affirmative team



MARG JOINER

An inspiring leader in the sector, Marg was the Volunteer Program Manager at Zoos Victoria for over 12 years, supporting 850 volunteers across Victoria.

Previously, as an advisor to the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), she helped establish programs to decrease social isolation. This led to a network of over 45 clubs across Victoria, all run by volunteers with the assistance of DVA. Marg also worked in aged care for many years, including developing a Cognitive Activity Program resource, designed to provide mentally stimulating activities for aged care residents.

As a member of Rostrum Victoria, she also assists with the organisation's Voice of Youth competition, promoting the benefits of developing public speaking skills to secondary students.



ALEXANDRA BIGNELL

Alexandra is an autistic woman and a passionate advocate for disability inclusion. As a member of the Volunteering Victoria People with Disability Advisory Group, she promotes the advantages of engaging people with disability in volunteering.

Alex serves on various committees, including the Board of the Autism Self Advocacy Network Australia and New Zealand. She works as a Disability Inclusion Advisor in local government (City of Casey), specialising in policy change, planning, reporting, and outcomes frameworks. As a systems thinker, Alex focuses on systemic advocacy, creating inclusive communities through long-term sustainable change.



DAN POYNTON

Dan is the Executive Officer of GippSport and is serving as a Director on the Boards of Regional Sport Victoria, Gippsland Youth Spaces, and the Foundation for Gippsland Community. He has been in the Sport and Recreation industry so long that he can practically organise a committee meeting in his sleep. As the Executive Officer for GippSport, he's known for his strategic thinking, exceptional stakeholder schmoozing, and juggling more high-level projects than you can shake a stick at.

When he's not managing and working with sports organisations or Government, Dan is volunteering. He's served as President, Vice President, and Board Member at various clubs and NFP organisations, in all the jobs that no one else wants! Nowadays, his sport is towing his kids around a mountain bike circuit and herding 25 6-7 year old kids as one of the Inverloch Stars Soccer Club Under 8's Miniroos coordinators.

'Our Culture is Killing Volunteering'

Negative team

RORY SACKVILLE

Rory Sackville has been working in the Corporate Social Responsibility sector for over 12 years. Currently he is a Client Relations Manager at Good2Give – a not-for-profit that makes it easy for businesses, their employees and customers to support the communities and causes they care about. Good2Give provides innovative technology solutions to help businesses, donors and charities connect. He works with corporates such as Australia Post, Rio Tinto, REA Group, Toyota & Reece on their corporate giving programs. Prior to Good2Give, he was a Social Impact Specialist at RACV managing community partnerships, local donations programs and corporate volunteering as well as leading Social Impact reporting and analysis.



SARAH WILSON

Sarah has expertise in volunteer involvement and not-for-profit strategy and governance. She holds degrees in Arts, Psychology, and Law and is currently completing her Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Clinical Psychology at the University of Western Australia.

Sarah is the National Strategy Advisor at Volunteering Australia and previously served as the Policy Manager for VolunteeringACT for nearly a decade. She is a passionate volunteer as the Deputy Chair of Animals Australia, a Telephone Crisis Supporter for Lifeline, and a Research and Policy Volunteer for the Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds. In her spare time, Sarah is a full-time carer to her rescue greyhound George.



LEESA RILEY

Leesa has twenty years' experience in professional volunteer management, as well as being a dedicated volunteer herself. She is currently Program Lead for Community Connections at Melbourne Water, engaging volunteers in environment and waterway protection.

Previously Leesa was the Statewide Volunteering Manager at Parks Victoria, where she led the Volunteering in Parks Strategic Plan 2017–2021, delivered the award-winning volunteer management system ParkConnect, and initiated industry-first programs like the Volunteering Innovation Fund. She also spent 11 years at Conservation Volunteers Australia, developing volunteer programs both in Australia and internationally.

Passionate about developing the profession of Volunteer Management, Leesa founded the Environmental Volunteering Collective on LinkedIn. She also gained her Certification in Volunteer Administration (CVA) in 2021 and is a Professional Leader of Volunteers (PLV) since 2019.



SCOTT MILLER

The Great Debate Moderator

A familiar face returns as this year's Great Debate moderator!

Scott is currently the CEO of Freedom Solutions Australia, a not-for-profit organisation that customises, designs, and builds assistive technology solutions for people living with disability. Scott has an extensive background in community services, particularly in the nonprofit sector. His career highlights encompass successful organisational transformation, strategic leadership, and a passion for creating meaningful impact in communities.

Scott's leadership journey includes pivotal roles such as Chief Executive at Volunteering Victoria and Volunteering New Zealand, where he provided strong leadership for a vibrant volunteering sector. Scott has engaged internationally, serving on committees, and advising governments on democratic processes.



Scan the QR code to read more about Scott's journey to The Great Debate stage.

CONTENT STREAMS

Conference presentations will be categorised into 3 main streams: **Explorers, Builders, and Shapers**.

This enables you to select breakout sessions based on your level of experience.

Note: *These are only provided as suggestions. You may choose any stream that interests you – or try more than one!*



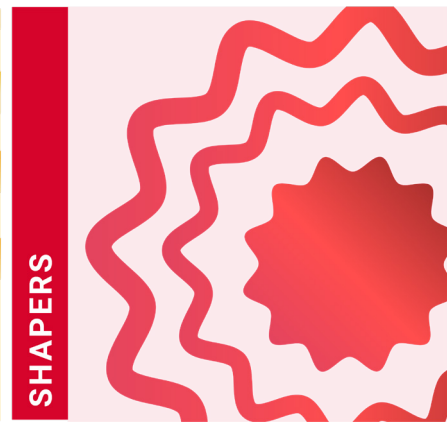
For those **newer to volunteering**, from inside or outside the sector, wanting to explore the environment of volunteer leadership.

This stream contains content at a foundational level.



For **intermediate** leaders and thinkers, looking to build volunteer programs through innovation and systemic change.

This stream contains content at a more advanced level.



For **experienced** leaders and thinkers, with a relational and cross-sectoral focus, wanting to shape the future of volunteering.

This stream contains content at a strategic level.

STREAMERS

A **tailored online stream**, which will be broadcast to online and regional hub attendees. This is also an option for in-person (Melbourne) attendees.

This stream contains content at a broad level.

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

ROSS WYATT

Topic: 'Everyone In! The Revolution in Volunteerism for a Post-Colonial World'.

Ross is the founder of Think Impact, an organisation leading the way in supporting organisations to achieve better impact over the last decade. He has spent many years advising industry, the community sector and government on impact measurement, strategy, and policy, and has an abiding commitment to supporting organisations to build value and performance through impact-led design.

Ross is a big believer in providing an effective voice to communities in any engagement and likes to ensure human stories sit alongside rigorous data when articulating social impact. He has also led major research projects on the impact of volunteering and factors shaping volunteerism.



CHRISTINE STANKOWSKI

Topic: Top 10 Tips for Making Your Organisation Attractive to Volunteers

Christine is the founder of Flutterbye; a consultancy that supports those who work with volunteers by designing, delivering and improving volunteer programs. She has deep experience across all aspects of volunteer engagement and is passionate about supporting the volunteering sector. For over 18 years Christine has been designing, implementing, improving and leading volunteer programs across the not-for-profit, government and private sectors. Christine has a track record of developing and implementing strategies that build and enhance the engagement of volunteers.



DEBORAH PORTER

Topic: 'Diversity in Volunteering: Using the Law to Support Best Practice'.

Deborah is a Lawyer at Justice Connect's Not-for-profit Law and regularly delivers legal training to employees and volunteers at volunteer-involving organisations. She was admitted to legal practice in 1998. Alongside her training role at Justice Connect, Deborah also works as a Consultant Legal Educator at Barwon Health.

She has experience working as a lawyer in both the private and public sector in the areas of health law, commercial law and general litigation and has had roles within the Not-for-profit sector as both a volunteer board member and employee.



SARAH WILSON

Topic: 'The Power of Purpose: How Volunteering Fuels Mattering'.

Sarah is the National Strategy Advisor at Volunteering Australia and previously served as the Policy Manager for VolunteeringACT for nearly a decade. She is also taking part in The Great Debate! See full bio on page 19.



Concurrent Breakout Sessions

DAY ONE – Morning Session

MULTI-PRESENTER SESSION

Session MC: Sara Sterling – Volunteering Victoria

Stradbroke

How to Talk to Your CEO about Volunteer Involvement Lachlan Preston – Ardoch

This session will help prepare volunteer coordinators for having bold conversations with senior leaders. Learn how to help them see the potential of volunteer involvement and gain their buy in to shake up your organisation and achieve social change through enhanced volunteer involvement.

Takeaways:

- Develop a CEO advocacy plan for volunteer involvement.
- Recognise tools to advocate for volunteer involvement.
- Learn strategies for pitching volunteer involvement to executives.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD): How Victoria is Leading the Way Sara Sterling – Volunteering Victoria, Herman Tse & Kohyar Kiazed – Monash University

This session will provide an overview of the recent evaluation of Volunteering Victoria's CPD program, in partnership with researchers from Monash University Business School. The findings provide a profound understanding of how to enhance the effectiveness of future CPD programs, and in turn, better equip volunteer managers to excel in their roles.

Takeaways:

- Explore factors for success that have enabled CPD to thrive in Victoria.
- Greater understanding of how CPD enhances learning and connection.
- Recommendations to strengthen volunteer engagement as a profession through CPD.

MULTI-PRESENTER SESSION

Session MC: Marg Joiner

Delacombe

Build It and They Will Come: Volunteering Pathway for High School Students Sharon Walsh – Bendigo Health

Learn about the process undertaken to build a school holiday volunteering program that has engaged our students, local schools and staff, which offers students a complete pathway to acceptance at a major university.

Takeaways:

- Key elements of a successful and sustainable volunteer program.
- Strategies for engaging youth, particularly students.
- Ideas for utilising local partnerships to enhance volunteer engagement.

Yeah, but how? Creating the Structures to Engage Young Volunteers AND Have Impact Willem Booker – Communitier

We all know what we 'should' do when it comes to engaging young people in volunteering. Flexibility and opportunities to lead and grow are important. But how do you do this in practice? In this session, we'll explore case studies and structural advice on how to DO the program development and design that will allow new ways to volunteer.

Takeaways:

- Explore diverse program structures for attracting young volunteers.
- Discover university engagement tactics for recruiting volunteers.
- Draw inspiration from recent youth volunteer success stories.

Choose from 4 concurrent workshops and multi-presenter sessions.

Note: Online & regional hub attendees will have access to the dedicated online stream only (Streamers)

MULTI-PRESENTER SESSION

Session MC: Rebecca Miller – SEEK Volunteer

Huntingfield

Beyond Transactional Volunteering

Ellen Kimball & Donna Stephens – Community First Development

Using examples of our own work in volunteer engagement, this session will explore how embedding organisational values and purpose throughout every step of a volunteer program can significantly impact not only the communities we work alongside, but the lives of volunteers.

Takeaways:

- Drive values-aligned volunteer recruitment.
- Enhance retention through purposeful practices.
- Explore the transformative impact of values-aligned volunteering.

Reimagining the Volunteer Engagement Cycle

Tracey O'Neill – Brotherhood of St Laurence

The often-cited Volunteer Engagement Cycle is outdated and can limit our ability to successfully engage volunteers. In this session, we will explore a reimagined Volunteer Engagement Cycle – one that supports thinking strategically, that helps us achieve the outcomes volunteers are seeking, and that can lead to increased impact.

Takeaways:

- Transition to transformational volunteer engagement.
- Align volunteer involvement with organisational goals.
- Reframe the Volunteer Engagement Cycle for outcome-driven results.

WORKSHOP

Session MC: Jessica Zammitt – Volunteering Victoria

Grand Ballroom

Everyone In! The Revolution in Volunteerism for a Post-Colonial World

Ross Wyatt – Think Impact

The 'colonial' foundations on which volunteerism-as-we-know-it is built are no longer fit for purpose! Given the structural changes around us – compliance, ageing volunteer profile, risk management, individualism, time availability, virtual community, etc – it is time to reimagine volunteerism for the future. Learn how to apply 'participation continuum thinking' and see how it is being applied in real life.

Takeaways:

- Gain a fresh perspective on volunteerism.
- Enhance skills to drive systemic change for healthier communities.
- Foster collaboration among community organisations.

DAY ONE – Afternoon Session

MULTI-PRESENTER SESSION

Session MC: Tanya Di Michele – Volunteering Victoria

Stradbroke

Enabling New Ways of Volunteering and Engaging the Next Generation

Liam Higgins – VOLI

At VOLI, we are building software to support a new era of volunteering and a brand that helps engage the next generation. From gamified mobile applications to free to use volunteer management software and various AI functions, we are building the tools to support a new way of giving back.:

Takeaways:

- Identify barriers to youth volunteer engagement.
- Utilise our tools for engaging young volunteers.
- Maximise volunteer potential with VOLI AI.

Bridging Generations Through Seamless Video Connectivity

Kristen Graham – Dossy

Discover Dossy, an innovative video-calling app designed to effortlessly connect families with their elderly loved ones. Building upon the success of Dossy Family Connect, we proudly introduce the second phase of the Dossy Project: Dossy Community Connect. This exciting expansion brings together a network of older adults and verified volunteers, enhancing social connectivity in a world where isolation among seniors is a growing concern.

Takeaways:

- Discover the strength of simplicity in problem-solving.
- Learn strategies to combat social isolation.
- Gain insights into continuous improvement and co-design processes.

MULTI-PRESENTER SESSION

Session MC: Helen More – Down Syndrome Victoria

Delacombe

Learnings for the Volunteering Sector from the 'Yes' Campaign

Lachlan Preston – Macnamara for Yes

In this presentation, Lachlan will reflect on his experience as a volunteer leader for the 'Yes' campaign, including how the volunteering sector can better highlight the immense and valuable skillsets of leaders of volunteers, and the importance of these skills for future social change campaigns.

Takeaways:

- Appreciate volunteer engagement as a valuable skillset.
- Master key steps for a volunteer-led community campaign.
- Understand the significance of volunteer involvement in the referendum campaign.

Bold Political Change: SupporterBase and the 'Teals'

Dale Clisby – SupporterBase

In this presentation, Dale will provide a broad introduction to the difference between mobilising and organising volunteers, how SupporterBase helped the Teals organise for success, and how anyone who manages volunteers can use these principles to improve their own processes and empower volunteers to achieve bold and transformational change.

Takeaways:

- Differentiate between mobilising and organising volunteers.
- Explore the benefits of volunteer management software.
- Apply distributed organising principles for volunteer empowerment.

Choose from 4 concurrent workshops and multi-presenter sessions.

Note: Online & regional hub attendees will have access to the dedicated online stream only (Streamers)

MULTI-PRESENTER SESSION

Huntingfield

Session MC: Gillian Garner – Volunteering Victoria

National Strategy for Volunteering: The First Three-Year Action Plan Sarah Wilson – Volunteering Australia

This session will present the latest findings of the National Strategy for Volunteering, including the upcoming Three-Year Action Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. These detail how volunteers, managers of volunteers and other roles across the volunteering ecosystem can contribute to the National Strategy and use it to create positive change and strengthen their volunteering outcomes.

Takeaways:

- Gain insights into the National Volunteering Strategy's latest findings.
- Learn how actions from the Three-Year Plan can improve volunteering outcomes.
- Acquire strategies for implementing and advocating for the National Strategy.

Sport Volunteer Action Plan: From Strategy to Action Matthew Calf – Australian Sport Commission

Bold change requires a bold approach. This presentation will demonstrate how to turn strategy into action. Delegates will learn how Government/Industry partnerships have been activated to transform the sport volunteering experience. Using case studies, this presentation will teach delegates how collaboration, creativity, and shared purpose can be harnessed to create real impact for volunteers.

Takeaways:

- Learn how to turn a strategy into action.
- Learn to harness collective power for greater impact.
- Discover benefits of uniting diverse perspectives toward common goals.

WORKSHOP

Grand Ballroom

Session MC: Hazel Maynard – Volunteering Victoria

Top 10 Tips for Making Your Organisation Attractive to Volunteers Christine Stankowski – Flutterbye

This session will explore ten key areas you can focus on to make your organisation even better at getting great volunteers. From the importance of simply thanking volunteers to principles of leadership and why good customer care is important, this workshop will confirm some essentials and give you new ideas to try.

Takeaways:

- Overview of 10 key success factors in recruiting and retaining volunteers.
- Explore how your practice measures up against these.
- Get new ideas to implement after the conference.

DAY TWO – Morning Session

MULTI-PRESENTER SESSION

Stradbroke

Session MC: Eva Hussain – Polaron

Pathways to Volunteering for Migrant and Refugee Women

Robyn Erwin – Wellsprings for Women

Winner: 2023 Inclusive Volunteering Award

This presentation will challenge volunteer managers to build richer, diverse and resilient volunteer teams by engaging women from migrant and refugee backgrounds. Members of Wellsprings for Women's co-design team will share experiences of their challenges, barriers and how volunteering has empowered them to build fulfilling lives.

Takeaways:

- Understand benefits of engaging migrant and refugee women as volunteers.
- Support women in reaching goals by leveraging existing skills through volunteering.
- Implement accessible volunteer engagement processes for broader community inclusion.

Capturing Knowledge to Drive Inclusive Practice: Co-design with CALD Groups

Jack Fawcett – AMCS/Volunteer West & Anish Varghese – AfriAus Care

Drawing on AMCS / Volunteer West's recent collaboration with Victoria University, this presentation will focus on the knowledge gained from working with CALD groups in a co-design context, as well as the benefits of working with academia and how it can drive lasting change.

Takeaways:

- Strategies for sharing academic sector knowledge with volunteer managers/VIOs.
- Gain understanding of meaningful co-design processes
- Learn to engage effectively with CALD communities.

Do Things Differently: From Informal to Formal Volunteering in Migrant Communities

Allistair Shaw & Amy Atkinson – Bendigo Volunteer Resource Centre

Newly arrived migrants are typically underrepresented in formal volunteer numbers and many established volunteer programs lament a lack of diversity. But the 'same same' approach isn't working and we need to shake it up! This presentation will explore how we can use a cultural lens, activate a space to serve community needs, and combine what we know about best practice volunteer management and community development in new migrant communities to achieve our goals.

Takeaways:

- Utilise a cultural perspective to enhance volunteer engagement strategies.
- Explore informal and formal volunteering in migrant journeys.
- Apply case studies to delegates' personal experiences.

WORKSHOP

Delacombe

Session MC: Hazel Maynard – Volunteering Victoria

The Power of Purpose: How Volunteering Fuels Mattering

Sarah Wilson – Volunteering Australia

In this dynamic session, we will delve into the profound connection between volunteering and 'mattering': the sense of feeling significant to and valued by others. Drawing on findings from world-first qualitative research you'll learn how volunteering creates mattering and how you can embed mattering in your volunteering programs, workplaces, and lives to unlock the true potential of what it means to be human.

Takeaways:

- Learn how fostering a sense of mattering boosts volunteer engagement.
- Discover how to create a culture where everyone knows they matter to elevate your volunteering program.
- Develop your unique leadership skills to unlock volunteer potential.

Choose from 4 concurrent workshops and multi-presenter sessions.

Note: Online & regional hub attendees will have access to the dedicated online stream only (Streamers)

MULTI-PRESENTER SESSION

Session MC: Rory Sackville – Good2Give

Huntingfield

Why as a CEO I'm seeking to Become a Volunteering Organisation

Lisa Jones – Ardoch

In this presentation, Ardoch CEO, Lisa Jones, will outline why as an organisational leader she sees the value of embedding volunteering throughout the organisation to achieve maximum purpose. Lisa will discuss some of the steps Ardoch is already taking to increase and redefine volunteer involvement, and the unique role senior leaders play in leading cultural change for embedding volunteer involvement in new ways.

Takeaways:

- Tips for influencing senior leaders to invest in volunteers.
- Discover immediate actions to enhance volunteer involvement.
- Understand elements of cultural change to embed and increase volunteer involvement.

Given the Chance: Corporate Volunteering Partnerships

Brianne Keogh – ANZ

Part of the ANZ corporate volunteering program, Given the Chance provides refugees and asylum seekers work experience to help them obtain meaningful employment in the Australian workforce, with ANZ staff given the opportunity to become participant mentors. This presentation will be a panel discussion between the ANZ Program Lead, an ANZ Mentor, and Brotherhood of St Laurence Program Lead. The panel will discuss what a good volunteering partnership looks like and how it benefits both the community and employees.

Takeaways:

- Explore best practice for corporate volunteering.
- Understand benefits and lessons from strong volunteering programs.
- Discover how long-term partnerships inspire new program ideas.

WORKSHOP

Session MC: Jenna Chia

Grand Ballroom

Diversity in Volunteering: Using the Law to Support Best Practice

Deb Porter – Justice Connect (NFP Law)

As lawyers, we see some tricky issues arise around discrimination, safety, screening and privacy law when organisations seek to embed diversity in their volunteer recruitment plan. Our challenge then is to use the law to support diversity. This workshop will use practical case studies to highlight the kinds of legal issues your organisation needs to consider to confidently build and grow a diverse and strong volunteer workforce.

Takeaways:

- Identify areas of law that can apply to issues around diversity.
- Understand legal 'grey areas' and what they might mean for your organisation.
- Strategies to help your organisation support diversity and manage risk.

DAY TWO – Afternoon Session

MULTI-PRESENTER SESSION

Session MC: Helen More – Down Syndrome Victoria

Stradbroke

Dare to be Different

Julia Roache – Our Village (Formerly St Kilda Mums)

This session will look back at a decade of bold volunteering choices at St Kilda Mums; a grassroots, volunteer-driven organisation. We will look at the hits and misses, and why we are once again shaking things up with a new 3 year Volunteering Roadmap. Learn more about the key components to our successful volunteering program, and how we've adapted to the hurdles we have faced along the way.

Takeaways:

- Learnings from a decade-long volunteering program, including successes and challenges.
- Key elements that have made St Kilda Mum's volunteering program successful.
- Overview of a bold Volunteering Roadmap and strategy.

Transformative Growth: Developing New Roles to Expand Your Volunteer Program

Emily Scott – Kids First

This session will offer practical tips and suggestions for those who are new to the sector and are looking to expand, grow and diversify the types of volunteer roles in their organisation. This will include the benefit of consulting and building relationships widely across the organisation, raising the profile of your volunteer program, and ideas for championing your volunteers internally.

Takeaways:

- Practical steps to grow or expand your volunteer program.
- Identify and overcome barriers to program growth.
- Gain confidence in the value of diverse volunteer involvement.

The Power of Engagement vs Management – Alida Williams – Family Life

With our Op Shop volunteer program decimated through lockdowns, Family Life needed a BOLD CHANGE in order to rebuild. To better engage volunteers in the current landscape, we had to understand our audience, understand their motivations, connect and respond. This session will outline how we created a volunteer experience that nourished those motivations, strengthened that connection to our purpose, and that attracted others to join in this exciting dynamic.

Takeaways:

- Differentiate between volunteer management and volunteer engagement.
- Learn how to measure and respond to volunteer motivations.
- Apply techniques to foster long-term volunteer commitment.

MULTI-PRESENTER SESSION

Session MC: Vittoria Tonin – Volunteering Victoria

Delacombe

Can Storytelling Inspire Younger People to Volunteer?

Rosemary Joiner – Federation University

As the face of volunteering changes across generations and into the future, we know that volunteering organisations and communities are adapting to encourage young people to consider volunteering. But could young people better understand what volunteering can look like and the impact it can have on individuals and communities? This session will explore the role storytelling can play in inspiring younger people to take up volunteering.

Takeaways:

- Learn strategies for inspiring young people to volunteer.
- Harness the power of storytelling.
- Rediscover your passion for the purpose and impact of volunteering.

Empowering the Next Generation: Youth Needs, Volunteerism, and School Priorities

Johanna Leitch – Awards Victoria

In this presentation, we delve into the dynamic interplay between the needs of today's youth, the realm of volunteerism, and the imperatives of educational institutions. Drawing from extensive research and practical experience, we explore how volunteering organisations can effectively engage and attract young people as volunteers. Additionally, we examine the pivotal role of volunteering in addressing the well-being priorities of schools.

Takeaways:

- Harness lessons from an organisation with 20 years of experience supporting youth volunteering.
- Gain insights into Gen Z's unique needs and motivations.
- Learn how to engage schools in volunteering through alignment with wellbeing

Choose from 4 concurrent workshops and multi-presenter sessions.

Note: Online & regional hub attendees will have access to the dedicated online stream only (Streamers)

MULTI-PRESENTER SESSION

Huntingfield

Session MC: Marg Joiner

Missing Voices: Repositioning Volunteer Engagement as a Powerful Community Engagement Strategy

Tracey O'Neill – Brotherhood of St Laurence

This presentation will explore how centring community can support better volunteer engagement and, ultimately, better outcomes. Together, let's explore the possibilities of how we can shift our relationship with volunteers and the way we position our programs to create transformational change and a much broader impact on our organisations' outcomes.

Takeaways:

- Understand the benefits of shifting from transactional to transformational volunteer engagement.
- Identify links between volunteering, community, and strategic objectives.
- Reposition volunteer engagement as a powerful community engagement strategy.

Growing the National Volunteer Pool with Cross-Sector Collaboration

Victor Lee - Communitier

The face of volunteering is changing in a complex modern world. This requires the sector to rethink how volunteering fits into civic life and collaborate across the system to align diverse interests in order to grow our national volunteer pool. During this presentation, Communitier's CEO Victor Lee, will delve into his experience building these cross-sector relationships, the common misalignments and miscommunications, and the potential that can be unlocked for Australian communities.

Takeaways:

- Gain insights into cross-sector engagement and leveraging new interests.
- Practical strategies for impactful cross-sector partnerships.
- Get inspired by the potential of these strategies in shaping the volunteering sector.

WORKSHOP

Grand Ballroom

Session MC: Liam Higgins – VOLI

Shaking It Up On All Sides: Navigating for a Future Volunteer Workforce

Viv Cunningham-Smith – EV Strengthening Communities

Place-based navigation services are essential for engaging and sustaining our future volunteer workforce. But successful navigation is more than just finding an opportunity. This session will explore how to optimally match opportunities with volunteer expectations, engaging those who face barriers to volunteering, and recommendations for bold and creative thinking moving forward.

Takeaways:

- Explore how navigation services support future volunteers.
- Strategies to engage those facing barriers to volunteering.
- Recommendations for achieving bold structural changes.

Empowering Your Community Group to Go Boldly into the Future

Lisa Hester – South East Volunteers

Bold change is all about challenging the old paradigm. This session will guide you through techniques to understand your unique serving proposition, how to sell your story to reach more people, and strategies for delivering an experience that the community relates to. You'll come away with a toolkit to support you in making bold moves and feeling confident with approaching volunteering in a different way.

Takeaways:

- Create sustainable business practices that demonstrate impact.
- Best practice techniques for making bold moves.
- Discover the latest social media trends for your community group.

DAY TWO – Afternoon Session (cont.)

BONUS SESSION: YARNING CIRCLE

Latrobe

Session MC: Sara Sterling – Volunteering Victoria

Fostering Inclusion in Volunteering

Tom Conley & Ricki Spencer – Volunteering Victoria First Nations Advisory Group

As part of Volunteering Victoria's commitment to reconciliation and holding space for First Nations peoples, members of the Volunteering Victoria First Nations Advisory group will facilitate a yarning circle to focus on how volunteer programs can be more culturally safe and inclusive. Participants will have an opportunity to share stories about embedding First Nations culture and practices into volunteer programs.

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