



## WEBSITE CONTENT

### 7. Volunteer Recognition

#### Volunteer Recognition – Why?

Once volunteers join your organisation it makes good sense to make every effort to retain them. It is costly to recruit and train replacement volunteers. One method of encouraging your volunteers to continue with your organisation is to give them suitable recognition. However, in order to be effective, the recognition needs to be effective, consistent and ongoing. Volunteers can quickly lose motivation if they feel that their work is not being valued.

A good indication for the type of recognition that the volunteer may be seeking can be gleaned from the volunteer's motivation in working for the organisation in the first instance; such as: where a volunteer is hoping to obtain paid employment in the future, they will value opportunities to receive training, or obtain a certificate of training recognition and/or a referee for their résumé. Where volunteers are motivated by service to the community, they may see their work as reward in, and of, itself. The support of the paid personnel of the organisation can be demonstrated in many and varied ways such as the interest of paid staff in the aims of the volunteer program. This is generally of critical importance as it creates the acknowledgment that volunteers and the work they do are important.

#### Recognition Days

##### **National Volunteer Week: 2nd week of May**

National Volunteer Week provides a national focus for organisations wanting to recruit volunteers and to promote the value of volunteering to the community. Each year, Volunteering Australia adopts a different theme that is launched during the week and used for the following 12 months. Currently, the theme is: "Give Happy. Live Happy." The Centre for Volunteering is using the catchphrase "I volunteer because....."

Any organisation involving volunteers is welcome to participate in the week and use the themes to promote volunteering in their local area.

##### **International Volunteer Manager Day: 5 November**

International Volunteer Manager Day is celebrated annually on 5 November.

This annual event recognises the efforts of the dedicated group of volunteer resources managers who are responsible for the coordination, support, training, administration, leadership and recruitment of the world's volunteers. These are



skilled individuals who are adept at taking a singular passion and turning it into effective action. For more information, visit [www.volunteermanagersday.org](http://www.volunteermanagersday.org).

### **International Volunteer Day: 5 December**

December 5 was declared as International Volunteer Day by the United Nations General Assembly in 1985. In Australia, International Volunteer Day has been designated as a day for the recognition of volunteer involvement. A day in which organisations can thank their volunteer staff for their contributions.

The Centre for Volunteering holds the [NSW Volunteer of the Year State Awards](#) annually on International Volunteer Day to further recognise volunteers.

### **Volunteer Awards**

A number awards are given each year to volunteers who have made an outstanding contribution to the community. Below is a list of awards you can nominate someone for or be nominated for:

1. NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards

The NSW Volunteer of the Year Award is an annual awards program launched in 2007 by The Centre for Volunteering to recognise the outstanding efforts of the 2.4 million volunteers in NSW, and to promote the importance of volunteering to the community and to businesses. Prior to 2007 there was no state-wide recognition program for volunteers. The [NSW Volunteer of the Year Award](#) are traditionally open for nominations between May–July and the State winners are announced in early December.

2. Australian of the Year Awards

Each year our nation celebrates the achievement and contribution of eminent Australians through the [Australian of the Year Awards](#) by profiling leading citizens who are role models for us all. They inspire us through their achievements and challenge us to make our own contribution to creating a better Australia.