

Volunteer in New England

Armidale Volunteer Referral Service

International Volunteer Day 2023

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The power of collective action: if everyone did

In 1985 the UN mandated International Volunteer Day for 5 December. Each year they have a different theme to recognize the day and this is the theme for 2023.

Behind this aspiration is the theory that If everyone volunteered, the world and our region would be a better place. Helping each other to enjoy this life by supporting efforts to increase the reach of our community organizations. In some part this can overcome local obstacles to living in a regional area and improve the well-being of our wider community.

As the world faces mounting challenges from climate change and war, volunteers are often the first to help. Locally our SES and RFS Volunteers are at the fore in crises and emergencies, often in very testing and dire situations.

Finding volunteers who can support these organizations to ensure the safety and



It was wonderful to welcome Member for Northern Tablelands, Adam Marshall to our event, along with Deputy Mayor Todd Redgrave, Cr Dorothy Robinson and Cr Debbie O'Brien. Together they teamed up to present certificates of appreciation to our assembled volunteers.

Above Joy Witherdin holds the certificates for the volunteers from Cancer Council NSW Transport 2 Treatment volunteers, and below Jane Davison represents the Community Visitors Scheme, which has now been superseded by the AVCCS.



Left: Adam Marshall, MP thanks volunteers for their service.



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IVD 2023 Celebration—continued...

stability of our region is ongoing. Volunteers from all walks of life and fitness levels can participate in the delivery of emergency services as there is a vast infrastructure to maintain, apart from those on the front lines.

The volunteers present at the AVRS IVD 2023 celebrations represented a glimpse of the wide range of services

where you can volunteer in the New England region.

Everything volunteers to support our community is important to the general well-being of our citizens. Whether you volunteer in a museum, art gallery, animal shelter or refugee support organization, you are making a difference to someone's day and/or whole life with your gift of your skills and time.

As 2023 draws to a close volunteers can reflect on the help they have given and also the pleasure and great fellowship they have gained from their generosity.

I hope you have a happy and peaceful time over the holidays and whatever your beliefs and customs, have a chance to share in the spirit of Christmas.

Now, what will you do in 2024?



Left: Care for Seniors volunteers receiving their certificates.

Below left: Annie Mayo holds the certificates for the volunteers of Uralla Historical Society which supports the McCrossin's Mill museum.



IVD 2023 Celebration—Photos



Above: Volunteers from the United Hospitals Auxiliary who run the Kiosk at Armidale Hospital. They are delighted that the recent refurbishments to the Kiosk have resulted in an increased clientele. This means they have more money with which to support the hospital when it needs specialized equipment.

Below: NERAM volunteers gather to receive their certificates.



IVD 2023 Celebration—photos

Right: Volunteers from 2ARM Community Radio Station looking happy to receive their certificates of appreciation.

Below: It was nice to see another contingent from Uralla as volunteers from Tablelands Community Support Social Support Group hold their certificates.

Below right: The SES representative holds their certificates, flanked by Cr Todd Redwood and Adam Marshall.



That's all for now, folks.

Hope you have an opportunity to take a break and kick back after a very busy year in the community.

Maybe you will have been inspired by some of the organizations represented at our celebration and would like to try something new in 2024. If so please get in touch and I can refer you to your chosen service.

Our next morning tea will be on 1 February, 2024 so hope to see you there—details will be emailed in January.

Happy Christmas, Jane (Editor)



Guyra HSS

Bec and Toni, who coordinate Guyra Home Support Services, are urgently seeing drivers to deliver their Meals on Wheels service.

They also provide a volunteer-driven service for locals needing assistance with medical trips. Long distance drivers in particu-

lar are needed, as they only have one volunteer to do this since their long time driver Stuart has left HSS.

If you enjoy driving and are pretty flexible with your availability, Bec and Toni would be delighted to hear from you. Ideally they would like to build up their team of drivers to ensure the service can be maintained even when drivers are sick or on personal leave.

Please contact Jane on 02 6770 3838 in the first instance.