



newsletter

January to

March

2015

A Change in the Place

By Dr. Mehdi Taghian

During the nineties, a friend suggested to Terry to nominate for a By Election for the then Nunawading Council. Terry won that election and subsequently discovered the magic of serving the community. Terry later became a member of the Board of many local organizations, eventually stepping up to the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, Philanthropy Australia, the Board of Eastern Volunteers Resource Centre Inc. and Volunteering Victoria. He once said in his long experience he has seen some organizations and people who didn't cope with change, but said the team at EV used change as inspiration to explore new business opportunities and to investigate and plan more efficient and better ways to serve the community.

In 2008 Terry was elected to the position of the Chair of the Eastern Volunteer Board of Management.



During his distinguished period of service as Chair, Eastern Volunteer Resource Centre experienced substantial growth during times of trying circumstances marked by numerous uncertainties and challenges. We remember Terry for his friendly and fun attitude, thoughtful approach and extensive skill in tackling problems and guiding debate at Board meetings. His rich experience and genuine and active participation in community activities provided Eastern Volunteers with an

effective network of influential stakeholders. We have all learned from Terry the art of managing with goodwill and care and how to achieve positive results, and we thank him for his commitment and significant contribution to EV and the community.

Eastern Volunteers Training



17th March

Recruitment and Retention

18th March

Positive Psychology for
Volunteer Managers

20th April

Working with Diversity

29th April

Induction & Orientation

Please contact:

clare@easternvolunteers.org.au

for all information & bookings.

Introducing the new Chairman

Dr. Mehdi Taghian was elected Chairman of the Eastern Volunteers Board on 23 February 2015, replacing Terry Macdonald who resigned for health reasons. Mehdi has been a board member since 2008, also serving as Deputy Chairman for four years.



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Mehdi comes from a long corporate background in marketing. He held different marketing management positions in companies such as Gillette and Ansell International. Mehdi is currently a senior lecturer in International Marketing and Sustainable Marketing at the Department of Marketing, School of Business at Deakin

University. Mehdi feels honoured and privileged to serve as Chairman of EV, an opportunity he believes will give him the chance to serve as a volunteer in a new role in an organisation he truly cares for. He also expresses gratitude to his EV Board member colleagues who have trusted him in this new role and for a chance to work with the nicest people one wants to work and associate with. Mehdi believes the rewards of volunteering are the great feeling of contribution without any expectation of rewards, except for the self-satisfaction of knowing to be useful and of benefit to others. The chance to 'give' rather than 'take'.

Yarra Ranges Council and Eastern Volunteers

are again joining forces to create a one day conference on May 5th in Kilsyth. The Power of Volunteering: Give Happy, Live Happy Conference will present an array of speakers and workshops to support the work of Volunteer Managers. The key note address will be delivered by Sue Noble, CEO of Volunteering Victoria. For bookings, go to www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/volunteerconference

The conference is being generously supported by the Mt Evelyn and Districts Community Bank Branch and the Mooroolbark Community Bank Branch of the Bendigo Bank.

Australia Day Awards

Alan Mee is a volunteer driver who received the Whitehorse Council Australia Day Community Achievement award for 2015. Alan has been with EV since 2004. He makes himself available almost every day of the week for driving and has had many positive comments from clients on his professional nature and willingness to go the extra mile.

Congratulations Alan



Maree Wragg is an EV office volunteer who was recently nominated for the Maroondah Council Australia Day awards.

Maree was nominated for showing a consistent and committed effort in her role. Maree is a diligent, reliable volunteer with a great sense of humour who has served Eastern Volunteers for many years and who has stepped up to the plate for us and EV clients time and time again.



Congratulations Maree

EASTLAND

& the Christmas gift wrapping



It was a 24 day event filled with joy and gifts, and hundreds of metres of Christmas paper and ribbons. The deluxe gift wrapping stand was again staffed by a team of over 50 volunteers, managed by Eastern Volunteers, where we spent many happy hours wrapping gifts for Eastland customers. It was a fantastic opportunity for Eastern Volunteers to raise public awareness of volunteering, bring some Christmas cheer and also fundraise. We raised over \$6,500 from gold coin donations and thank Eastland for again providing this opportunity.



So what did we wrap, I hear you ask?

A poll of our team of 50 volunteers revealed that we wrapped;

A five foot toy crocodile,

Fishing rods,

A bar fridge and a microwave,

A slab of beer,

5 dinosaurs, a giant rubbish bin and a thousand other items.

We shared in the laughter and joy of the customers and listened to their stories of family fun and explanations of who the presents were for. We also listened to sadder stories, that brought about shared hugs and tears between the volunteers and the customers. At times it was so much more than just gift wrapping.

An incredibly special team of 50 volunteers represented Eastern Volunteers in the best possible way and we would like to thank each and every one of them. And rememberMothers Day gift wrapping is coming soon!

Volunteering

By Annette O'Loughlin

EV Transport Volunteer

Volunteering had always been something I had thought of doing when I was older. Well, before I knew it "Older" had arrived. I was very fortunate to obtain a volunteering position where I have been able to call upon some of the skills I have acquired during my working life. I find myself working alongside caring, generous people, many are volunteers like me, who are prepared to give of themselves and go that extra mile for the sake of others in the community. Working in this atmosphere really restores one's faith in human nature.



I started volunteering during a very stressful and upsetting time in my life. Becoming a volunteer was the best thing I could have done, as it required me to move past my own problems, and gave me some purpose. I feel I have gained much from my time as a volunteer so far. It is great to feel that I am still a useful person, with much to give, and being able to help others is very satisfying and rewarding. I am also very lucky to have made new friendships which have also enriched my life.

Welcome to EV's new Manager for Planning & Business Development, Charles Cox.

Firstly, I'm absolutely thrilled to be joining the team at Eastern Volunteers. From a work point of view it's something of a leap as, for the past 25 years or so, I've been working in the corporate world. My roles have been many and varied including sales leadership, project management, operations management and system management. Making the



move from the corporate to the Not For Profit sector will have its challenges but I am looking forward to using my experience to support the staff and volunteers at EV and being part of such a dedicated and passionate group.

Welcome to Suzanne Phoenix, EV's new Transport Operations Manager.



Suzanne Phoenix comes to Eastern Volunteers with a background in Volunteer Management in a Community Development framework and a passion for social justice. Most recently Suzanne managed 7 opportunity shops, with over 300 volunteers for Doncare and prior to that was the Sussex Neighbourhood House Manager. Beyond that Suzanne worked for a

decade in local government in Australia and New Zealand in community development roles including community arts, volunteering, homelessness, family violence, grants, social housing, food security community infrastructure development, neighbourhood houses, multiculturalism and diversity. Suzanne currently sits on two boards of management including the National Institute of Challenging Homophobia Education and the Upper Yarra Wildlife Rescue Network. Suzanne is also a photographer, enjoying street photography and reportage and recently held a number of exhibitions.

Bunnings Fundraising

On a lovely January day early this year, a great team worked very hard at Bunnings in Nunawading to cook and sell 800 sausages raising \$1,450.

A very big thank you to Yvonne, Lyn, Jennie, Lesley, Sue and Phil, Rhona, Natalie, Susan and Bunnings.



Eastern Volunteers offers volunteer training programs and providing volunteer assistance to more than 410 community organisations. Providing volunteer assisted transport to HACC eligible frail aged people and those with disabilities living in the municipalities of Maroondah and Whitehorse and specified parts of the Shire of Yarra Ranges.

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