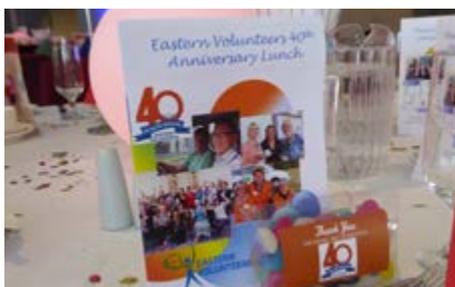




EASTERN  
VOLUNTEERS  
December  
2016

empowering the community through active engagement

# A 40th Birthday Party to Remember



On October 19th, seventy five people came together to celebrate the Eastern Volunteers 40th anniversary with fun, color, stories and jellybeans at the Karralyka Centre.

The event commenced with the 40th AGM and presentation of office bearers reports and the annual report. We then shifted to celebration mode and enjoyed a delightful lunch that was presided over by our MC, Charles Cox. To mark the occasion of our 40th year we had several speakers share their thoughts. Kerrie Willis (pictured below), our first coordinator from 1976, shared her recollections of organising volunteers without computers.



Our next speaker, Lin Plaice, shared her memories as President of EV at the time of our 25th anniversary. Her story about "red string" will be long remembered.

We then moved into 2016 with presentations from our Transport Operations Manager Suzanne Phoenix and current Chair, Mehdi Taghian. The formalities finished with our new CEO Viv Cunningham - Smith sharing her thoughts about our future, the cutting of the birthday cake and a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday.

Our 40th celebrations were shared with our staff, volunteers from past and present and many good friends and supporters.



*Our speakers cutting the birthday cake*

The 2015 -2016 Annual Report is available here:  
<http://easternvolunteers.org.au/newsletters-annual-reports/>



# Introducing our new CEO



**Vivienne Cunningham-Smith has joined Eastern Volunteers as its new Chief Executive Officer.**

Viv has over thirty years experience in the human services sector having worked at executive level in child and family and primary health services in both Victoria and New South Wales. Viv most recently was CEO of Playgroup Victoria one of the largest volunteering membership organisations in Victoria and General Manager of Playgroup Australia. Viv brings to the position a strong strategic planning and outcomes approach which will enable Eastern Volunteers to demonstrate the outcomes it is getting for the people and the communities it serves.

Viv is a local resident and has a long history of volunteer work on Boards of community service organisations. She is currently Secretary of Cire Services Inc. in the Upper Yarra Valley. Viv has said "I am extremely excited to be working with the wonderful team at Eastern Volunteers. We have many challenges and opportunities to face over the coming year and we look forward to working together on these to expand the role of volunteers in our community and to continue to provide and improve our quality community transport service."

# Transport services

by Suzanne Phoenix



The Eastern Volunteers Transport Services this year continued to provide a vital service to some of the most vulnerable people who live in the municipalities of Whitehorse, Maroondah and Yarra Ranges; those who are frail aged and people with disabilities. We assisted 732 people with transport, providing 15,780 trips. Our volunteer drivers spent more than 14,500 hours providing supported transport to clients.

The Transport Services team included around 150 employees and volunteers in total over the year and the structure has developed to accommodate the growing needs of the service.

With a solely volunteer workforce delivering the transport service out in the community, there were many changes of faces with people retiring, moving into other volunteer and paid roles and new volunteers stepping in to take on a new challenge to keep themselves active, socially connected and contributing positively to their local community. We'd like to thank every one of our volunteers and employees for their contribution over the past 12 months.

With the year drawing to a close I would just like to say a huge thankyou to every one of our volunteers for their contribution. I look forward to seeing you all in 2017 and continuing to assist people to stay connected with their local community.



**We are very excited to introduce Kim Boswell, the new Community Engagement Manager at Eastern Volunteers.**



"Hi, I'm Kim and I am thrilled to have taken on this role at Eastern Volunteers.

I have spent the majority of my career in the not for profit sector, helping organisations to increase their income, reach and impact. I love to travel and have worked in Public Relations, Volunteer Management and Fundraising roles in 31 countries, globally. I have a huge passion for volunteering and volunteer programs and I currently volunteer as President of the Yarra Ranges Landcare Network and Secretary of Cockatoo Community Childcare. I'm looking forward to this exciting adventure with EV as much as I am looking forward to summer finally arriving here in Melbourne. When I am not at the EV office here in Ringwood, you'll find me in the field in our gorgeous region, meeting up with our fabulous clients. In my off time you'll catch me in my huge veggie garden in Emerald, at the beach down Western port way or adventuring around the magnificent Ranges."

# Recognising 10 Years' Service

by EV Chair Mehdi Taghian

Eastern Volunteers is going through a changing of the guard with the retirement of our General Manager of 10 years, Vic North. During his decade at the helm, Vic has provided distinguished leadership and direction that has seen Eastern Volunteers grow in all aspects of the business. In short, the Eastern Volunteers of today is a creation of Vic's care, direction and vision.

The change Vic led at Eastern Volunteers has been significant. Under his leadership, Eastern Volunteers expanded its transport services, adopting a state of the art technology and developing increasingly efficient processes that significantly improved all aspects of the service. Additionally, Eastern Volunteers acquired its present head office in Ringwood, transitioning from being a tenant to being a property owner and landlord.

A hallmark of Vic's successful management has been his consultative, collaborative and inclusive style. Vic consistently demonstrated substantial skills in identifying the right people and has been meticulous in his staff selection process. A sign of his leadership is the skill and care with which staff, particularly the key departmental managers, have been selected, trained, directed, motivated and allowed to work for the betterment of the organisation.

Throughout his tenure at Eastern Volunteers, Vic's collaborative style has been instrumental in informing and persuading the board of management to make the right choices while developing constructive relationships with the board members.

Eastern Volunteers is grateful for Vic's contribution over his term as General Manager. We wish him well in his retirement knowing he can now spend rewarding time with his family, play more golf and get in plenty of travel.



## A Corporate Volunteering Story

by Reese Masita, Muscular Dystrophy Australia

National Superhero Week aims to promote a positive message for children living with Muscular Dystrophy to give them and their families hope. The event shows they are not alone and their community is working to raise funds for a cure.

The event encourages people to be every day superheroes by being aware of those around them and what other children and families may be going through and to always be kind and supportive. This is an important life lesson and even though our focus is on Muscular Dystrophy, the overall message is one of hope, acceptance and understanding.

The team at MDA were very lucky to receive help from Burke & Beyond. Team Leader Tam Nguyen (Super Tam) and his crew of superheroes who assisted our organisation by developing a database of schools in Victoria which will enable MDA to contact and invite as many schools as possible to participate in this wonderful event in 2017.

We really appreciated this support and enjoyed meeting the wonderful crew, in particular when they visited us at MDA to present us with their work.

A big thank you to Tam Nguyen from Burke & Beyond and Julie Tang from Eastern Volunteers who linked our organisations together.



# Thank you to our 2016 sponsors and supporters



## IMPORTANT END OF THE YEAR INFORMATION AND DATES

The Transport Services will finish on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and start again on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

All regular transport bookings (weekly and fortnightly bookings) end at the end of each year. Therefore, you need to book all trips for 2017 with the office on 9870 7822.

The Eastern Volunteers Office will be closed from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2016 to Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017.

## Our Facilities

Eastern Volunteers has several meeting rooms available for casual or ongoing hire. After hours and week-end usage is also available. All rooms include wireless internet access, have use of the kitchen included and are fully accessible.

### Meeting and Training Rooms

The two training rooms have access to AV equipment and white boards. These rooms can be combined to provide one room suitable for large meetings, workshops or training sessions. The data projector and laptop are available for hire at \$10 each per session.



### To make a booking

Contact (03) 9870 7822 or email [info@easternvolunteers.org.au](mailto:info@easternvolunteers.org.au). Discounts are available for regular bookings.

## Contact Eastern Volunteers

Offering volunteer recruitment and training for Volunteers and community organisations and volunteer opportunities to the business sector and its employees.

Providing volunteer assisted transport to HACC eligible clients who live in the municipalities of Maroondah, Whitehorse and the Yarra Ranges.

Head Office  
Suite 1, 36 New St,  
Ringwood, 3134  
Monday to Friday 9am – 4.30pm  
Telephone: 9870 7822

Box Hill Office  
Box Hill Hub, 1st Floor, 27 Bank St,  
Box Hill 3128  
Monday 9am – 12md,  
Tuesday 9am – 4.30pm  
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