

# Volunteering GEELONG

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25





Volunteering Geelong Inc  
 ABN 53 611 428 304  
 Is registered by Australian Charities and  
 Not for Profits Commission

Registration: A0040073C  
 Regulator: Consumer Affairs Victoria  
 Registration Date: 22/08/2000

Volunteering Geelong respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands and waters of Australia.

Volunteering Geelong acknowledge the land we live and work on is Wadawurrung country and belongs to the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin Nation.

We respect and acknowledge this land and its ecosystems and all elders: past, present and emerging.



Volunteering Geelong Community Foundation Trust  
 ABN 43 297 814 948  
 Is registered by Australian Charities  
 and Not for Profits Commission

Endorsed as a deductible gift recipient  
 – DGR Item 1 effective 16 February 2017

Endorsed for charity tax concessions  
 Income tax exemption  
 GST concessions  
 FBT exemption effective 16 February 2018



# Volunteering Geelong Annual Report 2024–25



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Be Involved  
Lend a Hand  
Give Back  
Be Rewarded

# Our Strategic Priorities

- Diversity - Access, Equity & Equality for all participants of our programs
- Impact - Social connection, economic impact and wellbeing
- Impacting a Pathway to Employment opportunities - Skills / Training - Jobs
- Rewarding volunteering opportunities
- Breaking down Barriers and Capacity Building of volunteer involving organisations

## Vision

To support a region where individuals feel motivated to volunteer, have the opportunity to contribute their time, skills and knowledge and are supported and encouraged to enjoy a rewarding volunteering experience.

## Mission

As a leading provider of volunteering services, we will coordinate, promote, support & strengthen volunteering in our community to enhance the health & well-being for people and community or charitable organisations within our community.

## Purpose

Our purpose is to see the Barwon South West region thrive through volunteerism. We make this a reality by :

- a. Promoting and increasing the impact of volunteering in our region.
- b. Creating a strong and vibrant volunteer community that promotes inclusivity, respect and empowerment
- c. Being a trail blazer and the leading voice for volunteering in our region, with our advice being sought by government, community based organisations, businesses and individuals.

Our Membership Value Proposition (MVP) is focused on increasing positive impacts for our member organisations through the use of our volunteers.

We do this by providing:

- a. volunteers matched to your request criteria,
- b. volunteers who are appropriately canvassed, accredited and aligned to National Standards and best practices,
- c. timely response turnarounds for volunteer requests,
- d. valuable education and advice to assist in maximising volunteer outcomes through contemporary sector knowledge,
- e. an active network to support our volunteer managers



# Board Members



**Top Row:** Lily Stefanovic (**President**), Ron Andrews (**Vice President**), Christine Heath (**Treasurer**)

**Bottom Row:** Lydia Turda, Cameron Murnane, Kerry Dmytrenko

# Board Members

## continuation

### Lily Stefanovic (President)

**BCom**

Lily has worked for Bunnings for 27 years in operations as a Senior Area Manager. During her time at Bunnings she has enjoyed being an integral part of the local communities that she opened stores in.

After she retired for a short time to renovate homes, she joined GenU as an Investigator/Senior Business Partner in employee relations.

### Ron Andrews (Vice President)

Ron is a self-employed business consultant in Transformation Services; specialising in Business Strategy Planning and Execution, Business Creation, Team Building, Deal Project Management, Vendor Selection, Vendor/Customer negotiation, General Management Project Direction and Consultancy. Ron has represented his work across Europe, Asia-Pacific and North America.

### Christine Heath (Treasurer)

**BEC Grad Dip Investment and Finance, MBA**

Christine worked in management roles in the financial services industry in Melbourne for many years before moving to Geelong around 20 years ago. Christine is passionate about giving back to the community and is currently also on the board of Barwon Child Youth and Family. She has just completed her MBA.

### Colin Demspey (Secretary)

#### Lydia Turda

**MBA MEI**

Lydia is passionate about using her not for profit and business innovation experience to support the growth of Volunteering Geelong.

### Cameron Murnane

Cam is a dedicated Community Development Manager at Beyond Bank, bringing a wealth of experience in fostering community engagement and financial inclusion. With strong network of local connections, stakeholder management skills and a deep knowledge of financial literacy, Cam is committed to empowering individuals and organisations through targeted community initiatives. Passionate about making a positive social impact, Cam leverages a robust understanding of community development strategies to drive sustainable change and build meaningful relationships with local partners.

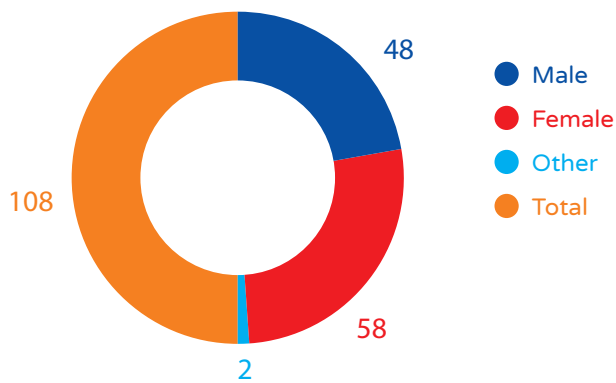
### Kerry Dmytrenko

With a background as a Healthcare Executive, and experience within community, acute, disability and mental health; Kerry is also a Registered Nurse. Kerry's post graduate qualifications include Masters Health Services Management, her current role is in the Clinical Governance and Quality field.

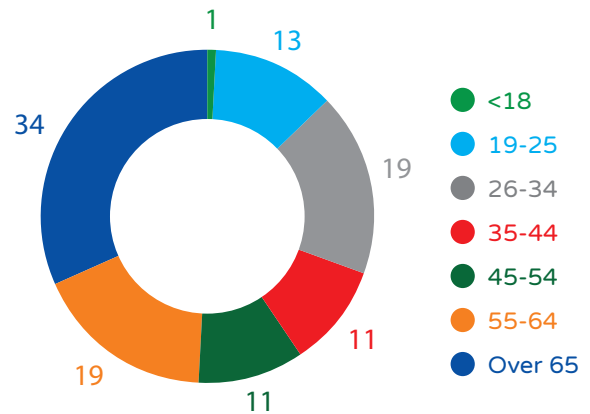
# Service Usage Stats

01 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

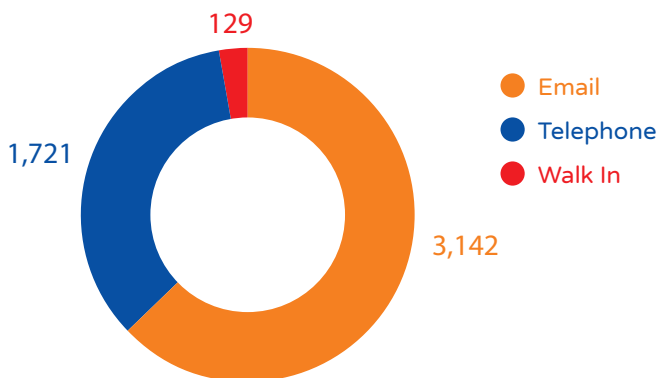
## FACE TO FACE / TELEPHONE INTERVIEWS



## AGE GROUPS



## COMMUNITY INTERFACE / ENGAGEMENT



**1,078**  
VOLUNTEER HOURS

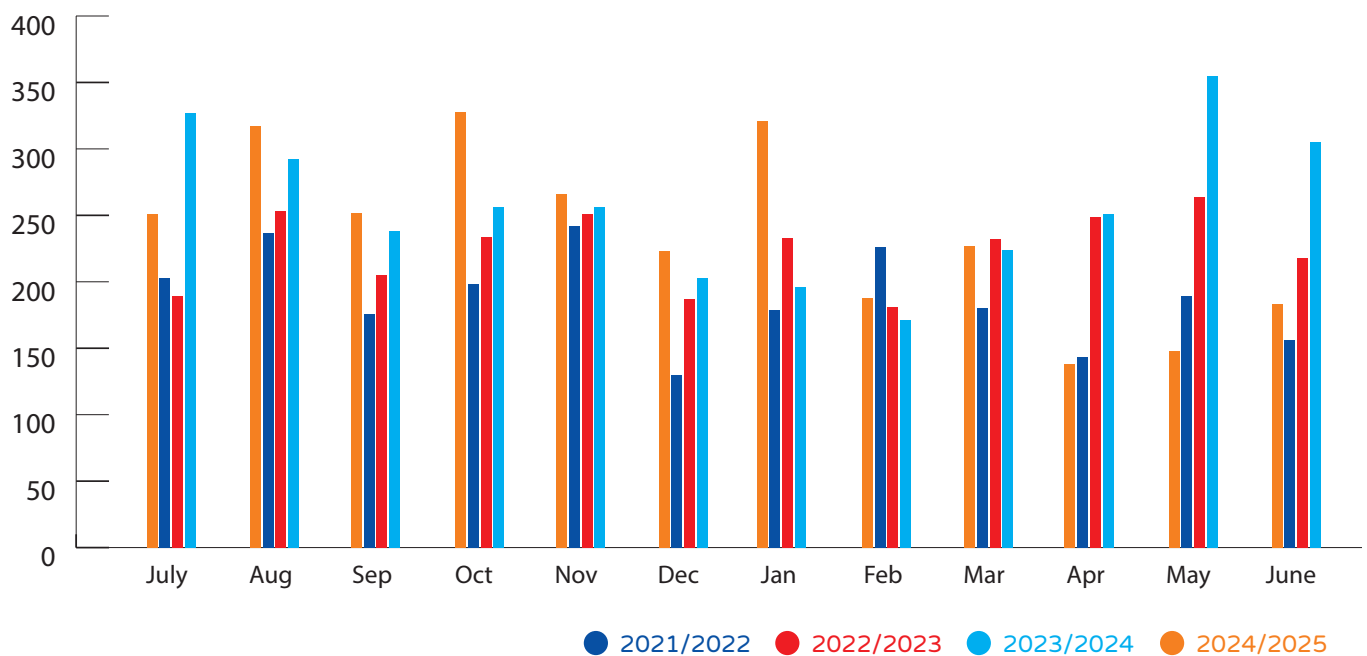
**223**  
VG BOARD HOURS

# Service Usage Stats

## 01 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

continuation

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST / ONLINE REGISTRATION



# President's Report



**PRESIDENT** Lily Stefanovic

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all volunteers who give so much of themselves to make a difference while supporting others. Their time and work allows them to share their knowledge and experience to add value to other businesses and individuals in the community.

Volunteering Geelong (VG) has now established itself at the new location of the Geelong Town Hall in Gheringhap Street, Geelong, which has enabled us to dust off, set up and strategise for the future. Having established a working partnership with the City of Greater Geelong (COGG) we have also expanded our team to move forward with new and innovative ideas. We welcome Alana Whitten to the team.

We have continued our strong working relationship with our state body, Volunteering Victoria, who provide and enable continual support, funding, guidance, training and shared initiatives from across the state. Notwithstanding this work, we have continued to support local organisations and communities within Geelong and the wider region.

My sincere thanks to Colin and our office volunteers - Judy and Christine, for their continued support, passion and initiatives to

drive volunteering. Moving forward we plan to have a stronger focus on training to support small communities and individuals in need.

The 2025 Volunteer Awards, held in conjunction with The Rotary Club of Kardinia, enabled us to recognise the outstanding contribution of Volunteers in the region. Reading through nominations and the incredible work they carry out with such commitment, was both moving, inspirational and humbling. In conducting these Awards, we hope to recognise the value and self-worth of all volunteers and to encourage and inspire others to give their time to volunteering. In the future we hope to welcome a greater number of Youth participants embarking on the volunteering journey.

My sincere thanks to the Board members who share their experiences and knowledge while generously volunteering their own time, to support the vision and team of VG, and once again a huge "Thank you" to the volunteer army of Geelong who make a huge difference to our community.

**Lily Stefanovic**  
President

# Treasurer's Report

I have reviewed the accounts for the year ended 30th June 2025 and am pleased to report that our financial position is sound, with net assets having grown from \$370,284 at 30th June 2024 to \$598,106 at 30th June 2025, primarily due to a generous donation of \$250,000 received during the year.

Our strong financial position has meant we have been able to place \$400,000 into a term deposit with Beyond Bank. Interest was received in July, so is not reflected in these accounts.

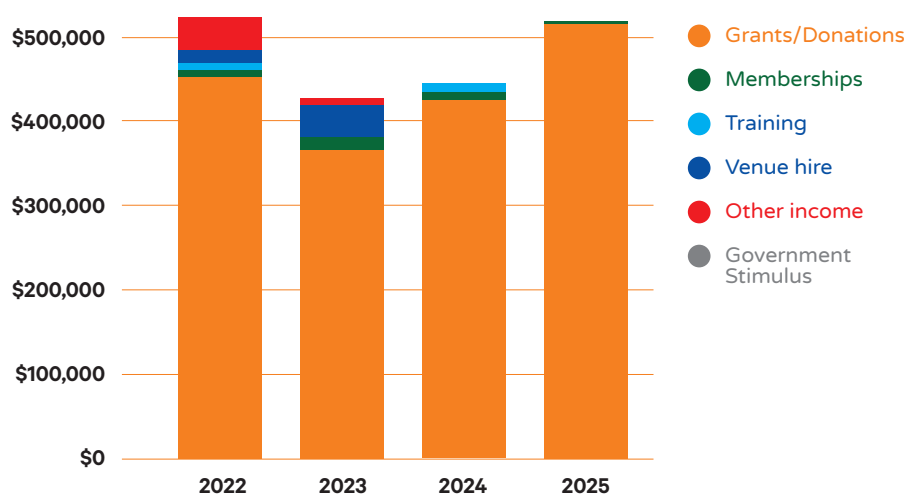
Our main source of recurring funding continues to be from Volunteer Management Activity Funding but although we are in a strong financial position, we must continue to explore opportunities in relation to future revenue streams with a view to us becoming less reliant on Government funding.

Armstrong Accounting and Taxation prepared the Consolidated Accounts and although they do not formally audit the accounts, they provide assurance that based on their review, they have not become aware of any matter that made them believe that the financial report is not in accordance with the ACNC and gives a true and fair view of our financial position and that the accounts comply with the Australian Accounting Standards.

Thanks must go again to Colin for his diligent work in making sure that our finances are run efficiently and that all of our reporting requirements are attended to.

**Christine Heath**  
Treasurer

## VOLUNTEERING GEELONG CONSOLIDATED REVENUE



KEY RESULTS	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Income</b>	\$256,127	\$365,161	\$524,079	\$420,993	\$447,273	\$519,572
<b>Expenses</b>	\$197,721	\$275,106	\$343,242	\$438,898	\$413,695	\$291,750
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	\$58,406	\$90,056	\$180,837	(\$ 17,905)	\$33,578	\$227,822
<b>% Salaries</b>	69%	76%	70%	68%	62%	54%
<b>Cash at Bank</b>	\$124,383	\$175,713	\$375,953	\$310,537	\$362,125	\$579,812
<b>Net Assets</b>	\$83,110	\$173,196	\$354,611	\$336,706	\$370,284	\$598,106

# Manager's Report



Colin Dempsey

Volunteering continues to play an important role in the Geelong community, enabling focussed organisations to provide important services in areas such as, social support, health & aged care, sport & recreation, education, youth services and animal welfare. In addition to the community benefit, volunteering is now recognised for its personal benefits, supporting improved wellbeing, increased self-confidence, opportunities to learn new skills, build social networks and provide a sense of purpose. Volunteering Geelong continues to play an important role linking Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIO's) and those in our community who are looking to volunteer or who would benefit from volunteering

Volunteering Geelong continues to undertake this important role in a number of different ways:

**Community engagement** (group presentations, forums and expo's) – promoting the benefits of volunteering, education on how to get into volunteering and identifying what opportunities are available through volunteering.

**Support and assistance of the regions VIO's** – recruitment and matching of volunteers, training, assistance with governance & compliance, general support and advice.

**Community Programs & Services** – run through the recruitment and training of our own volunteers e.g community transport, Financial Literacy.

**Volunteer Recognition** – encourage and provide opportunities for VIO's to appreciate and recognise the important role volunteers play.

In addition to our core activities, Volunteering Geelong is committed to the Volunteer Management Activity (VMA) program, undertaken in conjunction with Volunteering Victoria. This program is aimed at breaking down barriers to volunteering, focussing on six priority groups:

- People with Disability
- First Nation Peoples
- Newly Arrived Migrants
- Unemployed
- Youth
- Vulnerable Women

The VMA aims to increase opportunities for people who may not otherwise participate in their community through volunteering, by:

- building effective volunteering practices and opportunities within organisations and communities
- increasing the diversity of volunteers
- improving access to information on volunteering
- providing access to the training, resources and support volunteers and Volunteer Involving

# Manager's Report continuation

## Other Achievements in 2024/25

- In November we moved from our previous office accommodation at StMarys Terrace to the old Town Hall in Gheringhap St. The support of the City of Greater Geelong making this possible
- Signing of a formal partnership agreement with the City of Greater Geelong, looking to establish a closer working relationship in order to better support our community
- Supporting volunteer organisations in the greater Barwon Region. Linking with organisations such as the Colac Community Hub
- In conjunction with the Rotary Club of Kardinia, successfully hosted the Geelong Regional 'Volunteer of the Year Award' event, celebrating the achievements of the regions volunteers and volunteer involving organisations

I would like to thank the Volunteering Geelong Board for their support across the 2024/25 year.

Lastly, I would like to thank the volunteers for their contribution and commitment which has enabled the organisation to support volunteering in Geelong.

In 2025/26 we need to continue to establish both strategic and funding partners to be able to continue the important role we play in the Geelong community. I look forward to seeing what 2025/26 brings.

Colin Dempsey  
Manager, Volunteering Geelong



We acknowledge and thank the City of Greater Geelong and Volunteering Victoria for their continued support.



# Geelong Volunteer of the Year Awards 2025

The Geelong Volunteer of the Year Awards aim to recognise volunteers and volunteer organisations who have gone above and beyond to support their community. Nominations are sought from a wide range of community-based organisations, charities, clubs or can be individuals. Their service can be in the arts, heritage, youth support, healthcare, environmental care, sport, recreation, emergency services, or any other service that supports individuals in need or the Greater Geelong community.

The judging criteria was based on:

- Effectiveness in their volunteering role (individually or as part of a team)
- Reliability, positivity, flexibility, and initiative
- Leadership and ability to inspire others

Coordinated by Volunteering Geelong in partnership with the Rotary Club of Kardinia Inc, these annual awards have been honouring the extraordinary impact of volunteers since 2007.

With over forty nominations across the five categories, choosing finalists and eventual winners was a challenge for the selection committee. Commendation to the organisations who made the effort to submit their nominations, featuring many outstanding candidates.

We welcomed the Mayor of the City of Greater Geelong, Councillor Stretch Kontelj (OAM), who presented the Volunteer of the Year 2025 award to Heather Miller from Barwon Health.

## 2025 Award winners & finalists

### Volunteer of the Year

**Heather Miller (Barwon Health)**

**Finalists:**

Pam Hanlon  
(Australian Breastfeeding Association)  
Martin Klabbers  
(Barwon Coast Discovery Centre)

### Youth Volunteer Award

**Maggie O'Neill (The Outpost)**

**Finalists:**

Masooma Faqiri (Barwon Health)  
Montanna Tagg (Ocean Mind)

### Leadership Award

**Stephen Bentley (CoGG L2P Program)**

**Finalists:**

Brian Gray (Geelong Miniature Railway)  
Matthew Pettigrew (Moolap Tennis Club)

### Service Award

**Maree Brusaschi (Geelong Calisthenics)**

**Finalists:**

Barbara Chappell (GenU)  
Christine Rooke (Great Ocean Road Health)  
Joan Cunnington (Uniting Barwon)

### Inclusion Award

**94.7 The Pulse**

**Finalists:**

Cultura Geelong

## Sponsors



# Geelong Volunteer of the Year Awards 2025 continuation



Heather Miller with City of Greater Geelong Mayor Stretch Kontelj



Finalists and award winners



Stephen Bentley with Lily Stefanovic



Heather Miller with Cameron Murnane



Montana Tagg with Keith Fagg

“We make a living  
by what we get.  
We make a life  
by what we give.”

- WINSTON CHURCHILL

