

Volunteering
GEE LONG

Annual Report
2021-22





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 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 2021–22



Contents

- 2 What We Do
- 3 Income & Sponsorship
- 4 Board Members
- 6 Service Usage Stats
- 8 Acting President's Report
- 9 Treasurer's Report
- 10 CEO's Report
- 12 Volunteer of the Year Awards
- 13 Programs

Be Involved
Lend a Hand
Give Back
Be Rewarded

What We Do

Volunteering Geelong is an independent not-for-profit organisation, committed to enhancing the quality of life within the community sector, through the promotion, impact and support of volunteering.

Volunteering Geelong provides a referral service for volunteers looking for volunteer roles and organisations looking for volunteers.

Volunteering Geelong is located within the St Mary's Terrace Community Hub. The Hub was developed by Common Equity Housing Limited.

Volunteering Geelong manages the space located in central Geelong. It provides community organisations, commercial businesses and individuals with meeting, presentation, training and event spaces for hire at a low cost accommodating up to 50 people.

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 and strengthen volunteering in our community to enhance the health and well-being for people and community or charitable organisations within our community.

Purpose

Volunteering Geelong works with people to facilitate opportunities for volunteering, organisations to assist the development and management of volunteering and innovations to further enhance and promote the role and importance of volunteering within our community.







Income & Sponsorship

Government

- Department of Social Services (DSS) – Volunteer Management Activity Funding
- Department of Premier & Cabinet – Local Community Access Program Grants
- Commonwealth Home Support Program Auspiced by City of Greater Geelong (CoGG) Community Transport Program (Vaccinations)

Sponsorship

	Canny Accountants
	PACE Advertising
	Access Your Supports
	BBC Digital

Partnerships

DFFH

CASI Initiative

Community Access/ Social Isolation – response & recovery from COVID led by CoGG Connected Communities

Cultura

A merged organisation of Diversitat and MultiCultural Aged Care Services supporting our First Nations, New Migrant Settlement Services and Aged Care Support Services.

Barwon Network of Neighbourhood Houses

Supporting 24 Neighbourhood Houses across the region

Access Your Supports

Supporting those people living with disability to access inclusive volunteer opportunities as a pathway to build skills and access employment options.

Grants

Geelong Community Foundation

Impacting a Pathway to Employment Program (IPEP) Round 3

Geelong Community Foundation Give Where You Live Foundation –

Financial Literacy Program

Pethard Tarax Charitable Trust

Impacting a Pathway to Employment Program

Program IT resources (IPads)

Donations

Annual Lend a Hand Appeal

Memberships

Membership Category	
Individual – Subscribers	595
Volunteer – FULL	6
Volunteer Manager - Concession	0
Volunteer Manager - FULL	6
Board Member - FULL	8
Level 1 - Affiliate	1
Level 2 – Affiliate – Self Managing Agency	34
Level 3 – Small Agency	28
Level 4 – Medium Agency	38
Level 5 – Large Agency	10
School	0
Local Government Authority	3



Left Column:

Lily Stefanovic
Vaughan Lamb (**Secretary & Vice President**)
Christine Heath (**Treasurer**)
Anthony Aitken

Middle Column:

Zoe Waters
Sue Cartwright
Carolyn De Gois
Lydia Turda

Right Column:

Keith Fagg (**Acting President**)
Charles Horvath

Board Members

During the year the following Board Members resigned from their positions :

Lloyd Gosling effective 18th May 2022

Ron Andrews effective 19th June 2022

Anthony Aitken effective 28th June 2022

Heather Wellington effective 15th July 2022

We thank all of those members for their valuable contribution to Volunteering Geelong over many years.



Board Members

Lily Stefanovic

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.

Vaughan Lamb (Secretary & Vice president)

BA, LLB

Vaughan is a retired lawyer who is involved in our organisation as a volunteer and as a Board member. He has a long history of community service including previous Board membership at Bethany Family Services, Kalkee, Geelong Disabled Peoples Industries, Grace McKellar Centre, Winchelsea and Anglesea Community Banks. Vaughn is able to act as a liaison between our Board and our volunteers, and to contribute his practical experience to the Board.

Christine Heath

BEC Grad Dip Investment and Finance

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. In her spare time she is studying and has almost finished her MBA.

Anthony Aitken (President)

BCom MAcc CPA MAICD

Cr Anthony Aitken has been involved in Volunteering Geelong since 2001 and has been our president since 2013. He brings a diverse range of financial and governance academic qualifications and experiences having been employed in senior financial roles in the commercial world and as a business owner.

He has a long standing commitment to volunteering and community involvement in particular the disability sector through Board Membership and local government elected representation in Geelong.

Zoe Waters

Zoe is currently Executive Director at the Barwon Health Foundation. Zoe is an experienced senior leader with a passionate history of working with international and national not-for-profit organisations to create positive social change. Zoe was awarded the 2014 NAB Women's Agenda Entrepreneur of the Year and has been a finalist in the Telstra Business Women's Awards.

Sue Cartwright

BA

Sue has been working in Public Relations for more than 20 years predominantly in Local and State Government, and most recently as part of her own Geelong-based PR agency, Communication Tree.

Carolyn De Gois

MBA, BSc, GAICD

Carolyn is a proven international business and technology executive with a demonstrated track record of transformational leadership and successful organisational change. Carolyn has diverse industry and functional experience across a range of high-profile international organisations including NBN, KPMG, IBM, BHP and ALCOA, and at a government level within both the Federal and State systems. Carolyn is experienced at influencing and advising across and within Boards and Committees and was recently appointed Chair of the Peace of Mind Foundation.

Lydia Turda

MBA MEI

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

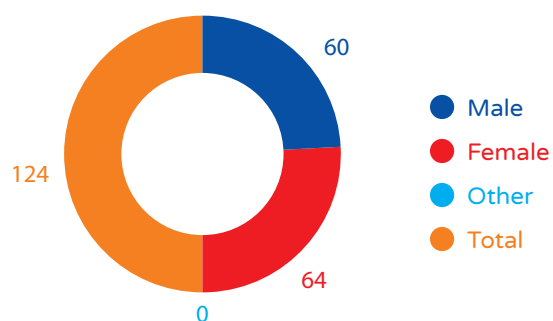
Charles Horvath

The son of Hungarian refugee/migrants growing up as a 'New Australian'. A qualified lawyer since 1978 with wide legal experience including 10 years in the Commonwealth public service.

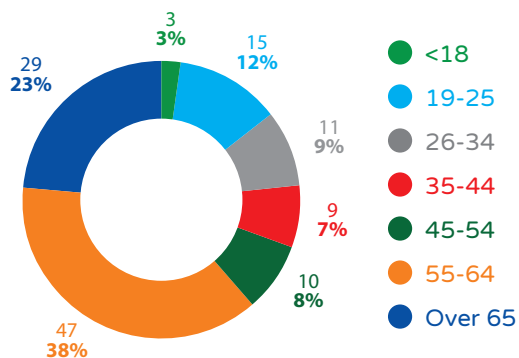
Service Usage Stats

01 July 2021 – 30 June 2022

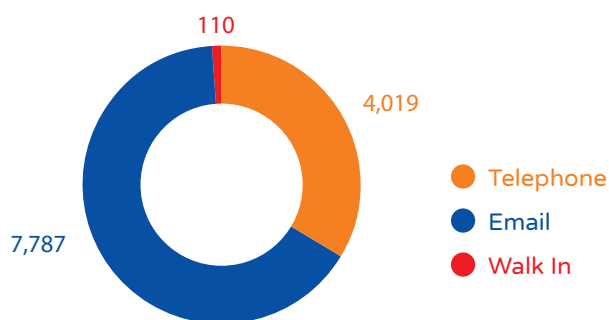
FACE TO FACE / TELEPHONE INTERVIEWS



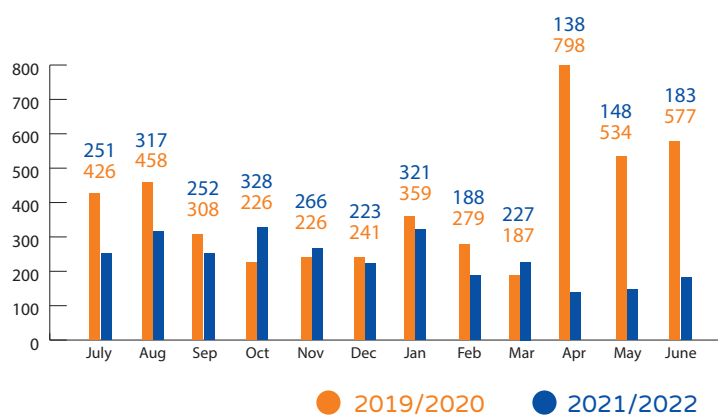
AGE GROUPS



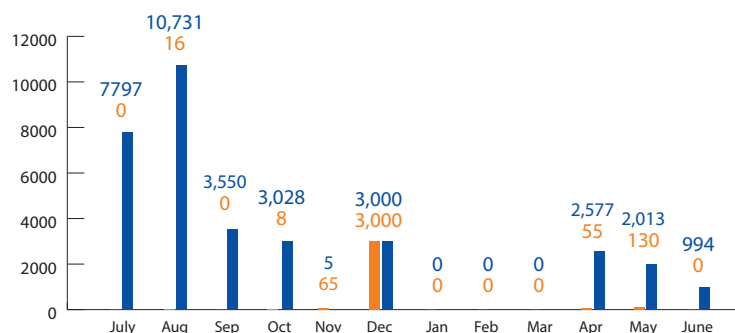
COMMUNITY INTERFACE / ENGAGEMENT



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST / ONLINE REGISTRATION



SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM / EXPOS / EVENTS – ENGAGEMENT 36,969



1907.25
VOLUNTEER HOURS

526
VG BOARD HOURS

A healthy partnership continues to support the community

As the way the community lives with COVID-19 changes, so too does the way the local health service supports the community.

Public health clinicians in the Barwon South West have been supporting COVID-19 positive patients at home with antiviral medications and monitoring equipment to protect people who are vulnerable to illness.

Antiviral medications are now available for COVID-19 positive people at risk of severe disease.

Antiviral medications reduce the risk of severe disease, hospital admission and death. They may also reduce the risk of passing on COVID-19 to your household.

These medications must be taken within five days of symptom onset meaning timing is important to ensuring eligible people receive the medication as fast as possible.

Throughout the pandemic the Barwon South West Public Health Unit (BSWPHU) and Volunteering Geelong have developed a wonderful partnership which is continuing and evolving to support delivery to the most vulnerable people who do not have close family or access to private transport.

In 2021 the two organisations had previously partnered together to provide free transport to vulnerable members of the community to access the community vaccination centre in Norlane.



The partnership has continued to evolve to incorporate delivery of remote monitoring packs providing people at risk of hospitalisation due to COVID-19 with monitoring equipment such as pulse oximeters along with antiviral medications.

COVID-19 Response Coordinator at the BSWPHU, Holly Wardlaw said this collaboration would help ensure health workers could be available where they were needed most,

“The support from these volunteers will help to ensure our health workers are able to care for patients. The deliveries have been vital in supporting people to manage COVID-19 at home,” she said.

Volunteering Geelong CEO Helen Hunter said it has been rewarding knowing their dedicated volunteers are making a real difference throughout the pandemic,

“Our volunteers have helped the most vulnerable people access vaccinations to ensure no one was left behind. This support has continued throughout the pandemic. It is really rewarding for our volunteers to play such an important part in supporting of our community in difficult times,” she said.

If you are COVID-19 positive and eligible, the best way to quickly get access to antiviral medication is by arranging a tele-health appointment with your GP and discussing this with them.

Acting President's Report



ACTING PRESIDENT, Keith Fagg

The theme for the 2022 Volunteering Week was "Better Together". In that context, it is very fair to say that through volunteering in Geelong, we are changing our community for the better.

I am humbled to be Patron of Volunteering Geelong and currently Acting President. In those roles, I continue to be in awe of what volunteers do in our community, the breadth of their activities, their enthusiasm, their skill, their persistence and their reliability.

Volunteers also know that while making an amazing contribution, there is also a deep sense of personal satisfaction which comes from freely giving one's time to worthwhile causes.

Volunteering can be traced back to Greek philosopher Aristotle, who over 2300 years ago wrote *"What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good."*

Then Mahatma Gandhi said *"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."*

More recently, Denzel Washington is quoted to have said *"At the end of the day it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished... it's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better. It's about what you've given back."*

And to encourage us individually, are the words of Betty Reese. Betty is the mother of Reese Witherspoon, hence her unusual Christian name.

Betty Reese earned a PhD in paediatric nursing and went on to become a professor of nursing at Vanderbilt University, so a high achiever in her own right. Betty wrote:

"If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in bed with a mosquito!!"

We all know how that feels!

One of the many challenges ahead is engaging new generations in volunteering at all levels. Us Baby Boomers can and should of course still be actively involved but we really should be pro-actively encouraging those coming through the ranks, and be willing to step aside for fresh thinking & leadership.

In the past two years, the practice nature of volunteering has been turned on its head. The participation in volunteering generally has dropped by over 24% across Australia, and Geelong is no different.

There are a number of funding challenges currently facing VG which the Board is actively managing. There is also great opportunity out there, not just now but with the Commonwealth Games in 2026. We do hope that VG can play a pivotal role for this fantastic event.

In recent months, while Anthony Aitken needed to step back as President for a period, I have filled that role in an acting capacity. In this, it is really the other Board members who have greatly assisted and filled many tasks. So I am grateful to them.

We welcomed Carolyn De Gois who has a background working in government, Lydia Turda who has a background working with new migrants and their education, Charles Horvath who also has a background working in government and is a retired lawyer.

We farewell Lloyd Gosling AM, Ron Andrews, Anthony Aitken and Heather Wellington. I will finish with this anonymous but apt quote:

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections every few years, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in."

Volunteers in Geelong, by their actions, 'vote' every day for the kind of community we want to live in and, despite the many issues we continue to face, what a wonderful community we live in!

Keith Fagg
Patron – Volunteering Geelong
Interim Acting President June 2022 – December 2022

Treasurer's Report

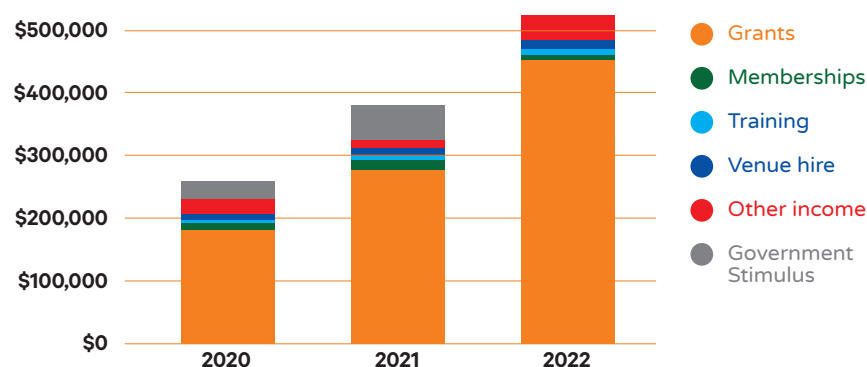
Volunteering Geelong Inc and Volunteering Geelong Community Foundation Trust

For the financial year ending 30 June 2022 Volunteering Geelong recorded combined revenue of \$524,079 and incurred costs of \$343,242 which resulted in a net surplus of \$180,837.

Funding of the Volunteer Management Activities commenced during the year, but careful management of expenses is still required, as memberships are yet to return to pre-COVID levels. There remains uncertainty

around our funding into the future, which means that we are exploring options to secure long term recurring income so that we are not so reliant on government and other grants.

VOLUNTEERING GEELONG CONSOLIDATED REVENUE



Financial Review

Crowe Horwath prepared the Annual Financial Report at 30 June 2022 and provided an Independent Review Report on 30 September 2022 concluding that the financial report has been prepared to satisfy the company's constitution and meet the needs of members. A full set of financial statements is available on request.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of Helen and Colin for their hard work in diligently monitoring, preparing and keeping our financial records up to date. We also thank Canny Group for their sponsorship and the preparation and lodgement of our tax commitments.

Christine Heath
Treasurer, Volunteering Geelong

KEY RESULTS

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Income	\$271,564	\$179,516	\$256,127	\$365,161	\$524,079
Expenses	\$311,309	\$192,201	\$197,721	\$275,106	\$343,242
Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$39,745)	(\$12,685)	\$58,406	\$90,056	\$180,837
% Salaries	67%	79%	69%	76%	70%
Cash at Bank	\$73,674	\$97,054	\$124,383	\$175,713	\$375,953
Net Assets	\$37,389	\$24,704	\$83,110	\$173,196	\$354,611

CEO's Report



CEO Helen Hunter

The 2021 – 2022 Financial year was as tumultuous as the previous year but here we are still standing – better than we have ever been (good lyrics for a song!)

As we moved into COVID lockdown #5, came additional opportunities for Volunteering Geelong (VG) to continue to offer assistance in the response and recovery efforts relating to COVID and making sure our local community had the very best access to any resources that enabled their safety and recovery from COVID.

In partnership with the Barwon Health Public Health Unit - Volunteering Geelong and its Community Transport Program auspiced by City of Greater Geelong with Commonwealth Home Support Program funding, enabled volunteers to become first responders to provide transport assistance for individuals to access the vaccination hub.

Funding from Department of Premier and Cabinet allowed VG to extend this program to include the contactless delivery to individual households to access the Rapid Antigen Test kits, contactless delivery for those assessed as eligible to receive Anti-Viral medications and oxygen measurement devices to aid recovery at home.

Funding uncertainty plagued the 2021 – 2022 year; Senator Sarah Henderson advocated for Volunteering Geelong with the Minister responsible for Department of Social Services of what we saw as a flawed process of change in delivery of the Volunteer Management Activity (VMA) funding that had been in place for 22 years. This advocacy saw a “transition” period extension granted of one additional year of funding.

VMA funding was diverted to the Peaks, for VG that means Volunteering Victoria received funding for the VMA from 2022 – 2026 and become a tender process to access those funds. The VMA service delivery changed significantly becoming an online digital system that requires VG to work with three priority groups – First Nations, New Migrants and people with a Disability.

Federal Funding to work outside these priority groups ceased as at 30 June 2022.

Volunteering Geelong pre-COVID supported in excess of 200 community groups – many closed down or ceased to operate during the lockdowns – we currently support 143 active community groups who have now come through COVID and recommenced

their volunteer programs. We estimate a 25% decline in people actively volunteering and are looking at a number of ways of supporting volunteers to feel comfortable to return to their volunteering roles.

This has included the supply of resources that include facemasks, sanitiser, rapid antigen test kits and disposable rubber gloves.

The 2021 Victorian Volunteering Awards – incorporating the Premier's Volunteer Champions Awards - recognise and celebrate the impact volunteers, volunteer leaders and volunteer programs have in building resilient communities, services and connections across Victoria. Showcasing excellence by individuals, teams and volunteer involving organisations, the 2021 Awards were being run by Volunteering Victoria with the support of the Victorian State Government through the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH).

Volunteering Geelong was proud to be recognised as a finalist in the partnerships category for its Vaccination – Community Transport Program. We did not win but we did enjoy the trip to Government House for the recognition event.

With funding from Geelong Community Foundation and Give Where you Live Foundation, VG has delivered a Financial Literacy program that has enabled individuals living in the Geelong region experiencing financial difficulty to receive assistance on how to manage their money and avoid reaching a crisis point. Colin and Vaughan have led this team of financial facilitator volunteers to make a difference in the life of those experiencing financial distress.

VG is a member of the National Network of Volunteer Resource Centres and actively advocates to the Federal government what we see is needed for volunteers and volunteer involving organisations to successfully re-engage and build volunteer numbers vital to our community wellbeing.

VG is the lead agency in a Regional Volunteering United Consortium awarded to deliver the re-designed Volunteer Management Activity funding 2022 – 2026 for the Barwon South West and Hume Regions. The Consortium consists of the placed based volunteer resource infrastructure and collective impact of Volunteering Geelong, Albury Wodonga Volunteer Bureau, Ballarat Community Foundation, The Centre for Participation – Horsham and Bendigo Volunteer Resource Centre.

Strategic direction has been a priority for the VG Board of Management engaging an external expert consultant – Frank Kelloway to lead the Board through a series of planning sessions to recognise the impact, the value, sustainability options and the future for Volunteering Geelong and its service offering.

VG continues to be supported directly by our volunteer information officers and administration volunteers – thank you for your service to Volunteering Geelong.

- Monday – Christine Baldwin – Volunteer Information Officer & Mary Anne Murray – Data Entry
- Tuesday – Pat Welsh – Statistic data collection and collation
- Wednesday – Gail McDonald – Administration
- Thursday – Gail McDonald – Administration & Christine Baldwin – Volunteer Information Officer – Judy Foster – Data Entry & Marg Thorp – Archiving Administration
- Friday – Vaughan Lamb – Volunteer Information Officer & Dossie McNamara – Administration

Focussing on the future and the three priority areas of the VMA funding environment we partner with community partners in order to effectively deliver this service. I want to thank in particular;

- The 143 active member agencies we assist to keep their data fresh and ensure volunteers have a valued and safe place in their communities;
- Joy Leggo and the Cultura Team who lead us in the new migrant and multicultural space looking after 77 different nationalities with settlement services and aged care;
- Ralph Menchise and his AYS – Access Your Support team looking after people with a disability ensuring inclusive volunteering can and does happen;
- Deb Kearney and Amy Hunter that lead the Barwon Network of Neighbourhood Houses where strategically across the Barwon region support 24 neighbourhood houses actively engaging their local communities with support services, educational opportunities and fun social activities.

We are a small team of paid employees – 2EFT. I thank Colin Dempsey – Operations Coordinator and Jenn Anderson – Data Base Coordinator for their continued dedication to VG where it has seen a year of work from home directives, relocations, thinking on our feet as first responders and ensuring safety and protective resources made it out to all our volunteer involving organisations and their volunteers.

Helen Hunter
CEO, Volunteering Geelong



Geelong Volunteer of the Year Awards

Volunteering Geelong, in partnership with Rotary Clubs, Kardinia and Central Geelong co-ordinated the 2022 Geelong Volunteer of the Year Awards

The awards recognise volunteers across all sectors, and aim to encourage more people to give their time to support their communities.

Volunteering has dramatically declined throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Volunteering Geelong is challenging organisations and individuals across the region to celebrate and promote volunteerism.

Proudly sponsored by Geelong Connected Communities, Geelong Insurance Brokers and Standby Security, the 2022 Volunteer of the Year Awards recognise and celebrate the impact volunteers, volunteer leaders and volunteer programs have in building resilient communities, services and connections across our region.

The COVID-19 pandemic shone an additional spotlight on the invaluable impact of the region's volunteers, and these Awards provide an opportunity for our community to say 'thank you'.

Volunteering Geelong's Chief Executive Officer, Helen Hunter, said the 2022 Volunteer of the Year Awards were more important than ever.

"During the pandemic, Volunteering Geelong turned its attention to support volunteers who had put up their hands to help within their community in response and recovery of COVID-19.

There were also many volunteers who were displaced following being stood down from their volunteer roles and volunteering numbers have therefore declined significantly.

It is now the time for volunteers to emerge stronger and reconnect to volunteer roles within our communities.

The awards celebrate the impact of volunteers and volunteering, and will hopefully encourage more people to put their hand up" she said.

The Geelong Mayor, Councillor Peter Murrhiy, hosted the 2022 Volunteer of the Year Awards Ceremony at Wurriki Nyal Civic Precinct.

2022 Award Winners

Steve Lee | Queenscliff Historical Museum

Sandra Vizard | Cottage By The Sea

Raema Ash | The Outpost

Kathleen Wade | Ocean Grove Primary School

John O'Hara & Colin Luttrell | Uniting Barwon Education Assistance Program



Programs



Financial Literacy Program



Impacting a Pathway to Employment



Community Transport Program



“No act of kindness,
no matter how small,
is ever wasted.”

Aesop

Volunteering Geelong Inc

Phone: (03) 5221 1377

St.Mary's Terrace Community Hub

192 Myers St. Geelong 3220

volunteeringgeelong.org.au