

# Celebrating 25



1989 CEO, Mrs Gloria Mahoney, with previous co-ordinator, Mrs Mirvyeen Grebert

## Monash Volunteer

### The Early Years .....

Waverley Volunteer Outreach was formed in March 1985, following a meeting of interested community members in June 1984. Its purpose was to co-ordinate the recruitment and training of volunteers for community organisations in the City of Waverley.

Initially staffed by volunteers, with a part-time paid co-ordinator appointed in 1986, the organisation operated one day per week from the Waverley Community Health Centre. The organisation was renamed Monash Volunteer Resource Centre to reflect the larger area it serviced in the City of Monash after the 1994 local government restructure.

### Key Personnel

- Bev Dean: a dedicated volunteer in the community for many years, was one of the founding members of the Monash Volunteer Resource Centre. A member of the Waverley Welfare Group, she was involved in the discussion which resulted in the formation of Waverley Volunteer Outreach. During these years she took up the role of Secretary, Treasurer and finally President (1989 – 2000) and continued to volunteer at the Centre until 2009.
- Jenny Hill: a committee member of the Monash Volunteer Resource Centre for many years, and later President on the Committee of Management from 2000 – 2005. Jenny worked in the community where she had been a teacher at a local primary school. She managed one of the neighbourhood houses in the local area and later became the first manager of Ronald Mc Donald House Clayton.
- Norm Gibbs: involved with voluntary work in the community for most of his life and worked for Waverley Council as a Community Services Officer. Norm attended the initial meetings that brought about the formation of Waverley Volunteer Outreach. Since retiring, Norm attends the annual general meetings of many not-for-profits in Monash. He is a member of the National Volunteer Week planning

committee and assists with various events within the organisation. Norm held the title of Senior Victorian of the Year in 2006.

- Mirvyeen Grebert: steering committee member since 1985 and worked voluntarily as the co-ordinator until the position was funded. Funding was received for four hours per week and later grew to 10 hours per week in 1987. Mirvyeen retired in 1989 to move to Ballina.
- Gloria Mahoney: associated with Waverley Volunteer Outreach since 1985 on a voluntary basis. In 1989 she was employed as the part-time coordinator, and continued working for the organisation until she retired from the position of Chief Executive Officer in 2009. Gloria lead Monash Volunteer Resource Centre for 20 years, shared her expertise beyond the Monash district and was recognised in the volunteering community with a Centenary of Federation Medal, an Order of Australia in 2003 and an induction into the Victorian Honour Role of Women in 2009.



The 1985 premises for the Waverley Volunteer Outreach Centre at 333 Waverley Rd., Mt. Waverley.

# Years

# Resource Centre

**“We provide a sense of social interaction and safety for vulnerable members of the community”**



*Peter Beames, former RSL committee member, with former CEO, Mrs Gloria Mahoney, at the launch of the Seniors Register in 2002.*



*Attendees at the Caroline Chisolm Awards 2006; from left, Anna Burke MP, Rae Kum, CEO Gloria Mahoney, Bev Dean, Norm Gibbs, Karen Winch, Nancy Dalton, Cr Joy Banerji.*

## **Highlights, Programs and Services.**

- Initially, Waverley Volunteer Outreach collected on behalf of Red Cross doorknock appeal and commenced as a 'one stop shop' where people could be matched to volunteer jobs with community agencies.
- The book delivery service with Waverley Council led to requests for transport to medical appointments using the bank of volunteers from Waverley Volunteer Outreach.
- In 1994 annual recurrent funding of \$20,000 was received from the Department of Human Services to service Home and Community Care clients.
- In the Olympic year 2000 the City of Monash made a request to the organisation to co-ordinate volunteers for the Olympic run through the city. Together with service clubs in the City of Monash, the organisation recruited over 100 volunteers for the event.
- In 2002 the City of Monash funded Monash Volunteer Resource Centre to implement the Senior Citizen's Register in the northern part of the City. The partnership between Mt Waverley Police, Glen Waverley Police, Metropolitan Fire Brigade and the Waverley RSL was launched at the National Volunteer Week Breakfast.
- Monash Volunteer Resource Centre moved from

Kemp Lodge to its present purpose-built premise in Myrtle St. in 2004 which had been designed by the City of Monash

- In 2005 the organisation added a bus to its fleet of cars and with funding from the Department of Human Services the organisation produced a video on mobility and transport.
- The Department of Planning and Community Development provided funding to explore corporate employee volunteering whilst further funding was received from the Department of Human Services to work in partnership with other volunteer resource centres in the east to develop a new project for on-line police checks (Crimcheck).
- The City of Monash funded a pilot for a Chinese Elderly Group in 2006
- In 2009 the organisation received tax deductibility status, and had an extension of volunteer services to Clayton Outreach with views to outreach in other areas.

## **Twenty-five years later.....**

During its twenty-five years of existence, the organisation has remained true to its original purpose, coordinating over 1500 volunteers annually for hundreds of community organisations in the City of Monash and beyond, whilst expanding its range of programs and services for community groups and individuals. To recognise and support volunteers in the community the organisation continues to celebrate National Volunteer Week and International Volunteer Day. The Social Support Program for aged members of the community has grown with transport and social activities offered to older members and those with a disability living in the City of Monash.

From its small beginnings, the organisation now employs fourteen support staff in addition to over 100 volunteer staff to run its operations. The Monash Volunteer Resource Centre model continues to evolve and each year brings the challenge of creating new programs to meet the ever changing needs of the community.