

BHS VOLUNTEER NEWS

Volume 4 June 2009



FROM THE EDITOR

Hi all,

Can you believe that we are now into the sixth month of the year, it is moving way too fast.

We have placed five new volunteers in the last few months and we will continue to advertise any vacancies that we have. I hope you are all keeping warm and avoiding the swine flu. The Minister for Health Volunteer awards were very successful for BHS please read all about them further in the news letter. I will be away for most of July, if you have any concerns please let your coordinator know or contact the Human Resource Department

Ann-Maree

Safety Training.

We had a successful turn up for the safety training; some of the issues discussed were very interesting once again the issue of the maintenance of the wheel chairs was raised. I have attached a very helpful document regarding wheel chairs and the safe handling of them. However at the end of the day a Volunteer must never transfer, lift or carry a resident, even if you think you know the safest way to do it. Paid staff only can assist a resident to transfer. Volunteers need to be confident in saying no if asked to do any of the above. It is more likely that a family member would ask you for help as all staff know Volunteers are unable to assist in this way. If you are asked to push a wheel chair that is unsafe i.e. not maintained appropriately has flat tyres or if the client/

resident/patient is too heavy you must decline and explain you would be happy to assist when the issue is resolved.

We have cancelled the fire training for July, however we will reschedule at a later date.

A smart lift session was requested to be repeated with volunteers as the focus, I will let you know when this is to happen.

Please try to attend the training sessions on offer they really are helpful, if not at work then most certainly in your home.

Bob Beckerleg will commence his OH& Safety training in August and Jan Skews will be training soon after, this means that all volunteers have someone to report safety issues to if they feel they are not being heard in the unit.

MINISTER OF HEALTH AWARDS

Pat McKay was announced the winner of the Minister of Health awards at a ceremony in Melbourne in May. It was a wonderful night, Pat was very surprised to be announced the winner however all who know her thought she would be a most worthy candidate. Pat had support through Julie Cox Life style coordinator at W B Messer, Pat's Daughter and Granddaughter along with the CEO of BHS Andrew Rowe needless to say we were all bursting with pride.

Our Day Centre volunteers were also honored on the night with a special mention and a certificate presented for all the wonderful work they do.

The PAG's group was represented by Heather Pearse a volunteer at Eyres House and PAGES Manager Jan Stewart. It really was a big night for all as these awards are selected from all the health services across Victoria.

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Volunteer week was from the 11th to the 15th of May this year. The Expo went very well and I would like to say a very big thank you to Jan Skews from the flower shop, Mathew Bolton from Midlands and Trish and Paul Lovell from Jack Lonsdale Lodge for their help on the day.

Mathew represented all BHS volunteers when he attended a flag raising ceremony and a morning tea at the town hall on the Monday 11th to commence the celebrations for the week.

We all enjoyed an afternoon tea on Tuesday 12 of May with more than twenty people attending. This is the largest number we have had in some time.

NETWORK MEETING

Our next meeting will be at the end of July or early August.