

FYI. For distribution to your networks. The Creating Connections conference in Kerang will be of interest to people in Loddon Mallee. See below.

The Office for the Community Sector was established in the Department of Planning and Community Development to strengthen and support the not-for-profit community sector. More information on the work of the Office may be found at our website:

<http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/communitysector>

News from the Office for the Community Sector...

Register today for the 2010 Think Innovation Summit!

The Office for the Community Sector's FREE annual summit is being held at the Docklands on 22 September 2010, from 8.30am-3.30pm. This year, the summit will explore how innovation is transforming the way the Not-For-Profit (NFP) community sector operates. The day will provide an opportunity for the sector to learn from each other, and engage in discussion about how the sector can move into the future and meet changing needs. A panel of community sector innovators will explain how the changes they have made have impacted how they operate, and attendees will be able to reflect on how small changes to their operations can have a positive effect on their organisation. Our keynote speaker, Debra Allcock Tyler, from the Directory of Social Change in the UK, will provide attendees with an insight into how the UK voluntary sector has adapted to a changing environment and a change in government.

This is your chance to come together to reflect on how Victoria's NFP community sector is evolving, and to discuss how the sector can move successfully into the future.

For more information, and to register, go to:

www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/communitysector/summit

Workshops on Using the Workforce Capability Mapping and Feedback Tool:

Melbourne Sessions are booked out, some vacancies at regional sessions The Office for the Community Sector has been working with Windermere Child and Family Services to develop a "Capability Mapping and Feedback Tool".

This builds on the Workforce Capability Framework and will enable you to map skills and capabilities, and will assist in performance appraisal.

Our

workshops will guide you step-by-step through this online tool's functionalities. Workshops will be held in both Melbourne and regional locations throughout September and October:

21 September:	Melbourne	booked out
23 September:	Gippsland	limited spaces!
24 September:	Melbourne	booked out
28 September:	Melbourne	booked out
29 September:	Ballarat	limited spaces!
19 October:	Bendigo	limited spaces!
26 October:	Geelong	limited spaces!

N.B. Geelong workshop has changed date to 26 October.

The workshops are free of charge and all participants will receive a copy of the tool. You will be required to bring your own lap top. To find out more information and to register your interest, email Lucy Heller at lucy.heller@dpcd.vic.gov.au Places are limited, so register your interest today.

News from the Victorian Government...

Victoria's Volunteering Portal Matching Service Victoria's Volunteering Portal was launched on 9 May 2010 as the new gateway to volunteering information, tools and resources for the Victorian public, and for Victorian community sector organisations. Since its release, over 35,000 Victorians have visited the site and it has quickly become recognised as the entry point to volunteering in Victoria.

The portal will be launching a state-of-the-art volunteer opportunity matching service on 24 September 2010, which will include powerful functionality targeted to the needs of organisations, and current and prospective volunteers. Registrations are now open, and we are inviting not-for-profit organisations and Volunteer Resource Centres to submit their opportunities which will be advertised via the matching service upon its release. This will be a simple 2 step process:

- Register your organisation
- Submit your opportunities

To complete these steps, please visit
<http://volunteer.vic.gov.au/opportunities.html>

Organisations will benefit in a number of ways by registering on Victoria's Volunteering Portal, including:

- Using the new and powerful matching service to reach a greater quantity and quality of volunteers.
- Owning a 'lite', easy to use portal webpage with a friendly URL.
- Exposure of your organisation via the portal's large-scale awareness and recruitment campaign, which will use TV and radio commercials, and print and online media advertising to promote Victoria's Volunteering Portal.

In addition to this, we will randomly choose 50 organisations who submit opportunities by 13 September 2010 and pass on free poster design services to the value of \$1000.

If you have any queries about the registration process or submitting your opportunities, please contact feedback@volunteer.vic.gov.au or on 03 9658 4393. We look forward to receiving your opportunities.

Information from the Australian Government...

Indigenous Business Australia Fund

Are you a mature-aged Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who aspires to achieve higher educational qualifications in business and administration to enhance your community?

The Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) Scholarship Fund provides financial support to enable recipients to achieve nationally recognised qualifications - with a focus on financial, commercial and/or economic management. IBA is seeking applicants who are able to share their qualifications to enhance their community's economic and financial development. Scholarships are intended for those who face financial barriers that might otherwise restrict their options for further study.

This funding round is open until 30 September 2010.

For more information, go to:
<http://www.iba.gov.au/corporate/iba-scholarship-fund/>

Information from the Community Sector...

8th Asian and Oceanian Epilepsy Congress- Epilepsy and Society Symposium This one-day symposium is for people with epilepsy, their carers, family and friends, as well as those working with people with epilepsy in the community. Discussion groups led by national and international experts in their field will examine a variety of epilepsy-related issues that can impact on quality of life including sexuality, memory, sport and exercise, practical ways to manage depression, employment and advocacy issues, sudden unexpected death in epilepsy and epilepsy and creativity. The symposium will be held at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre on 21 October 2010. To register, and for more information on the congress, please go to:

www.epilepsymelbourne2010.org

Save the Date: 2010 Disability Sport & Recreation Festival- Able and Active- 3 December 2010

The inaugural Disability Sport and Recreation Festival - "Able and Active" will bring together a range of community organisations which focus on sport and recreation opportunities, equity and health issues for Victorians with disability, in an exhibition-style, free public event. Hosted by Wheelchair Sports Victoria and proudly supported by the State Government Victoria, City of Melbourne and Federation Square, the Festival will be held on International Day of People with Disability on Friday 3rd December 2010.

Held at Federation Square in Melbourne, the Festival will be a great opportunity for the sector to unite around common goals of "participation and equity for health" and will provide a one-stop-shop for consumers of disability sport and recreation, their carers, family and friends. For more information or to register your interest in participating, please visit:

www.dsrf.org.au or email info@wsv.org.au

Scoring the Equaliser Mini-Conference - Call for Abstracts "Scoring the Equaliser" is the first Mini-Conference of the disability sport and recreation sector, hosted by Wheelchair Sports Victoria and supported by the State Government Victoria, City of Melbourne and Federation Square. "Scoring the Equaliser Mini-Conference is part of the Disability Sport and Recreation Festival - 'Able and Active' to be held at Federation Square Melbourne on December 3rd 2010 to celebrate International Day of People with Disability.

Submissions are now invited for oral presentations and poster presentations which address the conference theme "towards better health for Victorians with disability through equal opportunities in community sport and recreation". To request a copy of the Call for Abstracts form please email info@wsv.org.au or download it from the festival website at www.dsrf.org.au Submissions close 13 September 2010. For more information please contact Wheelchair Sports Victoria by phone 03 9473 0133 or email info@wsv.org.au

Anti-Poverty Week 2010

This year, Anti-Poverty Week runs from 17 October - 23 October 2010, coinciding with International Anti-Poverty Day on 17 October. The Week is concerned with poverty around the world, especially in the poorest countries but also in wealthier countries such as Australia. The main aims of Anti-Poverty Week in Australia are to:

- Strengthen the public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty hardship around the world and within Australia; and
- Encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems, including action by individuals, communities, organisations and governments.

Visit the Anti-Poverty Week website for further information on both the activities planned for the week, and also how your organisation can help promote concerns about poverty and hardship:

www.antipovertyweek.org.au

'Creating Connections'- A conference for Volunteers in the Loddon Mallee region An exciting volunteer conference is being organised by the Mount Alexander Volunteer network with support from the Bendigo Volunteer Resource centre and the Inglewood Community Resource centre. Creating Connections conference brings together volunteers and volunteer involving organisations, along with government departments and agencies, to establish and strengthen volunteer networks throughout the Loddon Mallee.

This 2 day conference is pitched at all levels of volunteer involvement. From the on-the-ground volunteer, to the manager responsible for the organisation's volunteers, to the local sporting, environmental, arts or community group - if you want to learn how to improve your volunteer organisation or the organisation of your volunteers, then this conference is for you. Registrations start from \$55 with early bird specials closing on 23 September.

The Creating Connections Conference will be held in Kerang on 4 October & 5 October 2010. For further information or to register online visit:
www.creatingconnections.org.au

'Victoria's Next Cultural Diversity Model'- EECV 2010 State conference The state of Victoria has long prided itself on being a model of effective and harmonious cultural diversity, but as the world enters the second decade of the new millennium, new challenges require a re-examination of old approaches and a willingness to face the future with clear eyes and new ideas. Join advocates and academics, politicians and community leaders, policy makers and service providers for a frank and timely discussion about ...

WHAT'S NEXT ? in the quest for greater cultural competency and social cohesion ...

WHAT'S NEXT ? in the battle against racism, discrimination and unfair stereotyping in the media.

WHAT'S NEXT ? in the push to improve services for international students

...

WHAT'S NEXT ? in the development of interpreting and translating services ...

WHAT'S NEXT ? in the discussion about youth engagement and identity

...

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria Conference will be held on 28

September 2010 at the Melbourne Town Hall, from 9.00am--4.00pm. For costs, and to register, go to:
<http://eccv.org.au/community/events/eccv-statewide-conference-28-september/>

PilchConnect Seminar: Insurance and Not-For-Profits Would you like to understand the main types of insurance that are relevant to not-for-profit, community organisations - what they cover and, just as importantly, what they don't? Do your board or committee members need insurance? When is volunteer insurance necessary? When do you need to notify your insurers about an incident? If you hold an event on someone else's property, are you covered by their insurance?

Understanding the benefits and limits to insurance is an important part of managing risk and protecting the assets and funds of your organisation.

This seminar, hosted by Middletons Lawyers, will provide participants with an overview of when they might need to get insurance, and tips about what to look for in policies. For costs, and to register, visit:
<http://www.pilch.org.au/Page.aspx?ID=374>

2010 Government Course for Women

Are you interested in learning more about the roles and responsibilities of Board membership and applying a gender lens to this role? The Women's Information and Referral Exchange (WIRE) has developed a 10-week governance course for women, which also looks at the different ways women operate and how this impacts on their role as a Board member.

If you are interested in participating in this pilot course and the special rate of \$300 (plus GST) and want more information, contact Trish Cooper on (03) 9921 0884 or finlit@wire.org.au (note the course commences 4 October 2010)

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