

# Boroondara Volunteer Skills Bank

Creating opportunities for professionals to contribute skills and experience to the local community



Roger, Volunteer Referral Officer

# The Boroondara Volunteer Resource Centre

*Actively encourages and supports volunteering through a range of free services both volunteers and community organisations seeking volunteers.*

The Boroondara Volunteer Resource Centre:

- refers over 1,000 volunteers to local community organisations every year
- supports 350 community organisations to deliver their programs
- engages over 300 skilled volunteers in the community

# Stand up

Do you work in an organisation that would benefit from more resources in order to achieve your goals?

Does your organisation engage skilled volunteers, or are you looking for opportunities to engage skilled volunteers?

Are you interested in learning how other organisations have engaged skilled volunteers?



Adele, Volunteer Referral Officer


## Understanding our skilled volunteers

- 26% of people living people living in Boroondara volunteer, the highest rate in metro Melbourne
- 43% of residents hold a tertiary qualification (compared to Greater Melbourne at 24%)
- 49% of local resident workers hold a Bachelor degree or higher
- 55% of employed Boroondara residents aged 15 years and older work in managerial or professional occupations





## Boroondara Volunteer Skills Bank



**Contribute your skills**  
**Make a difference locally**

**Sign up today!**  
Boroondara Volunteer Skills Bank  
[www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/volunteer-skills-bank](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/volunteer-skills-bank)

**BVRC** | Boroondara Volunteer Resource Centre

**BOROONDARA**  
City of Harmony




**Boroondara Volunteer Skills Bank**

Connecting skilled professionals with community organisations

- / Are you a professional wanting to give where you live?
- / Recently retired?
- / Looking to return to the workforce and want to brush up on your skills?

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# Boroondara Volunteer Skills Bank



## Boroondara Volunteer Skills Meet



# Toolkit Developing Skilled Volunteer Projects and Roles



 **BOROONDARA**  
*City of Harmony*



## Supporting community organisations

- Delivered a workshop on how to create short-term, flexible, skilled volunteer projects (something we have delivered annually ever since)
- Developed a toolkit on how to create skilled volunteer projects
- Discussed the challenges and opportunities associated with engaging skilled volunteers at network meetings

# What are the benefits?

## Skilled professionals:

- utilise professional skills to support a specialised task or project
- embark on long term, ongoing relationships
- share their expertise and personal experience beyond the short term project they initially signed up for
- apply their skills in a not-profit context



Fahad, Boroondara Volunteer Skills Bank



Volunteer Manager Hugh, Burke and Beyond

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**“I liked the idea of skilled volunteering as I wanted to volunteer my time and skills to benefit the community but I wasn’t interested in your ‘typical traditional’ volunteer role. What drew me to this volunteer opportunity was that I could utilise my skills from university and gain practical experience.”**



**Emma Rigby, skilled professional**

*Offered her grant writing skills to assist Kew Home of Chinese*



**“When I first arrived in Australia from Romania about two years ago, I was looking for ways to feel connected and part of the community. I was also keen to expand my knowledge of Australian culture and add value by sharing my skills. The volunteer social media and website maintenance role with Kew Community Festival ticked all the boxes I was looking for.”**

**Cristina Chiorean, skilled professional**

*Offered her skills in social media and copywriting to support the Kew Community Festival*





Ian, Boroondara Volunteer Skills Bank

# Attracting, engaging and retaining volunteers

- Openness to professionals approaching your organisations to offer their skills
- Consideration for volunteer flexibility
- Developing discrete, project-based and meaningful roles with a tangible outcome
- Shaping a volunteer role based on project objectives, rather than task requirements (where possible, co-creating the role with the skilled professional)



## Karen's top tips to engaging skilled volunteers

1. Pitch the role to the audience you are targeting, using language that is familiar to the skilled volunteer you are seeking
2. Be succinct and specific about the duties involved
3. Provide a definitive time frame
4. Talking is key! Pre-interview, interview and talk through the assignment
5. Give progressive feedback

## **Activity: engaging skills professionals**

Consider how you might engage skilled volunteers in your organisation, guided by your worksheet.



## Next steps

- Are you located in Boroondara and surrounds?  
Connect with the BVRC! We can support you in:
  - Creating a skilled volunteer role
  - Searching for a skilled professional through our Boroondara Volunteer Skills Bank
- Find your nearest Volunteer Resource Centre
- Use online platforms like SeekVolunteer, GoVolunteer, Vollie & ProBono

# Resources

Don't wait until you're back in the office to start shaping your skilled volunteer role! Download your Skilled Volunteer Toolkit today.

