

# VOLUNTEERING *and* CONTACT ACT



## June - Message from our Chair, Matt Franklin.

*"As Chair of the Board of Directors of Volunteering and Contact ACT, it is my pleasure to announce Jean Giese as our Interim Chief Executive Officer. This appointment is effective from Monday the 19th of June 2017.*

*Glenda Stevens has left her role as CEO to pursue other opportunities. We pay tribute to Glenda's leadership of staff and the organisation during her term. She arrived when the merge of Contact Canberra and Volunteering ACT was fresh and the work of building a unified organisation was incomplete. She leaves a united organisation with a strong team and we wish her well for the future. Glenda has guided a solidified perception of VCA within the community and government, reflected in renewed confidence and funding.*

*The board and I have full confidence in Jean's leadership and the teams' ability to continue the superb work. The next period is an exciting one for the organisation and we are delighted to be bringing you, our partners and members, new membership offerings, the launch of the ACT Community Diary and the commencement of an enhanced Connections program.*

*We look forward to continuing to work with you towards our vision of an engaged community enriched by volunteering, participation and knowledge."*

If you should have any queries or concerns, please feel free to contact Jean Giese via [email](#) or call the office. The team is sad to see Glenda go and thanks her for her leadership over the last year.

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## New VCA Memberships 2017/2018

We have updated our membership offerings to give you an easier and more streamlined experience, enabling you to get more value from our comprehensive suite of products and services.

Select the membership type that best suits your organisation's needs from the following categories:

ACCESS

Membership

SUPPORT

Membership

LEAD

Membership

By now you should have received an email and call from our membership team, introducing the new packages and exploring what membership best suits your organisation.

If you renew membership by 7 July you will be entitled to a free ticket to our Digital Symposium on 13 July. See details below.

If you have not yet heard from us, or would like to talk further, please contact Jessica Harris via [email](#) or call 6251 4060. Visit our [website](#) for more information.

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## Policy & Research - Update

In recent months VCA has made several policy submissions to local and federal government. These submissions highlight the active role that volunteers and volunteer involving organisations play in areas of key strategic priority. [Our policy work can now be downloaded on our website](#). As new areas of discussion arise we will be consulting with our members to ensure that we are representing their views and interests in our policy work going forward. For more information contact [Sarah Wilson](#).

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## Volunteering Territory Tick of Approval



VCA is proud to present the [Territory Tick of Approval](#), part of our *Lead* membership offering in 2017. The [Territory Tick of Approval](#) provides a framework for volunteering standards in the Canberra Region. With this tick volunteers, volunteer involving organisations and the community can be assured that best practices are being upheld to protect our volunteers.

The program has just launched and we are excited to work with our members to help ensure they are upholding the highest standards for the volunteering community. VCA will endeavour to make this service available to all members and the broader community in the future, however, at this stage is being offered to our *Lead* members only.

To learn more about the program or how you can get involved please contact [Jessica Harris](#).

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## Community Directory & Diary - Update

It's been a busy month for the [ACT Community Directory](#) and [Diary](#) with 5 new organisations, 14 new locations and 16 new services in Directory and dozens of new events in the Diary.

Amongst the new Directory listings are:

- [GIVIT](#) (see our featured listing section)
- [CHILDREN'S TUMOUR FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA](#)
- [YWCA's A-Z Social Support Group](#) for gender and sexuality diverse young people
- 8 new [YWCA Before and After School Care and Childcare Centres](#)
- [Christine Wilde Holistic Counselling and Psychotherapy](#)
- [Groupwork Solutions Canberra](#)
- [Weston Creek Medical Practice](#)

Exciting community events in the Diary for July include:

- [The Mill House Social Enterprise Accelerator Program Showcase](#)
- [Scissors Paper Rock – School Holiday Workshop](#)
- [GOLDS \(Growing Old Loving Dance\) dance class](#)
- [African Drumming Classes at Drum Effect](#)
- [Legal Aid ACT's New Family Violence Laws training session](#)
- [Health Consumers Training with HCCA](#)
- [A Data Driven Market for Outcomes presentation with ACTCOSS](#)
- [Ultimate Women's Weekend Expo](#)

If your organisation would like to learn more about how to better use the Community Directory please contact [Chris Mettam](#).

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## Inclusive Volunteering Program (IVP) - Update



We are seeking organisations that can offer volunteering opportunities to our many participants within the IVP program. Listen to what Ben has to say [here](#), and get your organisation involved today. Email [here](#).



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## 2017 Symposium - Volunteering in the Digital World

Just under 2 weeks to go! Come be inspired and informed for better volunteering management. Topics include:

- 'Volunteerability', insight and research into predicting if someone will volunteer.
- Hear where the ACT Government is heading and how we're stamping ourselves as a digital city.
- Find out what you can do to dissect, target and conquer the marketing landscape.
- Our experienced panel will then debate "How do not-for-profits innovate to stay relevant?"

Thanks to our event sponsor the ACT Government, [VCA is offering the chance for you to win a free ticket!](#) [Tell us](#) why you and your organisation would benefit from attending the Symposium. Register [here](#) or find out more via our [Facebook page](#).

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### Jean's famous!

Our interim CEO Jean Giese had the pleasure to speak with the ABC, regarding the 2016 census report. According to the census report 1 in 4 Canberrans volunteer, which we think is an amazing achievement and in need of celebration.

"Well, we know the profile of volunteering in the ACT shows that four in five have a tertiary qualification but we think that Canberrans have a great sense of community and really want to contribute'."

To find out more about the census report [click here](#).



## Member of the Month - Karralika



A strengths-based not-for-profit organisation, [Karralika Programs Inc.](#) supports adults and their families experiencing alcohol and other drug dependence to choose a better life. Through residential and community-based treatment programs, Karralika assists individuals on their road to recovery, allowing them to achieve personal goals and lead productive lives that contribute to the local community. Visit their [website](#) or [Facebook page](#) to find out more about this incredible group.

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## Community Directory Listing of the Month - GIVIT



GIVIT is a not-for-profit organisation [matching public generosity with genuine need](#), and they've just landed here in the ACT! Working across Australia, GIVIT works to alleviate poverty by ensuring community service providers have the tools required to support their clients. Since 2009, more than 450,000 quality items including white goods, clothes, furniture, school equipment, and personal care items have been donated via GIVIT, assisting Australians in need - all at no charge! To start requesting items for your service, contact [caroline@givit.org.au](mailto:caroline@givit.org.au) or to find out more head to their [website](#) or [Facebook page](#).

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## Members' Events

[St John Ambulance ACT](#) are offering the following free first aid information sessions targeted at retirees, seniors, the elderly and their families.

- [26 Jul](#) – Medical emergencies, 2-3:30pm (heart attack, stroke, burns, anaphylaxis & asthma)
- [26 Aug](#) – What if the worst happens, 2-3:30pm (CPR, defibrillation & choking)
- [16 Sep](#) – Medical emergencies, 2-3:30pm (heart attack, stroke, burns, anaphylaxis & asthma)
- [24 Oct](#) – What if the worst happens, 7-8:30pm (CPR, defibrillation & choking)
- [25 Oct](#) – First Aid for Grandparents, 9-11am (CPR, choking, asthma & anaphylaxis for babies & children)
- [21 Nov](#) – Medical emergencies, 7-8:30pm (heart attack, stroke, burns, anaphylaxis & asthma)

All sessions are at 14 Thesiger Court Deakin. RSVP at 6282 2399 or [admin@stjohnact.com.au](mailto:admin@stjohnact.com.au) (please note these sessions are up a flight of stairs).

If your organisation would like to share any events with our community please add it to the [Community Diary](#).

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## VCA Events

- **6 July - [Essentials for Volunteers Managers Workshop](#)**
  - This one-day interactive workshop is an innovative take on volunteer management, giving you practical tools to develop real workplace solutions.
- **11 July - [Volunteering Open Day](#)**
  - On the second Tuesday of every month, the Volunteering Open Day provides a great opportunity for anyone to find out more about volunteering!
- **18 July - [ACT Community Directory Essentials](#)**
  - A free 90-minute talk focusing on how to find everything you need in the ACT Community Directory and Diary.
- **18 July - [Volunteering Essentials](#)**
  - Learn more about what is involved in volunteering for a not-for-profit organisation and gain insight into your rights and responsibilities as a volunteer.



### SPECIALIST KNOWLEDGE SERIES

Doing volunteering business better

Topic 6:  
Identifying Projects to Enhance  
Business Development  
27 July | 9:00 - 11:30am

[Register here](#)

79% of volunteers in the Canberra Region



### MEET YOUR COMMUNITY

ACT Gambling Counselling  
Support Service (AGCSS) and  
Conservation Volunteers Australia  
Friday 28 July | 10am - 2pm |  
Contact Office, Genge St. Canberra

[AGCSS](#) provides a range of services  
including gambling and financial  
counselling, peer support groups,

hold tertiary qualifications, but is your organisation tapping into this talent pool? This presentation will show you how to identify skills-based projects and recruit the right people to get the job done.

gambling harm awareness training for workers and more.  
[Conservation Volunteers Australia](#)  
inspire change by connecting people with nature, working to increase resilience through protection, maintenance, and restoration of the environment.



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[www.vc-act.org.au](http://www.vc-act.org.au)

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