

Volunteer Newsletter

Tully, Cardwell, Mission Beach

February 2017

The Value of Creating Partnerships by Kerry Roll

Definition; A mutually-beneficial working relationship entered into by organisations in which each partner has needs and brings value to the partnership.

The benefits of building long-term relationships with partnerships are;

- Having a collaborative partner
- Having a shared interest in your community
- More people to work on projects
- Larger skill set – share the load
- Being able to produce bigger, better and longer-lasting benefits for the community

The longer a partnership exists, the more recognisable it will become in the community and among your members.

This can help attract members, gain media coverage and possibly exert influence on decision makers if and when necessary e.g. when applying for funding.

When deciding on partnerships your group/organisation needs to ask;

What is the group's main aim within the community? What is their main purpose? Could we work with them? And do we have the same/similar values?

Supporting and sustaining genuine inter-agency partnerships in delivering and supporting communities involves everyone in the community (including individuals, volunteer clubs, organisations, the Council and businesses). All of these members have skills, abilities, talents and experience which they can use in order to make their community a better place to live.

Five steps to begin successful partnerships

1. Understand your own organisation
2. Understand the needs and motivation of the other organisation/s
3. Identify common interests
4. Plan the work & identify the needs
5. Agree on roles, tasks, responsibilities.....

Success factors of building positive partnerships are having a common vision, measurable goals, and clearly defined responsibilities and on going communication.

The motivation for volunteers to be involved with partnerships is a feeling of making a difference, being able to share experiences/skills, maybe reducing their work load, meeting new people and forming relationships and having fun. It also gives a sense of increased connection with your community. There are many examples of successful partnerships in our community, which are mutually beneficial.



One Million Stars Cardwell
Workshop: Tuesday 7th March
at the Lions Hall, St Albans St.
From 10am—2pm

One Million Stars Mission Beach
Workshop: Wednesday 15th
March - Mission Arts, MARCs
Park. From 10am—2 pm

One Million Stars Tully
Workshop: Thursday 23rd
March - Red Cross Hall, Bryant
Street. From 10am—2pm

Celebrating our local volunteers

Malanbarra Midja Housing and Welfare provides housing and welfare for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the Tully region. Welfare programs include a women's group which aims to build their strength and capacity. The Aboriginal Corporation was incorporated 15 years ago and established to primarily support Indigenous women in the area.

Women share and learn cultural knowledge of collecting traditional craft materials, increasing a greater appreciation for cultural knowledge and maintaining the tradition of sharing stories and knowledge in a cultural appropriate way. The types of activities that the group partake in are; traditional craft such as weaving and maintaining traditional skills; cooking; social networking as in sharing stories & coming together to share ideas and skills. These activities help strengthen intergenerational and intercommunity cohesiveness to empower women through providing a safe and welcoming environment to learn and share skills relevant to their needs, within their cultural parameters.

The group have connections with Mamu Health Services in terms of health resources and their support with the Women's group. They connect with the community through representing Indigenous days with the Traditional Owners and Elders of the district attending functions and as a group they advocate for Indigenous women and children in the Tully district. The benefits to the community in having this group are the ability to represent cultural diversity in a small county town and local history is being preserved by the Malanbarra group. The group supports youth volunteer schemes at various times.

The Women's group spend time with each other learning and teaching traditional crafts. They really enjoy the social aspect of coming together and celebrating the diversity within the cultural group. If you are in Tully on a Thursday morning, why don't you pop into the Malanbarra Midja Women's group at 8 Plumb Street and have a yarn.....or contact Lima on 4068 2781.



Some artwork from the group

Money ready toolkit to help in times of natural disaster

A new resource has been developed to improve the financial knowledge and resilience of all Queenslanders in times of natural disaster. The Money Ready Toolkit has been produced by Good Shepherd Microfinance, in partnership with the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.



To download your copy go to;

<http://goodshepherdmicrofinance.org.au/researchreports/money-ready-toolkit/>

Queensland Women's Week 2017

6 - 12 March recognises and celebrates the achievements of Queensland's women and girls. Everyone has a role to play in creating a supportive and inclusive environment where women and girls can succeed.

This year the theme is;

Queensland Women: Be involved. Lead the way

Check out the Queensland Women's week website for more information and resources–

<https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/gateway/queensland-womens-week/home>

Cassowary Coast Community groups have until 31st March to apply for a grant from the Council – up to a maximum of \$3000. This is to assist with community events. For more information go to www.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au

For more information on volunteering & the program please contact;

Kerry Roll-0466 352346 or kroll@redcross.org.au

Sarah Johnson-0481 438869 or sajohnson@redcross.org.au