



NEWSLINK

The Quarterly Newsletter of South Port Day Links Inc.

November 2008

South Port Day Links Inc.

Annual General Meeting

Notice of Meeting

Thursday 20 November, 2008

1.30pm – 3.30pm

South Melbourne Community Centre
Corner Park St and Ferrars Place, South Melbourne
(Melways Ref: 2K B4 or 57, F2)

All welcome: afternoon tea will be served after the meeting.

SPDL will provide transport: please book on 9646 6362

Please note: no regular transport services will be operating after 12 noon on this day.

To market, to market...

Sunday 16 November

Our final Betty's Bus Trip for 2008. Thanks to a grant from the City of Port Phillip the charge includes the entry fee.

Pick-ups 9am-9.30am, drop-offs 4pm onwards
\$7.50 per person, BYO lunch or buy take-away there



Bookings essential: 9646 6362

Volunteers' Xmas Function

Wednesday 10 December

6pm onwards

Put it in your diary now so you don't miss out: venue to be advised



Bookings 9646 6362

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From the Chairperson

Dear all

The AGM is around the corner and the office staff have been busy getting everything prepared. I hope to be able to distribute to everyone a copy of the SPDL Annual Plan at the AGM and get your feedback on what looks good and what SPDL members want from their organisation.

Life at SPDL has been quite good over the past few months and whilst we are always busy, we've had surprisingly few problems to deal with. I am very happy to announce that Brian Sutton has joined the Committee. Some of you will know Brian from his work on the Reception desk. We have also been extremely lucky to have the help of Wendy Morris from the Port Melbourne Historical Society. Wendy is going through the photos and archives of SPDL in an effort to put together a history of SPDL to celebrate next year's 21st Birthday bash.

Some of you may also be aware that we have had some students from Victoria University who are studying for their Diploma of Lifestyle and Leisure undertake a course related project with us. The students have worked closely with Megan and Mary to conduct research into the available leisure and recreation opportunities available in the local area for older people and people with disabilities. The outcome of their studies will be available shortly and thank you to everyone who was involved.

We also received a subsidy from the Council to support the community meals program that we have introduced at SPDL. Many of you will have attended one of the Sunday lunches, the last one being held at the Mary Kehoe Centre early in October.

You may not know that we have introduced a new software program to organise the DayLinks Transport trips. I don't think there have been many 'glitches' but if you have had any transport problems, I would urge you to let the office know. If we don't know, we can't fix it, and given the number of transports we provide each month, we need your feedback to be assured the program is working well.

One problem that we have confronted since the last newsletter regards the provision of transport for the Port Phillip Rehab Centre. DayLinks has very little capacity to do any more transport than it currently does, and this is having an impact on those needing transport to and from the centre. We are working with Port Phillip Rehab Centre to try and find ways to address the problem and any suggestions that you may have will be welcomed.

Looking forward to seeing you all in November.

Catherine Healion
Chairperson

South Port Day Links Inc acknowledges the funding it receives from the Victorian Department of Human Services, the City of Port Phillip and our other generous sponsors and donors – see them on our website at www.spdl.org.au

Sunday Lunch at Mary Kehoe

Sunday corned beef and potato lunch at Mary Kehoe on 12 October was another great success. Many thanks to our occasional volunteers to work so hard on this event, including our Chairperson Catherine Healion, who is the events' organiser, and to our volunteer drivers on the day.



We're all winners: thanks to Janet & Les!

Our thanks to Deputy Mayor Janet Bolitho, and indirectly to volunteer and SPDL friend Les Sutherland: through Les, Janet had a windfall on the Caulfield Cup, and as she knows Les through SPDL, she very generously donated her winnings to us!

And we've been able to re-instate our Melbourne Cup sweeps this year: a very popular move with our clients, volunteers and staff!



All the Good winning the Caulfield Cup this year

GardenChat at Bunnings

On Thursday 16 October our Gardening Get-Together group had a little 'excursion' to the new Bunnings gardening centre in Port Melbourne.

It was a beautiful mild Spring day. This made the atmosphere even more lovely as we strolled around the garden centre and spied some new plants we had not seen before and of course there were lots of old favourites amongst the aisles.

We finished off the afternoon with some retail therapy and a lovely afternoon tea in the Bunnings café.

Unfortunately this will be our last Gardening Get-Together for the year as we have the AGM coming up, so I would like to extend a very big thank you to all the participants and guests we have enjoyed over the year. We look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year.



Volunteer News

News

We have survived winter and all it had to offer us, and now we are racing headlong into Spring and the remainder of the year. As usual it has been a very busy time in the office at Port Melbourne, especially with the introduction of our new volunteer transport database. Megan and Trish have been working very hard to transfer our data across and implement the new program. This has been made easier with the help of Meryll's wonderful knowledge and data input by some of our reception volunteers. Thank you to everyone who has assisted with this process and the feedback from our reception staff and drivers. We are sure this program will be further refined over the coming months.

Several of our volunteer drivers are recovering from health issues and we wish them a speedy recovery.

A big SPDL welcome to Hollie Simmons and Ji Hea Choi (PetLinks), and to Rearn Norman, Paula Fletcher, Jenny Dunning and Sarah Holmes who are patiently waiting to be matched with someone for PetLinks, Edward Hickey (GardenMates) and Robin Waters (DayLinks)!

Volunteer bus driver Training

On Tuesday morning 16 September, Phillip Whiting from TransAccess Community Transport hosted bus training for some of our volunteers at Perce White Reserve in Garden City. Phillip gave us training in Occupation Health, safe braking distances, use of our mirrors, reverse parking and many other important aspects of safe bus driving. Thank you to Beryl, Maria and Lance for attending, and Trish and I appreciated Phil's knowledge as well!



12th National Conference on Volunteering

SPDL sponsored our Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Kehoe, to attend the National Conference on Volunteering from 3 – 5 September on the 'sunny' Gold Coast. And yes it rained most of the time and there was flash flooding! Anyway Mary reported it was a most informative few days and the theme of the conference was 'Catch the new waves'. 530 delegates attended the conference which was a 70% increase on the last conference in 2006. Many organisations in the not-for-profit and community sector are struggling to attract volunteers, so we are ever mindful of the wonderful work our volunteers do for South Port Day Links.

Promoting volunteering

As you know, we are always looking for more volunteers to assist us and deliver our programs as successfully as possible. Volunteering opportunities are available at South Port Day Links in six areas. These are volunteer driving, our Committee of Management, PetLinks, WalkMates, GardenMates and InfoLink (our stall at South Melbourne Market on Fridays and our reception desk).

Our next volunteer meeting i.e Christmas party!!

Nothing serious about this meeting! Our next 'official' meeting will be the annual Christmas party/thank you function. We intend to host our Christmas party this year on **Wednesday 10 December**. Please put this date in your diary now so you will not miss out. Venue to be announced soon. Partners/significant others welcome.

Volunteer Profile – Heather Cooke

Birthplace: Melbourne

Interests:

Cats, gardens & plants, reading (especially crime fiction), movies, beach (swimming)

Passions: See above

Where and how long have you been a volunteer?

SPDL 3 years

What volunteering do you do with SPDL?

Driving

What do you enjoy about volunteering with us?

All the very interesting clients, finding new and secret lanes and back-ways in the area. Also all the nice SPDL staff etc (*Editor's note:* Really, we didn't pay her to say that ☺)

What don't you like about volunteering with us?

Nothing!



Pets in the City Project

On a wild and very windy Friday 3 September, the Pets in the City project was launched at Park Towers. The Pets in the City project is an initiative of the animal welfare department at the City of Port Phillip in conjunction with local vets, animal care businesses, PetLinks and the residents of Park Towers to encourage pet owners to register, vaccinate and microchip their pets. Currently very few animals at Park Towers are registered with the Council.

PetLinks role in the project is to assist in the transportation of pets to the RSPCA in Burwood for discounted vaccinations and possibly to local vets if required.

The project was launched by Fr Bob McGuire. A BBQ was enjoyed by the local residents, and free pet photography and showbags were distributed. Despite the crazy weather, a good time was had by all the residents and their pets!

If you are interested in assisting with the transportation of pets, please let Mary know on 9646 6362.





Refusal of Service by a Client

PRINCIPLE

South Port Day Links respects a client's right to make choices about services received including the choice to refuse service.

POLICY

South Port Day Links Inc. will provide accessible and timely services to all eligible applicants and referrals to the service. At any time a client may refuse service for any reason. South Port Day Links recognises and respects the client's right to choose or reject services. A refusal or rejection of a service at any time will not jeopardise that client's right to accept that service at another time.

PROCEDURE

Where a client refuses a service, or appears to refuse any service, the Coordinator of Volunteers will:

Verbally confirm with the client that this is what they want

Document the client file

If necessary, refer the refusal to the client's original referral source: case worker, advocate, guardian or administrator if appropriate

If the coordinator is concerned that the client is not competent to make that decision, the coordinator should refer the client for ACASS assessment and begin the process of Guardianship application.

Where in the opinion of the Coordinator of Volunteers the refusal of service poses an unacceptable risk to the client, the Coordinator will meet the client, their case worker, advocate, administrator or guardian as appropriate to discuss the matter and seek clarification of refusal of service in writing

Maintain this record on the client file



To promote and enable equality of access and opportunity for frail aged people, people with a disability, and those that care for them, so that they can maintain their independence and links to the local community.

www.spdl.org.au