

We wish you a merry Christmas

The hundreds of young people who have directly benefited from the support of a Timehelp volunteer in Holroyd, Geelong and Hobsons Bay would like to say **THANK YOU**. Every week we hear from a teacher or volunteer about a child who can now read confidently, a teenager who now comes to school, a student who stood up in front of the whole class to talk for the first time, a girl who has improved concentration, or a group of boys that now have a positive male role model in their lives, and the list goes on..... This is our fifth year of operation and what a year it's been. Our total number of active volunteers at the end of 2008 is 62. That equates to 7200 hours of free help for schools (in one year alone). Our thanks goes out to our volunteer coordinator in Holroyd, Yvonne Tattersall and to all our partnering schools for making our volunteers feel so welcome and valued. We couldn't run the program without the vision and commitment of The Alcoa Foundation, The Sidney Myer Fund, and our municipal councils. We are so excited to finally have our very own Timehelp website www.timehelp.com.au. Next year is looking amazing with new staff coming on board to support more volunteers, we'll host more social functions, keep newsletters coming, and introduce Timehelp to one new community. We hope you have a wonderful Christmas break surrounded by family and friends, we love you all and look forward to seeing you all in 2009. Kindest regards, Lisa Kingman & John Winkett



School Terms 2009

	NSW	
TERM 1	Wednesday 28 January	Thursday 09 April
TERM 2	Wednesday, 29 April	Friday 10 July
TERM 3	Tuesday 28 July	Friday 02 October
TERM 4	Monday, 19 October	Friday 18 December
	VIC	
TERM 1	Monday 2 February	Friday 3 April
TERM 2	Monday 20 April	Friday 26 June
TERM 3	Monday 13 July	Friday 18 September
TERM 4	Monday 5 October	Friday 18 December

Thank you & goodbye



It is with much sadness that we say goodbye and thank you to Josephine Parrett of Alcoa Yennora who has taken on a new role with WSN Environmental Services. We will miss you heaps Jo!

Welcome volunteers

Josie Moncrieff Louise Wilding David Forbes

Geelong Update

It's been **five years** since the Alcoa Foundation and our first 'trailblazer' volunteers gave the thumbs up to the concept of Timehelp. Four of our founding volunteers; **Vera Begg, Jake Dertien, Jim Duffield** and **Peter Rankin** are still active in their partnering schools and we think that is **INCREDIBLE!** They've contributed over 600 hours each or 2400 hours in total to help young people in Geelong. With much excitement we announce Ms Jo Brown, as Timehelp's new volunteer coordinator for Geelong who will commence with us in 2009 courtesy of Alcoa Foundation funding.



Jim Duffield



Jake Dertien



Vera Begg



Peter Rankin

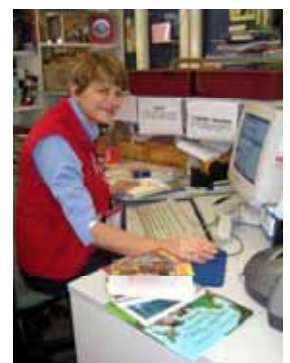


A team of students have been pouring all their creative energy into our new website and data base.

International students from MMC College developed Timehelp's website and data base for free.

Hobsons Bay Update

Active, committed, connected... that's our Timehelpers in Hobsons Bay. Whether it's in the library, on the sports ground, in the garden, classroom or helping at the Spotswood Primary school fete, they are all making a difference to young people in their own special way. Johanna Saunders has penned a delightful book of children's stories and poems for every student in her class at Williamstown North Primary. We are still looking for kitchen garden helpers!



Yvonne Davidson keeping the library in order at Spotswood Primary School



Sandra Brammer helping students at Hobsons Bay Primary with writing and reading



Ray Davidson & students building a new garden bed at Hobsons Bay Primary

Holroyd Update



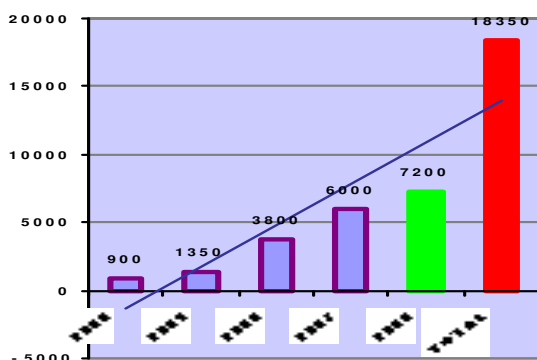
Back Row Left to Right. Josie Moncrieff, Trevor & Marie Simpson, Louise Wilding, Yvonne Tattersall, Joyce Rochford, Colin Grainger, Sylvia Campbell, Allan Street.
Middle Row: Helen Grainger, Suzanne Long, Trevor McMillan.
Front Row: Ron Moncrieff, Winston Tattersall.

In October, fourteen Holroyd Timehelpers gathered for a BIG Breakfast at Wenty Bowls Club. The social morning was enjoyed by all and gave our new volunteers an opportunity to meet with existing Timehelpers. Josie Moncrieff started at Merrylands PS, Louise Wilding is helping at Holroyd High and Sylvia Campbell is supporting students at Wentworthville Public School. Yvonne Tattersall is a true example of 'walking the talk' and has just taken on a five week project volunteering at Holroyd High on top of her many other community activities, coordinating Timehelp and supporting Wentworthville PS. In recognition of Yvonne's first year as coordinator the Alcoa Foundation is flying her and Winston to Melbourne for the Geelong/Hobsons Bay Christmas lunch so she can learn from our other Timehelp communities.



Ron & Marjorie Nyberg (above) helping at Yennora Public School. The gardens have never looked so good and the Breakfast Club is a big hit with students.

Total volunteer hours contributed



Interview with volunteer

Robyn Forbes

Tell us what you do as a Timehelper ?

I come to a Grade 1 class at Williamstown North Primary School once a week and help with reading and other classroom activities like science experiments, writing stories and literacy games. I also made soup and cakes once and they thought that was great. All my own children and my husband and his brothers and sisters came to this school so we have a real connection and it's great.

Do you think you're making a difference to the school or students?

I think I'm making a difference to the students. I've seen some of them really improve over the year and become fluent in reading. One child who has behavioural and learning problems can now read clearly to me and that's happened over 8 months. Another young boy who has Aspergers syndrome is a brilliant reader but its only been in the last month he's actually made eye contact with me and responded to me and that's wonderful.

Is this experience helping you be happy and healthy?

Yes, it makes you happy. I just love being with the children and find them very interesting. I've always liked coming here, even after three years. I love reading and I think when I read to the kids I can make a story interesting and fun, like a game. If they can't comprehend what's in front of them they're not going to go anywhere in the future. I like doing community things and the little ones are so cute.

Do you feel valued and appreciated by the school?

I certainly feel valued by Lesley, the teacher. She always makes me feel welcome and makes a fuss over me. When I got back from holidays the kids and teacher were really happy to see me. Sometimes I'll be out at the shops and I'll hear 'Hello Robyn' and its one of the children. 'That's Robyn and she comes into our class' they say to their parents. It makes you feel good that they know who you are and that they're happy to introduce you to their parents.



Robyn Forbes helping student Alison with reading

Have you learnt anything new about young people or schools?

Classrooms are certainly not the same as my time in school. They are much less formal, more noisy and active. Children are children though and that doesn't change. I have never worked with kids who have special needs before and there are three in my class so I expect this is a big challenge for the teacher. Sometimes Lesley will say ' Robyn tell us what it was like when you were at school' and I tell them I went to a boarding school and lived there. We talked about that. I also explained how I used to catch a steam train there. Once I showed them some very old photos of my husbands parents and the boys were in dresses. The kids thought that was very funny.

What is the best part about being a Timehelp Volunteer?

It's just beautiful being with the children. They're so cute and not at that cheeky age. Seeing their smiles and how they become more sure of themselves. By the end of Grade 1 they're quite grown up. You get some funny little stories. It's great when I go into the classroom and the kids say ' Rob, Rob, will you hear me read?'

Do you have a message for others?

Do it. You're giving something back to the community and its very, very satisfying to see children improve their reading and just being accepted and welcomed by them. It's great!