



The Flying Penguin

Newsletter of International Volunteers of Peace

IVP is the Australian Branch of Service Civil International (SCI) and Network for Volunteer Development in Asia (NVDA)

Welcome to the 2022 Wrap Up Newsletter for IVP. It's been a big year for IVP and in this newsletter we'll cover:

Annual General Meeting Introducing our new committee.	IVP Projects See what we've up to, from the Goulburn show, Plants for Peace and Raising Peace.	International News Hear about what's been happening at SCI, ICM and in Asia.	What's coming up See our upcoming events.
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Annual General Meeting

Message from Stephen Horn, the Chair.

Our AGM was held on 28th May and a new committee was elected. We are delighted to have four continuing members (Stephen, David, Eva, Trinks) and to welcome three new members (Angie, Megan, Sashi).

Election results are as follows:

- Chair: Stephen Horn
- Secretary: Sashi Aryaratne
- Treasurer: Rita Warleigh (interim while we recruit)
- Ordinary members: Trinks Wang (IT and membership), Angie Chung (Governance), Eva Jozsa, Megan Millar (HR), David Hessey (Placements)

Megan Millar joined the team in the HR role during 2021 and has recruited some wonderful new team members: Nimanthi Karandagoda (projects), Amy Lethbridge (bookkeeper), Sana (placements), Malik and Nabil.

Mahesh has taken a break and we look forward to his return to the committee because he has been a driving force in the Projects team. Stella is stepping down in the role of Bookkeeper and we have welcomed Amy to temporarily take over in this role.

More recruitment is underway and we are currently advertising for a Treasurer, Grants Officer, and Membership Officer. If you are interested in any of these roles, please write to Megan at hr@ivp.org.au.

Membership

If your membership has lapsed, we would very much appreciate you re-joining. Simply open this link: <https://www.ivp.org.au/become-a-member/>

Your membership supports IVP and allows us to continue organising projects to foster peace and international understanding. It keeps you connected to like-minded people around the world, with opportunities to enrol in international seminars, trainings, discussions or to join a campaign of SCI or NVDA.

We invite members to have a say in our strategic planning process, or organise a workcamp connected with your passion. We invite you to join our current efforts on a training kit for peace education and nonviolent conflict resolution. And you can also join Raising Peace meetings if you are interested in local issues related to peace.

With our renewed committee, the future of IVP looks positive and we invite you to join us on the journey.

IVP Projects

Message from David, Placements and committee member.

Throughout 2022 we have seen a growing number of workcamps and long-term volunteer projects appearing on the Service Civil International (SCI) Workcamps database. With the European summer in full swing, we are receiving constant call-outs for volunteers to fill workcamps over there and in other continents. Currently there are 170 projects in Europe, 40 in Asia, 16 in Africa, 2 in North America and one here in Australia. Note that there are 143 more volunteer opportunities listed on the long-term database.

Please see: [Workcamp Project Search](#) , and: [Long-Term Projects](#) .



The Goulburn Show

IVP has been involved with the Goulburn Show Society for a number of years, and will continue to have a 2023 workcamp at the Goulburn Show next February and March.

This year's show was a success; unfortunately we did not receive international volunteers to be able to hold the workcamp. However, several individual members of IVP were able to assist on single days and this was much appreciated.

We now have a full 2023 workcamp, with 6 volunteers registered, which is excellent news. Past Goulburn Show workcamps have been a wonderful experience for all volunteers and the show society has really appreciated the extra assistance.

Workcamp information: [Goulburn Show 2023](#)

Rail Trails Australia

Recently I contacted [Rail Trails Australia](#) to enquire whether their support groups may be interested in having a group of volunteers help with maintenance. The construction and major repairs of the trails is funded by the local government, however minor restorations, maintenance and weed control is carried out by "Friends of the Rail Trail" groups. It is with these groups we hope to connect. IVP was included in their latest newsletter, which may bring some interest.

IVP is looking to engage with organisations who may benefit from holding a workcamp. If you know of any groups that may benefit from a workcamp, please reach out to them, or contact IVP and we will make contact. You can email projects@ivp.org.au or placements@ivp.org.au.

Plants for Peace

Message from Rita Warleigh, committee member.

We continue to pick up loads of plants from nurseries, mainly from Sydney but some also from Canberra and Goulburn. Between pick up and delivery, the plants are transferred to Rita's backyard to be sorted, counted, listed and cared for until the next delivery can be arranged. Since July, deliveries have mainly been to Southern Highlands where we are still discovering small villages that were badly hit by the fires.

A generous quantity of attractive garden plants, native grasses and shrubs and larger eucalypts have been delivered to Penrose, Wingello and Balmoral Village. We continue to be touched by the gratitude of the recipients of the plants and hearing their stories. Two years on there are still people who have bare blocks with rebuilding still not commenced.

Our Coordinare grant, which covers the basic costs of hire and travel will finish at the end of the year, by which time we will have delivered thousands of free plants to rural communities that had been affected by the 2020 fires. Now all we have to do is complete the report, which will not be nearly as much fun as giving away plants.



Car and trailer loaded with plants



Plants unloaded and ready for pick-up at Penrose Store with Stephen holding our fabulous banner designed by Rosanna.

Raising Peace

Message from Rita Warleigh, committee member.

Oh what have we started! The Raising Peace Festival in September 2021 was so successful that the collaborating organisations have decided to take it forward and continue organising similar events. A three-day event was held over the Anzac weekend and a five-day event was held in September this year. The recordings of all the sessions can be found on the website raisingpeace.org.au and you can also find links to recordings of the previous events there. Raising Peace is also one of the organisers of A People's Forum on the Ukraine War which took place on Sunday 24th July.



We are very proud that this collaboration is being spoken of as one of the most important initiatives currently happening in the peace arena. Raising Peace will continue into 2023 so keep an eye on the website for more events.

International news

Service Civil International

There is no doubt that the world of internet and fast satisfaction has impacted the work of SCI. We struggle to compete with the plethora of VolunTourism organisations, where you can join up for \$70 and receive contacts for thousands of volunteering opportunities around the world. Of course, there is no quality control, no volunteer support, no insurance cover, no assistance with visas, no expectation of staying in touch and writing an article for our newsletter, no community building and no focus on peace or any other of the values we strive towards. For IVP, this simply means more work with less result.

SCI International Secretariat lost their main source of funding for 2022 and have been operating without a Coordinator. Fortunately, funding will be reinstated in 2023 and recruitment will begin at the beginning of the year. The current International Executive Committee is holding the reins in the meantime.

STOP PRESS

SCIs application for administrative support from the European Union has been approved (as of late November 2022). The immediate consequence is that recruitment for an International Coordinator - that is an office manager for the International Secretariat, and executive officer to ICM and its Working Groups - can proceed. Over 100 applications have been received. A short list will be interviewed with results coming through early in the new year.

Various initiatives have been implemented to encourage more involvement from branches in the decision-making. One of these is monthly communication meetings that all individual members can attend as well as propose items for discussion. If any members of IVP are interested, please contact admin@ivp.org.au and Stephen will give you the next meeting invitation.

ICM 2022

For constitutional reasons the international committee meetings - the forum for discussing and approving network policy - are split in two. A meeting to approve the previous years financial accounts was held in June; the balance of ICM business is on the agenda for December. Between 7th and 13th December delegates from the 40 branches, and half a dozen working groups that constitute SCI will meet to go through a packed agenda, vote on resolutions, fill vacancies for the International Executive Committee (IEC), and gather in side meetings on topics of concern to the movement as a whole.

Past annual ICMs have been opportunities for building valuable personal connections, intense discussion, and the cementing of collegial relations between branches. They have been a staging ground for diverse new activists and for the passing on of experience.

This will be our second wholly virtual ICM. On the one hand it allows branches otherwise restricted by distance to participate regularly; and many more individuals to observe debates and procedures as they happen. On the other hand it requires some imagination to bring to life the atmosphere and traditions of in person meetings, and to give effective voice for branches, groups or contacts at the volatile edges of the SCI universe.

IVP members, not just those in the committee, who would like to become involved in this aspect of the movement, or wish simply to observe a slice of the meeting procedure, should contact Stephen for a link.

Asia

Asian Development Committee has a new executive and this has brought new enthusiasm and good communication. IVP continues to have an influence in this regional committee. Network for Volunteer Development in Asia also has a new executive bringing new ideas. Stephen recently gave an online presentation at the recurring Asian Volunteer Voices project on our Goulburn Workcamp.

We remain fairly active with our international networks. Stephen remains a member of SCI's Finance Advisory Team, and Rita is very active with the Peace Education on Conflict Transformation team. Dave has attended international meetings on matters to do with Placements. Our Placements Officer in Training will step into this position from now on.

What's coming up?

Our Virtual End of Year Party



Please join us!

To celebrate the end of another great year, IVP invites you to come join our virtual end of year party.

When? Wednesday Dec 14th 2022 7pm - 8pm

Where?

Google Meet joining info

Video call link:

<https://meet.google.com/cyc-cgde-ohf>

Or dial: (AU) +61 3 8594 7731 PIN: 633 594 836#

More phone numbers:

<https://tel.meet/cyc-cgde-ohf?pin=1991419186967>

We look forward to seeing you there!

Farmer's Market in Goulburn

IVP's newest Project is the **Farmers Market in Goulburn**. The idea has been quietly brewing for a year now but plans are moving forward at a fast pace since we recruited Keith Gilbert as a Business Plan Writer. Keith and David worked together on the survey which has gone out around town and is bringing in lots of positive responses. We expect it will start in the first half of next year.

Strategic Planning

Early next year we will have a Strategic Discussion to device on the future directions of IVP in the changing and challenging environment of international volunteering. If you would like to be part of this conversation, please contact secretary@IVP.org.au

New Farmers Market in Goulburn - Have your say!

Interested as a Shopper?
Scan below.



Interested as a Stall Holder?
Scan below.

