

Annual Report 2019

IVP Executive Committee met 8 times in 2019 with members joining through MeetUp.

From mid-2018 we had worked from hired office space in a community facility in Goulburn, and trialled working with an office volunteer to provide continuity between committee meetings. Although the facility did allow for such an arrangement, indeed would have been ideal, with the right match. The hire was extravagant in the absence of a good candidate in the role, so we finished our tenancy, and moved the office once more to a spare room in Rita Warleigh's home; covering internet and consumable costs in lieu of rent.

We are grateful to Rita for accommodating the assorted files and equipment that supports administration and carries our corporate memory. Appropriately, and for this we are also very grateful, Rita has stepped aside from the committee to take on a role as archivist, to ensure we have a proper record of IVP from its inception, while offering a physical work and congenial meeting space for members of the expanding IVP/SCI family.

The Goulburn Show camp went ahead for the second year, with a new group of volunteers and a renewal of our relations with the Show committee. It provides an opportunity for IVP to run a stall during the busy weekend of the Show proper, speak to people attending, and make interesting contacts with other organisations. We have been invited again for 2020, and I can report that that camp too went off well, albeit with a different cast, and benefitting from our organising experiences of the previous two occasions.



In May we again assisted at a BioBlitz, this time at Wombeyan Caves, with two volunteers recruited from the Asylum Seeker Centre in Sydney. Both (from the eastern islands of Fiji) have remained in touch; Mitch agreeing to work with the committee, and Mesu contributing to the Goulburn Show camp in 2020.

Through our long standing involvement with the Stonequarry cemetery bush regeneration we are an active member of the newly incorporated K2W Link alliance, that coordinates landscape biodiversity conservation in the Abercrombie valley - from its watershed in the World Heritage Kanangra Boyd National Park to the east to its confluence with the west flowing Lachlan a tributary of the Murray, at the Wyangula reservoir in the west.

The K2W territory is a mix of privately-owned farmland, forestry reserve, crown land, and national park and wilderness. K2W is part of a chain of community run groups bringing together natural resource managers, farmers, ecologists and scientists with common concern in the key landscape function of natural systems, cutting jurisdictional boundaries.

Our hope is to offer opportunities for international volunteers to assist critical labour intensive on ground conservation work, supporting both scientists and managers, an unusual collaboration with rewards to volunteers and to the environment, as well as communities represented in the K2W membership.

During the year IVP has been represented at the Asian Platform Meeting, and at the end of the year in Holland at the annual plenum of SCI - the International Committee Meeting. This meeting saw both the launch of SCI's centenary year, and Rita - IVP's patron and founder - stepping down after 4 years duty with the international executive committee.



[Rita being congratulated by the IEC, Jacob, Hemamali, Jacky (president) Goska, and (treasurer) Alex at closing session of 2019 ICM at Nature House in the Arnhem woods.]

This year also marks 30 years since IVP was founded, and an extraordinary dedication by Rita to international volunteering in Australia, and the world.

IVP seems to live 'by the seat of its pants'. 2019 was a difficult year for us, with the stretched times of our dedicated committee members, and remote location, making it important to recalibrate what might attract people to volunteering for peace as a way of life, or a way to spend precious holidays in the company of strangers, and learning from locals, while travelling or as a time out from the dust and dirt of regular rounds in the city.

Exciting things will happen in 2020 - look out for **Raising Peace** (a collaboration with IPAN and WILPF in September). We welcome new people as activists, and love to keep in touch with the old hands, and with our partners we are reaching into new issues, all in the name of a better world. Spread the word - IVP needs and welcomes you to volunteer alongside us at home, or on the tracks and trails, obscure streets and villages, mountain settlements or riverside communities in your travels abroad. Just a few weeks of your time, not a lot of money but spirit open to the different experiences of others and to change within yourself.

IVP Administrator, May 2020

PLACEMENTS REPORT 2019

Incoming

- 1 workcamp ([SCI workcamp page](#))
AU-IVP 12.1 Goulburn Show (27 Feb - 07 Mar 2019):
No. of volunteers: 8
Through SCI: 1
Through NVDA : 7
- 1 Medium Term volunteer (MTV) project announced - on hold
Bushfire recovery project at Milton / Lake Conjola
2-3 months for 3 international volunteers

Outgoing

- Workcamp attended: 1 volunteer to SCI-CAT
Applied, but withdrawn: 1 volunteer (the camp was full and didn't want to choose other)
Applied, but not paid: 1 volunteer (change of mind)
- Workcamp inquiries: 8
Long-term volunteer (LTV) project enquiries: 3
Non went ahead to apply/respond

AUSTRALIAN PROJECTS REPORT 2019 by *Rita Warleigh*

Only one project took place in 2019 and that was the Goulburn Show.

Cultural exchange aspect:

For the third year in a row, IVP recruited volunteers to assist organisers of the Show, preparing grounds and display areas for this major annual event and in packing up afterwards. The volunteers loved the opportunity to work closely with local volunteers most of whom are in their retirement years. It was a wonderful cultural exchange as well as being much appreciated by the Show Committee.

Asylum Seekers involvement:

An attempt was made to involve asylum seekers through establishing a relationship with the Asylum Seekers Centre in Newtown, Sydney. However, most of their clients are seeking work and cannot take two weeks away from being available in case any work opportunities arise.

Financial aspect:

As in previous years the volunteers were charged a participation fee to cover the cost of food and insurance. A small amount of incoming funds was achieved through having a stall at the show, where we sold several memberships and renewals, and one or two books. However, the cost of insurance to be able to hold a stall far outweighed the benefit. This needs to be addressed.

Evaluation:

Both volunteers and Show committee were extremely pleased with the workcamp. It is also good for raising IVP's profile in the local area. It was decided to continue the collaboration next year.

Membership Report 2019

- 3 new members in 2019
- 35 members up to date

Website Report 2019

We were getting less traffic in the past 12 months. Major drops are in Australia source and Desktop users. There is a trend for increasing mobile device visitors as expected.

