

Volunteering

...for a holiday

Pat Gallaher, co-organiser of the ALIA Retirees Group, tells us about 'volunteering for a holiday' in Western Australia. Retirees are finding voluntary work as they travel.

Why not make your next holiday an unforgettable experience? Volunteering Western Australia has developed the Visiting Volunteers program as a solution to the volunteer shortage suffered in many regional West Australian communities.

The program encourages travellers to add something special to their trip by lending their own unique skills and services to the communities they visit. Meeting local people and becoming a real part of the community results in an unforgettable travel experience. The range of volunteering opportunities available is varied and unique. Travellers can

volunteer as a tour guide in Shark Bay, help in the restoration of a miner's cottage in the Goldfields or help children in a remote school in the Gascoyne amongst many other activities.

The visiting volunteer chooses where they would like to visit, how long they will spend there and the volunteering activity they will participate in. Most volunteers simply cannot get enough of the unique experience once they begin. Perhaps some libraries would like to register to engage retirees on holidays for activities such as storytime, local studies etc. For more information about the Visiting Volunteers program, visit <<http://www.volunteeringwa.org.au>> or phone 08 9482 4333.

Non-library volunteering opportunities

It may be that you would like to try something completely different; your career in library and information services will have provided you with myriad skills transferrable to other fields. Or you may be particularly interested in volunteering with groups benefitting the environment. The Australian Government's portal for seniors provides an extensive list of links to organisations providing volunteering opportunities (too numerous to list here). Go to <<http://www.seniors.gov.au/>> and click on 'Your Work' then 'Volunteering'.



Volunteer in the Spotlight

Jenni Jeremy

Why do you enjoy volunteering for the library profession?

Volunteering provides opportunities not always found in the workplace. I must enjoy my role as I have been actively involved with my professional association for more than 25 years as a committee member and convenor of Acquisitions and ASSIG so volunteering has become a part of my life.

What are three things you'd like us to know about you?

Paris and Venice are my two favourite European cities, Sydney is best seen from the top of the Harbour Bridge and dark chocolate coated ginger is to die for!

How do you ensure balance between your work, volunteering and home commitments?

Including reading for pleasure, an early-morning run, walking along the beach, red wine and cheese, gardening, fresh flowers and sunshine as often as possible in every day are the best ways to de-stress and provide balance in a very busy lifestyle. A cook, wife, secretary and cleaner would all make the balance easier

What gives you a sense of purpose and accomplishment?

Making a difference, completing tough projects and meeting deadlines. Mentoring and sharing with others, especially library students, the benefit of my knowledge and experience gained from my professional career

If you could have your ideal role in the world, what would it be?

In an ideal world there would be no deadlines or schedules, time would stand still and the world would be at peace. Until then, managing a library or special collection with an unlimited budget and resources and the opportunity to reach out and provide information literacy programs to students from an early age would be my ideal utopia.

Which kinds of libraries have you worked in?

Mostly academic and special collections housed within a university library.

What are you currently reading?

A Figure of Speech by Graham Freudenberg.

What do you feel are your greatest achievements and successes?

A great relationship with my daughters, my many friends and extended family, developing a collection of national significance from nothing and establishing a strong liaison with collection contributors and strategic partners in Australia and overseas.

What do you currently do for a crust?

Manage the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Library at the University of South Australia — the first prime ministerial library to be established for a living prime minister.