



Two half-day workshops for the people who enrich community life for others

# Volunteer Development Program

Volunteers — Connecting Loddon Communities

Options to attend a program on weekdays, or over two Sundays in June

DELIVERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



## This program is for you.

You show up. You give your time, your energy, your ideas, and so much of yourself — not because you have to, but because you care deeply about where you live and the people around you. **You are the backbone of this community.**

This program is our way of investing in you — of offering you time to connect, reflect, grow, and be celebrated alongside others who are doing exactly the same thing.

*We believe that when volunteers feel valued, understood, and supported, communities flourish.*

**This is your time.**

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### WHAT IS THE VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM?

The Volunteer Development Program is a series of two connected half-day workshops, designed specifically for people who give their time to community groups, committees, sporting clubs, hall associations, progress groups, and everything in between.

Each workshop runs from **10.00am to 2.00pm**, with time to arrive, settle in, have a cup of tea, and connect with others before we begin. There is a relaxed lunch break in the middle where you can chat, swap stories, and build connections with volunteers from other groups across the Shire.

The sessions are **warm, practical, and participatory**. We learn by doing, not just listening. You will leave each session with real tools, new connections, and a renewed sense of what is possible in your group.

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### WHO IS THIS FOR?

This program is for anyone who volunteers on a community committee or group in Loddon Shire — regardless of your role or how long you have been involved.

#### YOU WILL ESPECIALLY BENEFIT IF YOU...

Want to understand your own strengths and how to use them more fully.

Have felt frustrated, unheard, or unsure about your role in a group.

Are passionate about attracting new volunteers and keeping them.

Would love your meetings to feel more productive, energising, and connected.

Simply want to grow and learn alongside other dedicated community volunteers.

## The Two Workshops

The workshops are designed to work together. Workshop Two builds directly on the conversations and discoveries from Workshop One.

**Sunday sessions — children welcome.** Free craft activities will be available for kinder to primary school-aged children during both Sunday sessions, hosted by our volunteer craft coordinator. Parents are welcome to bring children along.

### WORKSHOP ONE

#### Connection & Listening

*Connection, Listening & Understanding Each Other*

- Discover and name the strengths you bring to your group.
- Learn and practise the art of genuine, generative listening.
- Explore personality styles and why difference is a strength.
- Understand your own shadow and how to step back into your best self.
- Explore the difference between control and influence.

### WORKSHOP TWO

#### Building Your Group

*Building a Group Worth Belonging To*

- Explore what makes a community group truly magnetic and welcoming.
- Discover the rituals and habits that build trust over time.
- Craft a value proposition — a story you share to attract new volunteers.
- Design a role description to attract exactly the right new volunteer.
- Leave with a clear, personal commitment to your group.

## WHAT TO EXPECT ON THE DAY

<b>9.45am</b>	Doors open — come in, grab a cup of tea or coffee, and say hello.
<b>10.00am</b>	Welcome and introductions — who is in the room and what brings you here?
<b>10.20am</b>	Session begins — interactive, participatory, and a lot of fun.
<b>11.40am</b>	Morning tea break.
<b>11.55am</b>	Second session — deepening the conversation and building your toolkit.
<b>12.30pm</b>	Lunch — a relaxed chance to connect and share stories with other volunteers.
<b>1.00pm</b>	Final session, reflections, and your personal commitment to take home.
<b>2.00pm</b>	Close — see you next time!

## BEFORE YOU ARRIVE — A SHORT REFLECTION

Spend around **30 minutes** before the workshop on a short reflection. There are no right or wrong answers — this is simply an invitation to think about what you bring, and what you hope to achieve.

### YOUR PRE-WORKSHOP REFLECTION — FIVE THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

- 1 What is the name and purpose of your community group? What does it do and why does it matter?
- 2 What is your current role in the group?
- 3 Three things you personally bring — skills, knowledge, connections, energy or experience.
- 4 One thing you would like to develop or get better at as a volunteer.
- 5 One gap or challenge in your group you would love to see improve.

## OUR APPROACH

We begin by exploring your strengths. Every volunteer brings something real and valuable. We draw on strengths-based practice, personality profiling, and frameworks for building trust — learning through conversation, storytelling, role play, and reflection. We make sure every person in the room feels seen and heard.

## Practical Details

<b>Location</b>	Serpentine Recreation Reserve, Serpentine
<b>Weekday Group</b>	Workshop One: Friday 19 June 2026 Workshop Two: Thursday 25 June 2026
<b>Weekend Group</b>	Workshop One: Sunday 21 June 2026 Workshop Two: Sunday 28 June 2026
<b>Time</b>	10.00am – 2.00pm (doors open at 9.45am)
<b>Cost</b>	This program is a gift to you from Loddon Shire Council
<b>What to bring</b>	Yourself, your open mind and curiosity, and your completed pre-workshop reflection. All materials provided.
<b>Enquiries</b>	Suzi Birthisel (Loddon Shire) 0477 999 954 Leah Sertori (Facilitator) 0437 334 057 Jude Hannah (Facilitator) 0499 171 663

## We can't wait to meet you.

*What you do matters. The communities of Loddon Shire are richer, more connected, and more resilient because of people like you. We are honoured to spend this time with you.*

**Leah Sertori & Jude Hannah**

Loddon Shire | Volunteer Development Program · Delivered in partnership with Loddon Shire Council



**Australian Government**



*We are pleased to support the Volunteer Development Program an initiative of the Council's Community Flood Recovery Program, jointly funded by the Australian and Victorian Governments.*