



Volunteers make essential contributions to the health of our society – they are Community in Action

9 – 15th May 2011 is National Volunteer Week and Father Chris Riley, CEO and Founder, Youth Off The Streets has taken the opportunity to reflect on the importance of volunteers and the essential contribution they make to the health of our society as a whole.

Most charity and community organisations rely heavily on volunteers to maximise their service delivery and Father Riley's charity, Youth Off The Streets, which he set up 20 years ago to assist homeless and disadvantaged youth, is no exception.

"We are currently celebrating 20 years of service to young people through Youth Off The Streets," said Father Riley, "and looking back, volunteers have been an integral component in every one of our programs. We have come to rely on the generosity of Australians and to take great hope from their belief in our young people." He continued. At Youth Off The Streets, volunteers perform many roles that enable the organisation to focus its resources on service provision. Volunteers mentor young people to help them achieve their life goals, they entirely run the food van service that deliver up to 70 meals a night to homeless young people in Sydney, they are involved in schools teaching students history and home economics, they assist with fundraising – there is a cake stall in the Southern Highlands every weekend and volunteers operate Youth Off The Streets Opportunity Shops throughout NSW, volunteers cook barbecues and organise activities for young people in all Youth Off The Streets early intervention and outreach programs.

Big win for families with teenagers

Federal member for Grayndler Anthony Albanese has today welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement of major increases in payments for families if their teenage children stay on longer at school.

The upcoming budget will deliver an increase in Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A for 16-19 year olds with families receiving up to an additional \$4,200 a year for each eligible teenager that stays in school.

"This increase in the Family Tax Benefit will be a financial boost for thousands of inner west families and will act as an incentive for more teenagers to complete their HSC" Mr Albanese said.

"A great chance in life starts with a great education, which is why it is so important that teenagers stay at school and finish their secondary education.

"This will deliver on a key Gillard Labor Government election commitment that will be good for families and good for skills in the economy in the future" Mr Albanese said.

Increase in Family Tax Benefit - Facts

- The families of around 650,000 children turning 16 over the next five years will be eligible for the substantial cash increases if their teenager continues learning.

- From 1 January next year, the new maximum rate of FTB Part A for 16-19 year olds will increase by around \$160 per fortnight - an increase of around \$4,200 per year

- This will align with the 13-15 year old rate and ensure assistance for families does not drop when children turn 16.

LYNDEY & BLAIR'S TASTE OF GREECE – PREMIERES IN MAY ON SBS ONE

In the wake of the tragic news surrounding Lyndey's son Blair Milan's death last month, Lyndey & Blair's Taste of Greece will premiere exclusively to SBS ONE on Thursday 26th May 2011 at 8.00pm AEST.

The seven part series will be aired earlier than expected, as a tribute to the 29 year old actor, who passed away on Sunday 17th April 2011 from Acute Myloid Leukemia. *"He was the most positive person I had ever met, and it was a joy and a privilege to have been his mother. It still hasn't really sunk in", says Lyndey.*

Seeking culinary delights, adventure and antiquities, Lyndey and Blair, toured the fascinating Peloponnese with a film crew in 2010. The result, *Lyndey & Blair's Taste of Greece*, showcases the cuisine, culture and beautifully undiscovered land of this region, which is so accessible to Athens.



The series follows Lyndey and Blair as they cook, eat, drink and engage with the locals they meet along the way – a charming yet eclectic mix of home cooks, winemakers, producers, chefs and restaurateurs.

While the cuisine of the Peloponnese has a starring role, the historic heart of Greece is not overlooked as ancient sites are explored with an adventurous edge, full of humour and insight. The unique mother/son relationship between Lyndey and Blair adds another layer of fun and banter.

"This is a road show like no other," says Lyndey, "not quite your average family holiday – and we are both food-seeking misfits".

"Travelling and shooting a television program with your mother is a little out of the ordinary. Put it this way. With my mother there is never a dull moment. The beauty of a mother son relationship on camera is that you can't fake it, or replicate it, all the complexities have been built up over 29 years," explained Blair just days before his sudden demise.



Museum unveils 1100 names on migrant 'Welcome Wall'

Around 2,500 people are expected to attend a special ceremony at the Australian National Maritime Museum to watch celebrity chef Luke Nguyen reveal 1100 new names on the museum's migrant Welcome Wall on Sunday 22 May 2011. The Welcome Wall stands in honour of all those who have migrated from countries around the world to live in this country.

Today's Australians are invited to inscribe the names of migrant family members and friends on the wall as a personal tribute.

This month's unveiling marks the 25th ceremony at the museum. Nguyen will also reflect on his own migrant experience settling in Australia from Vietnam. He will be followed by two speakers who have added a name on the wall and who will also share their own migrant story.

The ceremony will feature entertainment from the Sydney University Graduate Choir and Kush Cabaret, stilt performers who play Eastern European gypsy music.

There are more than 23,000 names on the wall already, and the number continues to grow every year. When someone places a name on the wall, he or she is invited to contribute a brief (50-word) story about the friend or family member being honoured... where they came from, when they arrived and why they came.

Only the name appears in bronze on the wall; the brief biographical note is available for all to read on a monitor at the Australian National Maritime Museum and on the internet at www.anmm.gov.au/ww.

The National Maritime Museum considers the arrival of waves of migrants on these shores to be one of the major themes in Australia's maritime history. It has built the Welcome Wall on its northern boundary, facing Darling Harbour and Pyrmont Bay where many new settlers arrived.

The 100-metre wall, 2.8 metres tall, has space for some 30,000 names.

Of the 23,819 names presently on the wall, 6656 represent migrants from England, 2928 from Italy, 1529 from The Netherlands, 1419 from Germany, 1188 from Ireland, 1353 from Scotland, and 857 from Greece. In all, more than 150 countries are represented.

For further information on the Welcome Wall, or to register a name, phone (02) 9298 3667, or visit www.anmm.gov.au/ww.

Better roads and footpaths for Burwood

Important capital works are underway around Burwood with the second phase of the Queen Street project in full swing. Recently parking spaces, footpaths and new kerb and gutter works were completed on Queen Street from the corners of Webb Street to Acton Street. Now kerb and gutter and footpath works are underway from Cheltenham Road to Webb Street.

Burwood Mayor John Faker said Council has embarked on an extensive capital works program that will create a safer area for pedestrians and traffic.

"I consider it extremely important to fix the roads and footpaths around our community not only to increase safety, but to also improve the look of our area," he said.

Upcoming works:

- Railway Crescent at Mount Pleasant – Drainage upgrade
- Burwood Road from Appian Way to Ethel Street - Kerb and gutter maintenance
- Burwood Road cnr George Street – Road restoration
- George Street from Burwood Road to John Street – Kerb and gutter, footpath and road re-sheeting works
- George St from John St to Park Rd - Road restoration works
- Park Rd from George St to Victoria St – Kerb and gutter, footpath and road re-sheeting works
- Hextol Street from Burwood Rd to Trelawney



Burwood Mayor John Faker inspects the second phase of the works on Queen Street.

Ave - final stage of the street tree removal and replacement program and associated footpath maintenance works.