

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

Submission No: 7
Submitted by: Maleny Show Society Inc
Publication: Making the submission and your name public

Attachments:

Submitter Comments:

Our event has been running for over 100 years, and i think that Agricultural Shows are still well supported today because of this fact, they have been around so long. They are a true community event. However, when it comes to volunteers, i feel people have lost sight of what it truly means to volunteer your time. So many events give you free entry if you “work” or volunteer as they call it, but this is not the true meaning i think, the true meaning of volunteering is to give your time for free, no matter how small or big your time or effort is. People have lost sight of this and we need to somehow remind them of this defination

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General comments and information in relation to Volunteer Submissions to Queensland Government

- (a) The Maleny Show Society relies on 30 key members of its working committee. These members are all volunteers and range in age from 60 to 89 years of age. When Showtime rolls around the volunteer bases lifts to approximately 250 to 300 depending on the need and the happenings for that year.
- (b) All of these persons are actual members of the Society however only active at Show time.
- (c) Our problems like most other volunteer based organisations is that these people are aging and we are not attracting the younger members of the local area to join the voluntary base for whatever reason. Our community is an aging community with many retirees coming to the area
- (d) We are currently investigating how to encourage the younger members to become involved. One area that has been fortunate to attract the younger members is the Horse Arena and this is mainly due to a huge Family base that has been involved in this area for many years. We have 15year olds in this area all of whom are familiar with horses and the events that are held each year.
- (e) Its more difficult in other area of the Show where the older members of the community are the ones competing in things like cookery and flowers and needlework etc.
- (f) Our thoughts to help and this is to be actioned on by our members at this year's event preparations.
 - Thank the person for their years of successful interaction and encourage them to talk about their future.
 - Ask the steward to think about a succession plan
 - Ask what their plans are for the future
 - Seek their advice as to who they think is suitable to "step up"
 - Assist with the succession plan and the training of the new person.
 - Ensure that the older volunteer is totally involved with what is happening even after a handover has occurred.

I am not sure whether there are any other suggestion that may work for our situation or not but I am totally happy to take other ideas on board and hope that we can get some younger persons involved. Even a 5 year age drop is better than none at all.

HOW TO CONTACT US: