
January

Lewis Court Community Garden

Lewis Court Home for the Aged, a 45-bed facility, called upon the community to establish a community garden to supplement their aged-care programs, as well as becoming a valuable resource to the Portland community. The planned garden will include fruit trees, benches and tables, habitat pond, watering systems, windmill pump system, security system, garden beds including raised beds for people in wheelchairs, pergola – education area, outdoor kitchen with brick oven, and a small toilet block.



February

Loaves and Fishes Community Kitchen

Loaves and Fishes is an important emergency food relief centre for people experiencing short term financial hardship. The organisation is expanding its service into the premises next door to better provide cooked food for the 861 current clients and families, including the homeless and those without cooking facilities.

The support of Portland Aluminium employees who helped to pull up old carpet, paint and rearrange cupboards and shelving to accommodate the new community kitchen was invaluable in helping to get the new kitchen up and running.



March

Portland Surf Lifesaving Club clubroom spruce up

Portland Surf Life Saving Club members and Portland Aluminium corporate volunteers got together to complete maintenance work on the Surf Club at Cape Bridgewater.

Club Members do a fantastic job of patrolling the beach, teaching children surf safety and training adults in surf lifesaving, however the club needed additional manpower to paint the club house and upgrade the safety of the disabled ramp.

Many PA employees volunteer at the Surf Club so Portland Aluminium was eager to support this work and demonstrate that they value the efforts of employees who choose to do community work in their own time.



April

Smelter volunteers replace 20 year old boardwalk

For the third year in a row PA volunteers have undertaken important maintenance work on the Great South West Walk (GSWW).

With over 20,000 people visiting the walk annually, maintenance is an ongoing issue for the Friends of GSWW. Portland Aluminium's support enables them to complete high quality maintenance work within a shorter time frame.

This year the volunteers assisted in replacing the weather beaten boardwalk, which involved securing pine boards with chains and spikes to 1m poles dug into the ground.

An appetising lunch was supplied for the hard workers courtesy of Baker's Delight.



May

Aspire Garden Makeover

Aspire is a not-for-profit mental health service that provides support and rehabilitation services to adults with psychiatric disabilities.

PA volunteers teamed up with Workskills 'Work for the Dole' program participants to undertake a much needed makeover in preparation for the planting of a low maintenance front garden courtesy of Seawinds Nursery.

Works included the removal of some plants and a lot of weeds, placing sleepers and backboards, erecting trellis, moving limestone sleepers to be used in extending a path, as well as levelling soil and relocating existing mulch.



June

Portland South Primary School Ground and Garden Beautification

PA 'Making the Link' volunteers provided valuable manpower to assist the Portland South Primary School in the upgrade of its external facilities.

Principal, Ms Marg Millard, said "Our school prides itself on providing high quality programs outside the classroom. We encourage children to be active in many ways through the Go for your Life, Ride2School, Sunsmart, and Environmentally Sustainable Programs".

"The upgrade to the shade sail, community garden, playground equipment and bike/scooter/skateboard shed will enhance these programs, as well as help to build and strengthen our links within the community" Ms Millard added.

July

National School Tree Day Milestone

Portland Aluminium and long term partner, Greening Australia, engaged fifty Bolwarra and Narrawong Primary School students to plant 400 native trees and shrubs at a local community tree planting at Quamby Park Farm on the Fitzroy River.

This helped Planet Ark reach its milestone of 15 million native seedlings planted Australia wide, achieved during its fourteenth year of the National Tree Day Program.

Portland Aluminium's Operations Manager, Mr John Osborne said "Our partnership had led to approximately 40,000 indigenous trees and shrubs being planted since the National Tree Day Program began".

The revegetation project, supported also by the Portland Lions Club, provided a fun, hands-on opportunity for students to learn about flora and fauna, offset carbon emissions and beautify natural spaces.

Greening Australia Seedbank Manager, Doug Phillips, believes "The mass planting of trees at various river planting sites, during National Tree Day each year, goes a long way to maintaining the health of Australia's rivers, wetlands and preserving biodiversity".

"Not only do the new native trees sequester carbon each year during their lifetime, they provide food and shelter for the local native wildlife", explained Mr Phillips.

The project was capped off with a celebratory barbecue, supported by Bakers Delight and Short St Butchers, at the Narrawong Primary School.



August

Portland District Health Activity Day

Portland Aluminium volunteers spent the day supporting Portland District Health Activity Day residents and carers at Harbourside Lodge, Seaview House and Meals on Wheels.

The project involved both one-on-one and group activities, such as taking residents for a walk, reading the newspaper, hand massages and board games. PA also offered a tour of the smelter for the more mobile residents.

Ms Jo Lowday, Acting CEO, Portland District Health said "It is great to see local businesses wanting to establish a real connection with our staff and residents. This grassroots volunteering supports our programs and also provides an opportunity to gain a better understanding of one another".



September

Bundarra Primary School/Kyeema Centre Project

PA employee volunteers were kept busy when they completed two projects in one day during September.

In the morning they moved and expanded the Bundarra Primary School Grade 3 vegetable garden into corrugated iron tanks.

After lunch, the volunteers helped Kyeema Centre clients paint and clean buildings and outdoor furniture in preparation for the Centre's major fund raiser, the Annual Spring Sale.

Kyeema Centre CEO Mr Lionel Gee, said the Making the Link Project would help to promote equality of people with a disability and reduce discrimination.

"It is great to see Portland Aluminium's Making the Link Program is committed to projects that encourage full participation of people with a disability," said Mr Gee.



November

IDoPWD Beach party

Over 150 clients from Portland and surrounding districts gathered at the Portland foreshore for the Annual International Day of People with a Disability (IDoPWD) Beach Party.

The Party celebrates bringing people with a disability and the broader community together and provides an opportunity for people with a disability to have some of the same opportunities and choices as everyone else.

PA employee volunteers were on hand for the third consecutive year to offer social support as the clients enjoyed the event's games and activities.

Mr John Osborne, PA Operations Manager believes the Party provides an excellent opportunity for employees to "further understand the challenges they [people with disabilities] face".



RDA Spring Gymkhana

PA employees helped run the games and canteen at the 2nd Annual Riding for the Disabled (RDA) Spring Gymkhana at Yarraman Park.

The horse riding event, which coincides with the International Day of People with a Disability (IDoPWD), was conducted by RDA, Glenelg Branch, in partnership with Portland & District Adult Riding Club Inc.

Rideability Victoria provides horse riding and related activities to people with disabilities. Mrs Lisa May, Riding for the Disabled President, said that their programs have "therapeutic, developmental and social value for riders and drivers".



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Mrs May went on to say “Our Spring Gymkhana provides an opportunity to showcase our program and the abilities of our clients to the local community, and attract more volunteers to the program”.

Bolwarra Primary School Oval refurbishment

Keen to promote physical activity within the Bolwarra Primary School playground, Portland Aluminium apprentices volunteered to conduct a major refurbishment of the school’s oval.

The school is currently undergoing the ‘Go For Your Life’ accreditation. The objective of the Go For Your Life Program is to provide students with a high quality play area which caters for those children that are sport minded, but also those that just wish to play.

“With an ACTION Grant from Portland Aluminium, topped up by the Parents Club, the school is able to purchase some highly demanded play equipment including soccer goals, football goal posts and other fitness gear for around the oval to compliment our new Multipurpose Hall”, said Mr Gibbons, Bolwarra Principal, himself a recreational runner.
