

Changing Communities. Changing Lives.

Looking at volunteering with Georgie.



Image: Georgie assists with art education programs at Incinerator Gallery, a Marion Mahony and Walter Burley Griffin designed building. Here, Georgie stands before the historic incinerators.

“You can see it. When a volunteer’s passionate, their eyes light up, they don’t shut up! They love it.”

Georgie lives in Essendon. While it’s not her home town, she is very happy here exploring new horizons and finding a sense of community through volunteering.

Georgie is an artist, creating sculptures and figures made of clay and resin. She also has experience in retail and completed her university studies in Design Arts.

“I love art and make my own,” Georgie says.

Georgina exhibits occasionally, most recently at the Avondale Heights library and learning centre.

Georgie connected to her passions through volunteering, taking up a volunteer role at Incinerator Gallery in Aberfeldie eighteen months ago.

The community gallery run by Moonee Valley City Council provides a range of curated

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exhibitions and programs suitable for all age groups.

As part of a close-knit gallery team, Georgie greets visitors, assists with guided tours and artist led education programs.

Georgie loves how the Incinerator Gallery includes all kinds of people and is excited about the programs: “My favourite one is Arty Tales. It’s so free flowing and the educator is very engaging with kids.”

Asked about the joy of volunteering, Georgie says, “art is the most amazing language. My own practice helped me to express myself in ways that I can’t talk about. Volunteering is inspiring, because you can share with people things that you would have loved to learn in their position.”

Volunteering is teaching Georgie what she enjoys most – sharing knowledge. In the next few years, she’d like to look at returning to university to study education.

Georgie delights in seeing people come back again and again, and sharing the knowledge that she herself gained from what she describes as her ‘wonky path’ through learning and experience.

Georgie has seen real impact from her volunteering, “I’ve noticed children coming out of their shells.” Georgie explains further, “one child became this crazy, creative machine! She’s gone absolutely bananas on everything available. And encouraged her brother.”

“It’s very much about the people with volunteering. Art is incredibly important, but sharing is what makes volunteering so rewarding,” she says.

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Image: Georgie points out a huge extraction fan on the incinerators.

For Georgie, there are several reasons why she has kept up volunteering. Georgie’s mum lives in the country, and Georgie now calls Essendon her “home away from home.”

Georgie has grown attached to living in Moonee Valley, and says “sometimes I meet people on the street or other volunteers. I really enjoy that small town community vibe that you feel when you get to know people in your area. It feels safer and more like a home”.

When asked what she would say to someone considering volunteering, Georgie quickly suggests, “start with what you’re interested in. Go visit, see how you feel when you walk in the door.”

This mattered a lot to her, she says: “The reason I started volunteering at the gallery was the minute I walked in, I felt at ease. It didn’t feel like other galleries.”

When thinking about how volunteering benefits volunteers, Georgie remarks, “You can see it. When a volunteer’s passionate, their eyes light up, they don’t shut up! They love it.”

“Volunteering is exciting and is something everyone should try”, says Georgie.

Date of interview: 2 April, 2020