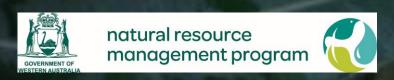
Marketing and Promotion for Friends Groups

Urban Bushland Council

Building Community Capacity to Care for Urban Bushland 2022/23





Groups need to compete for attention

- People are increasing time poor and are saturated with things to do.
- Your group activities need to provide a few needs at one time for people – ie weeding is active, social and contributes to the greater good and being in nature is good for your metal health – sell these points
- Messages need to be short and sharp
- Posters and images need to beautiful and appealing

Promotion is defined as persuasive communications implemented in a way that prompt the target audience to take action (Lee & Kotler, 2016).

In the context of volunteering, promotion refers to the way in which volunteering (in general) and available volunteering opportunities (more specifically) are communicated to the general population and/or specific target audiences.

Within this, numerous decisions have to be made, including the type of message to communicate, how to communicate it and which communication channels to use.

Generally, the messages communicated regarding a volunteer offering should align with the key motivations and benefits of potential volunteers, as identified through market analysis.

Previous research has demonstrated that people have more positive reactions to volunteering advertisements when they include messages that match their personal motivations for volunteering, as compared to advertisements with messages that do not match their motivations (Clary et al., 1994).

The objective is to communicate messages so they are meaningful to the target audience and motivate them to take action.

The nature of groups

- Groups are self-organising entities often comprising of passionate, educated professionals often with a love of the outdoors and nature, who have the means and time to volunteer on an ongoing basis. They have the capability to develop a vision for what they want for their patch and a plan to get there. Some Groups contain individuals with extra ordinary scientific expertise that are not easily replaced.
- Groups generally comprise of retired or semi-retired people that live near their patch.
- Volunteering rates in Australia have been shown to vary according to socioeconomic status, with people in lower groups less likely to volunteer than those in higher socioeconomic brackets (23% in the lowest income bracket, compared to 39% in the highest; Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2015).

Motivations to volunteer

Table 1 Summary of the six functions in the Volunteer Functions Inventory (VFI, Clary et al., 1998)

| Function | Description | Examples |
|------------------|---|---|
| 1. Values | To express values related to altruistic and humanitarian concerns | 'I feel it is important to help others' 'I can do something for a cause that is important to me' |
| 2. Understanding | To learn new things and utilise existing knowledge and skills | 'Volunteering allows me to gain a new perspective on things' 'I can learn how to deal with a variety of people' |
| 3. Social | To engage with friends or do something perceived positively by others | 'My friends volunteer' 'People I'm close to want me to volunteer' |
| 4. Career | To achieve benefits related to a job or career | 'Volunteering experience will look good on my resume' 'I can make new contacts that might help my business or career' |
| 5. Protective | To avoid negative aspects of one's own life | 'Volunteering is a good escape from my own troubles' 'By volunteering I feel less lonely' |
| 6. Enhancement | To achieve a positive sense of one's own self | 'Volunteering makes me feel needed' 'Volunteering makes me feel better about myself' |

Episodic volunteers

- Many people want to attend short-term, discrete or 'one-off' volunteering opportunities called 'episodic volunteering' (Dunn et al., 2016 in NSW)
- Overall, episodic volunteers perceived volunteering as a reciprocal relationship between themselves and the
 organisation, and were more attached to the cause itself, rather than a desire to assist the organisation in
 the long term. Flexibility in volunteer programs was again recommended, in order to encourage volunteering
 from a more diverse demographic (Holmes, 2014).

Promotion Methods

- Word of mouth still the most effective way people come to volunteer
- Mailbox drops this still works, make your flyer like a personal invitation
- Notice boards local people read local noticeboards
- Online platforms Facebook, Local council events platforms these create broad outreach
- Radio/newspaper if you can get them to host you, they can help you get the message out there
- Approach community groups and organisations leg work and the personal approach works!

Different age groups

- "Targeting people who are younger: create messages related to career enhancement, altruism, socialising and adventure/fun; flexible options in terms of time commitment and low costs of involvement; communications through online and social media channels.
- Targeting people who are older: create messages related to utilising skills, helping future generations and socialising; create
 volunteer opportunities that match with established skills; recognise there are different types of segments within the older
 population (for example, regular volunteers, grey nomads)
- Targeting people who are unemployed and people with disabilities: focus on gaining skills leading to employment; offer mentoring/training to address potential lack of confidence; provide flexible opportunities and roles.
- Targeting episodic volunteers: messages focusing on doing something worthwhile and the cause being supported; offer flexible roles so level of involvement can be controlled; particularly suited to event-based roles; communications through mainstream media channels"
- Reference: Recruitment and retention of volunteers a literature review nswgovau

Generation Z – 1995 -2012

- Motivated by job variety and creativity
- Innovation and empowerment are important
- Consensus leadership style
- Like being recognised for their efforts and being part of a team
- Independent, learn fast
- Curious and driven
- Develop relationships and mentorships

Generation Y – 1978 to 1994 - Millennials

- Promote the cause/mission
- Interests of the community rather then individual
- Promote collaboration team spirt and diversity
- Give them multiple options to get involved that are challenging and exciting
- Taught their opinion is valid from an early age and will travel and move around alot
- Opportunities to be innovative
- Engage them quickly and be FLEXIBLE
- Clearly define tasks and expectation's
- Good with tech and teams
- Allow them to ask questions and challenge assumptions

Generation X – 1964 to 1977

- Make it local not global
- Talk about results and what can be achieved
- Encourage flexibility, creativity and freedom
- Identify what they will learn and gain
- Independent, resourceful and self sufficient

- Need meaningful assignments
- Respect their skills and opionins and preferences
- Socialising, fun and celebreations
- Tight, brief, efficient meetings
- Recognise individual contributions

Boomers – 1946 to 1964

- Not volunteers but activists working to affect change
- Contact through peers
- Flexible opportunities
- Volunteering with family opportunities
- Time stretched and still working and looking after grandchildren

Make it appealing

Volunteers needed – We urgently need volunteers to help at out next weeding event

Or

Bushland Blitz – Can you give us 2 hours of you time to help us remove weeds around our newly planting seedlings so they grow fast and strong. Bring the kids! Homemade morning tea provided!

Make it appealing — which one got more responses?





Make it appealing

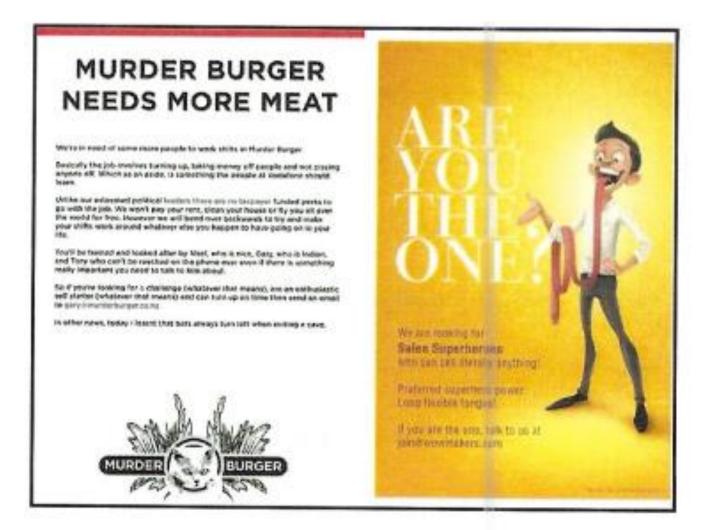
Treasurer needed

Or

Make a difference to Bushland behind the scenes – Join our friendly team working to conserve *TreeGreen Bushland* a few hours a week. If you are great with numbers and organisation you are perfect for the job.

Make it appealing

Reference; Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers VWA 2019



Make it appealing – different things appeal to different people!



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who are crazy
enough to
think they
can change
the world,
are the ones
who do.

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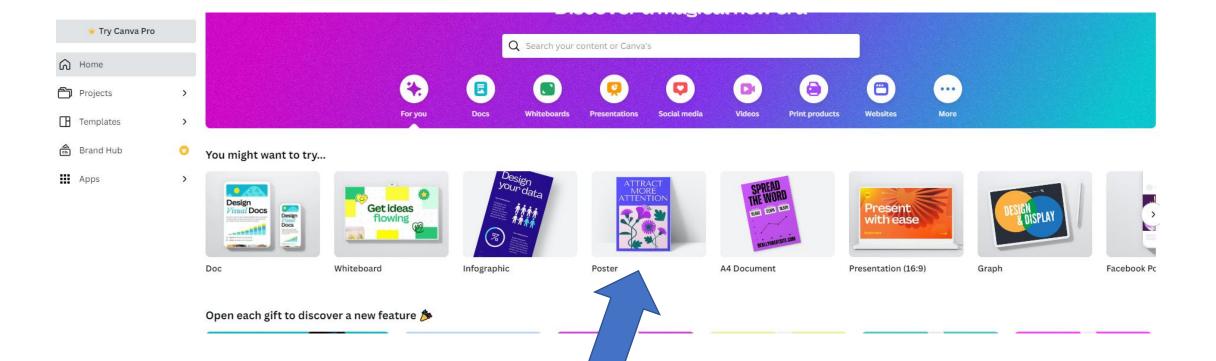
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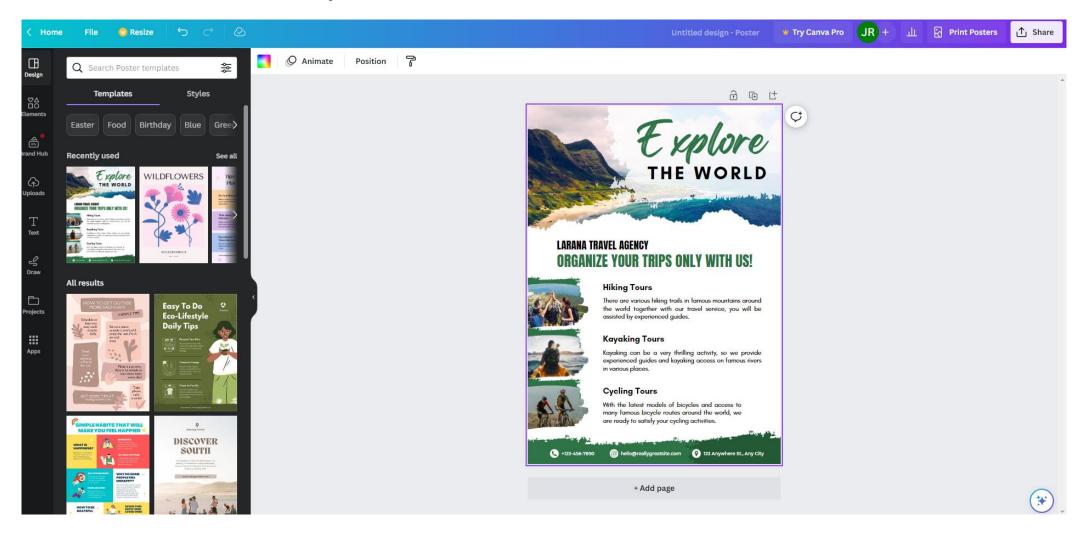
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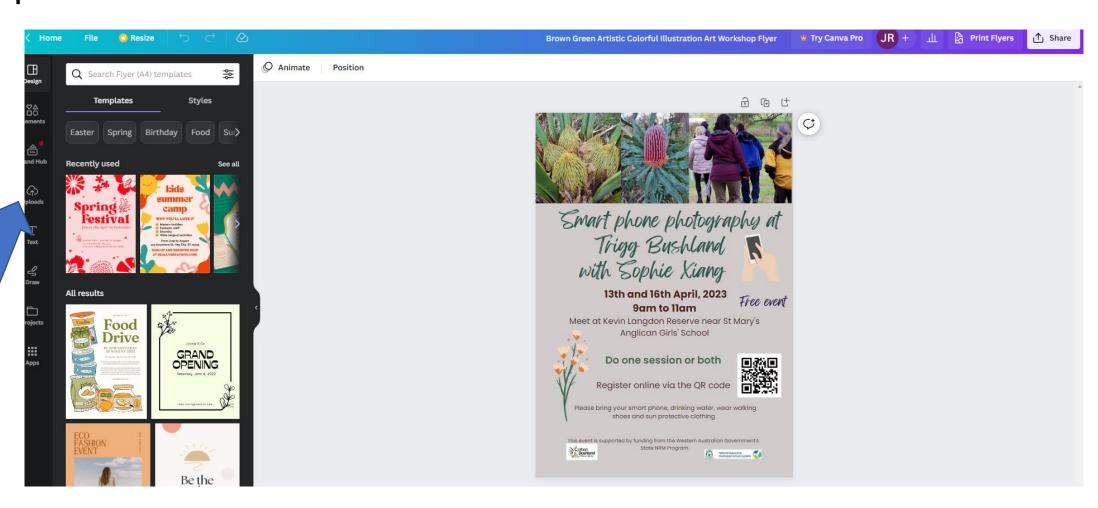
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