For Friday 15th

National Volunteer Week: 'Changing Communities. Changing Lives."

Next week is National Volunteer Week, a time when we celebrate the amazing contributions of volunteers around Australia.

ECU has an amazing community of volunteers that we can't wait to celebrate – we are always so impressed by the supportive and generous nature of the ECU students and their commitment to giving back to their community.

The theme of this year's National Volunteer Week is "Changing Communities. Changing Lives." Now more than ever we are understanding the power that volunteers have to change lives. Our ECU volunteers have given their times in recent weeks to help connect with International students who are living and studying away from home through ECU's <u>Virtual International Café</u>, to send messages of support to elderly residents who are unable to see their families with the <u>Bethanie Group Senior Pen Pal</u> program, and provided words of encouragement to seriously ill children through <u>Warrior Mail</u>. These actions have gone a long way to helping people in our community feel connected at a time when they are physical isolated.

What's happening at ECU?

We'll be popping up in your social media feeds and Student Portal all next week to share exciting volunteer opportunities with you. We are also excited to introduce you to some of our ECU Vol Squad volunteers who are keen to share with you their favourite volunteer activities and what drives them to volunteer.

Join us for a Live Panel

We'll also be hosting a live Q&A panel with some industry experts, including Riley Dolman from one of favourite volunteer partners organisations Fair Game, Laurette Le Cras from the Bethanie Care Group, ECU Careers Adviser Sara Moore and ECU volunteer leader Chrystina Acker, with our ECU Volunteer Coordinator and Vol Squad Leader, Lydia Gibson, moderating the panel.

They'll be discussing ways to get involved in your local community, how volunteering and employment go hand-in-hand, and much more. We'll also open up the panel to audience questions following the Q&A.

When: Thursday, May 21 at

Where: Join us on Zoom

Learn more about volunteering

There are so many ways to stay involved with your local community and the ECU community during physical distancing. Learn about more ways <u>you can help those around you right now</u> and get involved with the ECU Vol Squad to stay up to date on rewarding volunteer activities.

Check out our <u>Volunteer Hub</u> to stay up to date with all the ways you can help in your local community and online, sign up for our newsletter and stay connected.

Expression of Interest

Register Now