

### **“Why Do I volunteer.**

My volunteering work started at the 2000 Sydney Olympics and Paralympics games.

I was up early on morning in 1993 and heard the news that Sydney had won the bid for the 2000 Olympic Games. I was over the moon and crying with happiness “my dream has come true!” I said. I did everything to get myself involved, as I always wanted the Olympic Games to come down under.

When I went for my interview, they asked me why I wanted to volunteer, through tears; I said because I have always wanted the Olympic Games to come to Sydney.

Well that was the start of all my volunteering jobs. Then I joined NSW Volunteering and haven't stopped since.

Also, a group of 2000 Olympic volunteers get together every 3 months for a luncheon, we catch up on volunteering work that has been and will be.

I volunteer because I love giving something back to society and love being involved with people. Also, in volunteering you get many opportunities to meet so many different people from all walks of life. Not to mention the experience you get in many fields with volunteering.

I have done lots of volunteering work from Accreditation at the International Airport at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games and Sydney Paralympics Games.

I have volunteered for the 2003 Sydney Swans & Carlton Blues Games? (take children onto the field from different countries for a show), 2003 Rugby World Cup, 2004 Athens Olympic Games (Spectators services, Looking after the VIP lounge), Save the Children Global Challenge (which was very interesting trying to collect money from people), Teddy Bears Picnic, 2007 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Harbour Bridge birthday celebrations, 2007 IAS Conference on HIV Pathogeneses (helping with the organisation of the meetings in the board rooms), 2007 (looking after the NZ team) & 2009 (Transport organising the teams to get on the buses) Australian Youth Olympic Festival, 2008 Telstra Australia Swimming Championships, Royal Easter Show, Museums Light Up Sydney, Historic Houses open day, Making connections NSW Premiers Forum on Spinal Cord injury and conditions fields supports, 2009 World Masters Games and 2009 Telstra V8 500 Car racing (for some fun).

My main volunteering jobs are Weet-Bix Kids, Medibank International Tennis, Aussie Masters Swimming (time keeper), Blackmores Running Festival and of course Bicycle NSW City of Sydney Spring Cycle and Gear Up Girl.

My big experience was when I volunteered for the 2000 Paralympics Games we had the briefing on how to treat people with disabilities and what to say. But it's not the same when you are face to face with them. The first person I serviced was the most difficult for me I was nearly in tears, but then I got used to it and was alright. Plus walking with other volunteers in the Thank You Parade after the games. I was touched to see all those people lining the streets of Sydney to just see us volunteers and the cheers. There are no words to explain the feeling!

“Making connections NSW Premiers Forum on Spinal Cord injury” seen Christopher Reeves (who started this all) and meeting Quinton (I think that's how you spell his name).

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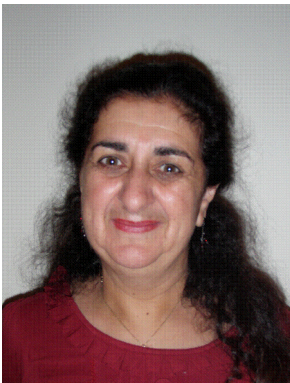
Bicycle New South Wales Inc.  
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Homebush Bay NSW 2127  
Established 1976.  
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Also, meeting with Ms Brooke Hanson at the 2009 Australian Youth Olympic Festival Games, she just came and sat to have lunch with us volunteers. What a lovely lady I thought to myself.

Because I have a full time job it's really difficult for me to do more volunteering, but in my opinion there should be more people volunteering. Being a volunteer makes you see people in a different light and makes you better citizens and respect others.

I enjoy my volunteering work so much because I'm giving something back to society. That's why I say to people "get up and get involved in volunteering you will feel good within yourself and love people of all walks of life. "

### **Vicki Mavrofora**



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