

This email has been sent to all Club primary and secondary contacts, Club Presidents and Club Secretaries. Please share with your club members by email and/or at your Club meeting.

Dear VIEW Clubs,

Welcome to May! Hopefully, you have all received your physical copies of VIEW Matters Magazine April 2026 and have plans to celebrate upcoming National Volunteer week.

This email mailout provides information on the following topics:

1. National Volunteer Week
2. The Smith Family Winter Appeal
3. NSW Return and Earn Initiative
4. Facebook Promotion and Website Enquiries
5. National Convention 2027 in Geelong
6. Learning and Development Month Recap

National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week (NVW) 2026 runs from 18-24 May, celebrating the theme "Your Year to Volunteer". National Volunteer Week is a time to say thank you and recognise the people who give their time and care.

We recognise that all VIEW members, from the National President, to local club committee members, to many individual members, volunteer their time to support the education of Australian children experiencing disadvantage.

If your club is hosting a National Volunteer week event, we would love to hear about it! Please send photos and a brief description of the event to view@thesmithfamily.com.au.

All Clubs will have received a media release relating to National Volunteer Week earlier this month, we have seen many fantastic articles from all over the country already and we are looking forward to more! All media releases are also available on the [VIEW Website](#).



The Smith Family Winter Appeal

Commenced 1 May and runs until 30 June – it raises funds for The Smith Family’s evidence-based, learning support programs. These provide additional out-of-school help so children can catch up and keep up with their learning. These innovative programs include *Student2Student*, Learning Clubs and *Future Seekers*.

A number of VIEW members will be familiar with Learning Clubs through their volunteer work at Learning Clubs across the country to support children in this after-school program. **We are encouraging all VIEW Clubs to support The Smith Family’s Winter Appeal by donating any excess funds held in your club bank account to support life-changing programs.**

Please find **attached** information for VIEW and a Media Release calling on others in the community to support The Smith Family’s Winter Appeal this year.

Please note: VIEW Clubs are not expected to print any materials from the Mailout. If you would like hardcopies of this document posted to your club please advise National Office.

Facebook Promotion & Online Enquiries

Later this month, VIEW will be launching a series of Facebook videos starring VIEW members, encouraging women across the country to join a VIEW Club! Our aim is to reach a new audience and attract new members who might not know about VIEW. Your Clubs and members can help by liking, sharing and commenting on the posts when they see them – this helps more people see them!

We expect that we will see increased traffic to the VIEW website and to the VIEW Club webpages. If you are listed as the contact for your VIEW Club, you might receive some calls! Some tips for VIEW Clubs to make the most of this opportunity:

- Please make sure your club’s contact details and meeting details on your club webpage are correct and that the contact person knows they might be receiving some calls and is ready to answer the phone
- Think about how you might encourage an interested member to attend – what kind of interest groups does your club have? Any interesting upcoming speakers or events?
- Consider inviting interested members to meet with an existing member for a casual coffee catch up before attending their first meeting so you can get to know them and they know what to expect.

It can be daunting to come along to a meeting if you don’t know anyone! Make sure any visitors and newcomers feel welcomed and included in the fun and friendship of your club!

NSW Return and Earn Initiative

Thank you to everyone already donating through Return and Earn – we truly appreciate your generosity. We are excited to announce a new partnership between The Smith Family and Return and Earn, helping Australian children living with disadvantage access the books and learning resources they need.

This six-month appeal invites communities across NSW to **turn bottles into books**, with **every 30 eligible containers funding one book** for a child living with disadvantage. Together, our goal is to help 60,000 children through the power of education.

We encourage all VIEW Club members to help raise awareness and get your local communities involved by:

- Hosting a bottle and can collection day in your community
- Running a collection drive at club meetings, community centres, schools, or local events
- Inviting friends, family, neighbours, and local businesses to donate their containers
- Encouraging regular recyclers to donate a portion of their Return and Earn refund to The Smith Family – even just for one chosen week
- Sharing the campaign on local noticeboards, newsletters, and social media

Every container donated contributes 10 cents towards our \$200,000 fundraising goal, helping children access books, learning support, and brighter futures.

More information on how to use the Return and Earn machines and how to find your nearest location are in the **attached** document.

Please note: VIEW Clubs are not expected to print any materials from the Mailout. Your club will receive a parcel of posters and a printed copy of the attached document in the post at the end of May.

Give Aussie kids an equal chance to learn

Max, age 10

Press donate

to turn your containers into books today!

30 donated containers = 1 school book

return and earn

The Smith Family

Learn today, change tomorrow.

Return and Earn is a NSW Government Initiative

National Convention 2027 in Geelong

Planning is underway for VIEW National Convention to be held in Geelong, Victoria from

3–5 September 2027. National Office met with local VIEW Clubs in April to take expressions of interest for the Convention sub-committee and collect ideas and suggestions from the local experts!

We are excited to announce that the main venue will be [Nyaal Banyul Geelong Convention and Event Centre](#), a state-of-the-art waterfront venue opening in July 2026 designed to bring culture, creativity and community together.



Keep an eye out - more information and details on how to register will be sent out to all VIEW Clubs later this year.

Learning & Development Month Recap

Thank you to all VIEW members who were able to attend a Learning and Development webinar over April. We were blown away by the response from clubs!

Over 200 VIEW members signed up to attend a combined 330 sessions, attendees were asked to complete a survey about the training and what future opportunities would be most helpful to clubs. Sessions were rated 4.8/5 on average with many attendees specifically commenting on the opportunity for questions, supporting resources and how the information was presented.

National Office will review all submitted feedback and consider future training opportunities for the requested topics.

If your club requires printed copies of the documents included in this mailout, please contact National Office (view@thesmithfamily.com.au)