



□ JOY Peters, of Tweed Training and Employment Company and Sandra Coffin, of Meals on Wheels, with some of the many volunteers who keep the Tweed community going. TTEC is working to bring together those seeking volunteer work with organisations in need.

Job to link volunteers

WITH community and non-profit organisations across the Tweed becoming more reliant on the support of volunteers, those responsible for coordinating the volunteer workforce are being asked for support.

Joy Peters, who is undertaking research through the Tweed Training and Employment Company to establish a coordination point for volunteers and community groups, conducts monthly meetings for those whose role it is to manage volunteers.

Ms Peters said the meetings were designed to bring together volunteer coordinators as a way of sharing information and resources and developing a support network.

"The meetings are an off-shoot of the research being undertaken and follow on from work carried

out by Tweed Shire Council's Aged and Disability Community Worker, Kristen Forster, who identified the need for a support network," Ms Peters said.

Funding was yet to be secured for the coordination role, which would link those seeking volunteer work, whether out of interest or because of Centrelink obligations, with community groups.

Ms Peters said she was confident funding would be secured for the position, which she hoped would become a reality by December.

One Tweed organisation which relies on up to 150 volunteers each month to provide a service to its clients is the Tweed Coast Meals On Wheels.

For more information phone Joy Peters on (02) 6674 1581.

Researching and developing the Tweed's volunteer referral service that is now TTEC Volunteering—matching volunteers to over 130 not-for-profit organisations on the Tweed

Research on volunteering

VOLUNTEERING across the Tweed is set to become more effective with the establishment of a research program to improve co-ordination between non-profit organisations and volunteers.

The six-month program, funded by the Tweed Training and Enterprise Company, will see Joy Peters research volunteering needs of the Tweed to try to establish a central point where people and organisations can be matched.

At present, the only agencies available to those wanting to undertake volunteer work, particularly those required to satisfy mutual obligation demands by Centrelink, are in Lismore and at Southport.

"The Tweed has been recognised as having a gap in services when it comes to coordinating volunteers," Ms Peters said yesterday.

"We now have the chance to establish a network not only for potential



□ PETER Beck, executive officer of TTEC, and Joy Peters, development officer.
Photo: CRAIG SADLER

volunteers but also those who manage volunteers.

"The value of volunteering has been neglected while non-profit organisa-

tions have been stretched to provide necessary services to clients.

"We need better co-ordination."

Funding for the co-ordination research was made available through TTEC's Community Re-investment program.