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# **Rod Boyd – Volunteer Port Phillip Prison**

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## Category Seven (7): Supervisor Award

“Rod is non-judgmental in his approach to offenders. He listens to them with the intent to understand, not just to respond. He demonstrates dignity and is sensitive to the needs of offenders and at the same time he is prepared to challenge inconsistencies in behaviour”

Anne Hooker  
Youth Development Coordinator  
Port Phillip Prison

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## Introduction

Port Phillip Prison is pleased to nominate Rod Boyd - Volunteer, for the Corrections Victoria, Community Work Partnership Awards 2007, Category Seven (7): Supervisor Award.

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## Rod Boyd

- In 2004 following on from a successful career as a Police Officer, Rod Boyd contacted Corrections Victoria requesting to work with young offenders. Referred to Anne Hooker at Port Phillip Prison's Youth Unit, Rod commenced at the prison as a volunteer and worked directly with the young offenders at Port Phillip Prison. With a keen interest in radio, Rod developed a program for these young men and taught them the skills needed for a career in radio and broadcasting, and which also helped develop their presentation skills.
- Rod's background in the Police force sets him apart from other community volunteers. His experience has also been integral to his approach in working with young offenders. Aware of his previous vocation, the young offenders have been able to work through the barriers and stereotypes often held by them through the work undertaken with Rod.
- Rod is also heavily involved in the Small Business Program in the youth unit and is the General Manager of Community Radio Station STEREO 974,(97.4FM) he has promoted the achievements of this project to the wider community. He has also assisted with developing a website for this program and is a conduit to the community in many ways including his contribution to the radio station's newsletter and as a speaker on community days, where he makes note of the achievements of the young offenders at Port Phillip Prison.
- Rod is always professional and polite; he makes a point of greeting both correctional officers and prisoners on his arrival and when he leaves. Rod is a willing mentor and provides support to offenders during his facilitation of programs and on the outside, sometimes attending court and as a familiar face on their release. Rod is known for his open and frank communication style; he will spend time with a prisoner and provide one-on-one mentoring guidance on how to improve or complete certain tasks, yet at the same time he is prepared to challenge inconsistent behaviour. This has led to an enormous amount of respect for Rod from both staff and prisoners.

“I met Rod through the Small Business Program that started in the unit in 2005. Rod volunteered to come into the unit in the role of business mentor. Rod runs community based station Stereo 974, and would therefore have an abundance of knowledge relating to the operations of a business. Rod always makes sure that everyone in the program understands what is going on and will continually share his knowledge of various business subjects as they are covered in the meetings. Rod has shown me personally an in depth understanding of the workings of a small business in all facets. Rods talents are not limited to small business, he also encourages people to participate and I would say he acts like a mentor to them and helps steer us in the right direction”.

**Mark**

**Port Phillip Prison**

“Rod is a mentor figure to me and all the other people in this unit. He volunteers his time to come in and see us, help us with our small business skills and our program. We all respect him, and he respects us as well. Rod is a big help to me in my role in the program and he goes out of his way to listen to me and guide me in working with the other guys. I really appreciate the effort and time he puts into the unit”.

**Jarrold**

**Port Phillip Prison**

“I think Rod is an awesome guy because he done so much for us young blokes, coming in and helping us. He has also taught me a lot about running a successful business, and this will help when we are released to help start up our own business. Rod also sits you down and talks to you about your issues within the prison and outside, which I find really helpful”.

**Damien**

**Port Phillip Prison**

- Rod gives up a significant amount of his own time to spend with young offenders at Port Philip Prison. Always helpful, he has guided the young men on preparing business plans and sales strategies as part of the Small Business Program. Rod’s efforts have helped offenders raise over \$36,000, all which has been donated directly back to the community.
- Rod’s achievements’ in working with young offenders have been outstanding. He has broken down the barriers and stereotypes often held by young offenders and demonstrated a caring and committed approach to helping prisoners reintegrate into the community. Rod has touched a chord with each

of the young offenders that have worked alongside him. These young men have expressed their gratitude at the opportunities that Rod has given them; some even stating that their whole lives have been turned around as a result of this partnership.

“Rod plays a big part in the Youth Unit especially when it comes to the Small Business Program. He brings a lot of skills and knowledge about business that he is more than happy to teach the young guys involved in the program, he also does all of this out of the kindness of his heart and all the guys respect him a lot for that. He also cares a lot about the guys and is more than happy to help anyone who asks him for his help. I truly believe he is a gentleman in more ways than one, because he has played a big part in helping me change my life around, and I will always have time for him.”

**Roger**

**Port Phillip Prison**

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## Contributions to Health and Safety

- Rod’s contributions to Health and Safety will be felt for a long time; he has played a big part in the rehabilitation and reintegration of young offenders, which will benefit the people he has worked with and will impact on the community for many years to come. Many offenders now have the skills to help them in their search for employment upon release and the experiences to help make positive changes to their lives. Helping to reduce re-offending, Rod’s commitment to working with young offenders will result in a safer community for all.
- Port Phillip Prison is delighted to nominate Mr Rod Boyd, Volunteer, for the Corrections Victoria, Community Work Partnership Awards 2007.