

Volunteer Organisation Management Website Research

WDC – UG Group 22

Before beginning the design of the website, existing examples of other websites which have a similar purpose or functionality as our website will be considered, with the strengths and weaknesses of each of these examples evaluated. These useful functionalities present in these websites may be incorporated into our design, and the weaknesses identified will be attempted to be avoided in our design.

Four websites were identified as useful reference points for our design. These were:

- Seek Volunteering
- Go Volunteer
- City of Adelaide Volunteering
- University of Adelaide Volunteering

The strengths and weaknesses of each of these websites are listed in the following sections.

Seek Volunteering

Link to website: <https://www.volunteer.com.au/>

Although Seek Volunteering deals with opportunities from multiple volunteer organisations, many of the features are still relevant to our project for a single organisation.

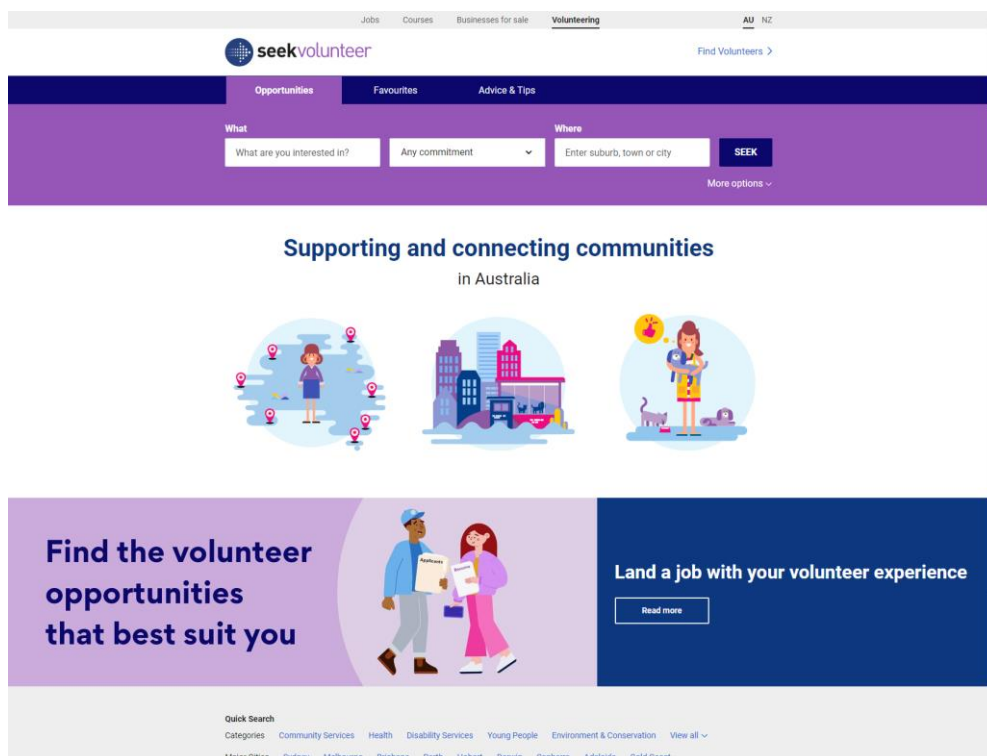


Figure 1: Seek Volunteer Home Page, which is visually appealing (good use of images) and easy to use.

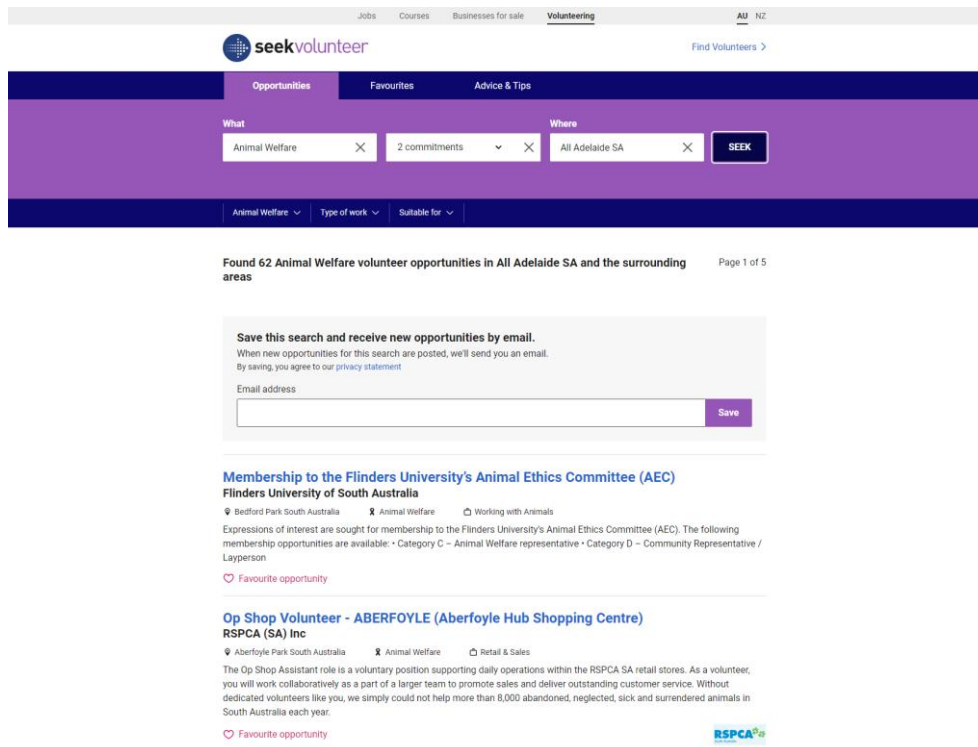


Figure 2: Seek Volunteer Search Page. Features of note include simple filters which are effective and easy to use at top of page, sufficient detail in each opportunity to gauge whether the opportunity may be relevant to you straight from this page, email notification signup for similar opportunities.

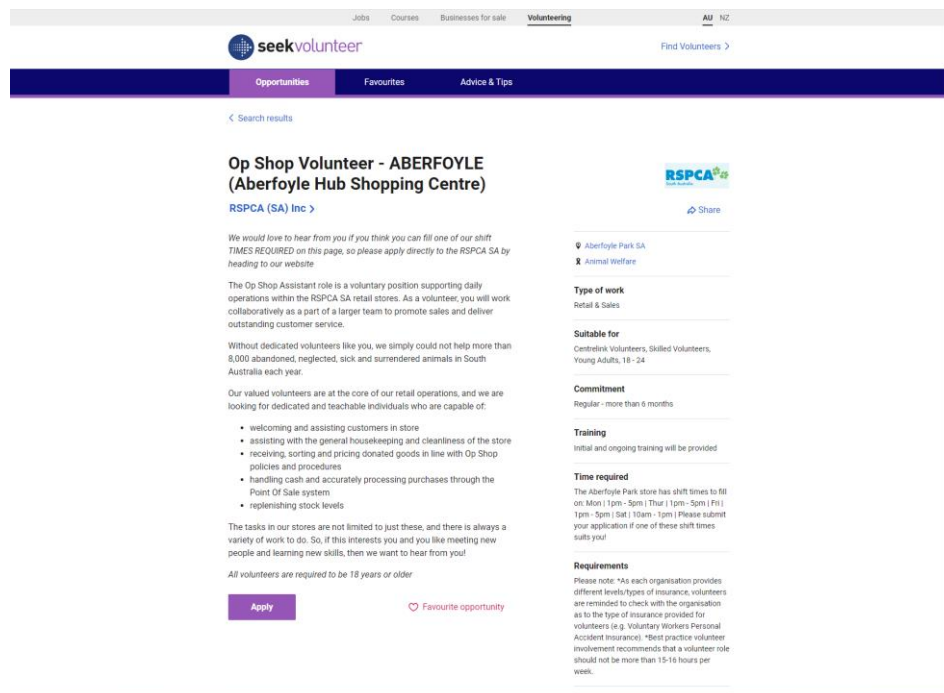


Figure 3: Seek Volunteer Events Details Page.

Strengths:

- Ability to favourite opportunities, making it easy to find opportunities you are interested in.
- Advice & Tips page.

- Gives a brief description of the organisation in search results. Also conveniently shows location and type of each.
- Light colours that are consistent (website has a blue/purple theme).
- Can filter by location, type of volunteer work, as well as level of commitment (one-off, regular, etc).
- Quick search function at bottom of main page.
- Shows the number of organisations found in a search.
- Search shows the organisation logo.
- Ability to sign up for email notifications for similar events.
- On events details page, can clearly see key information in right column, with more details in text in centre of page.

Weaknesses:

- Does not include a lot of images on search page, mostly just text.

Go Volunteer

Link to website: <https://govolunteer.com.au/volunteering>

Although Go Volunteer deals with opportunities from multiple volunteer organisations, many of the features are still relevant to our project for a single organisation.

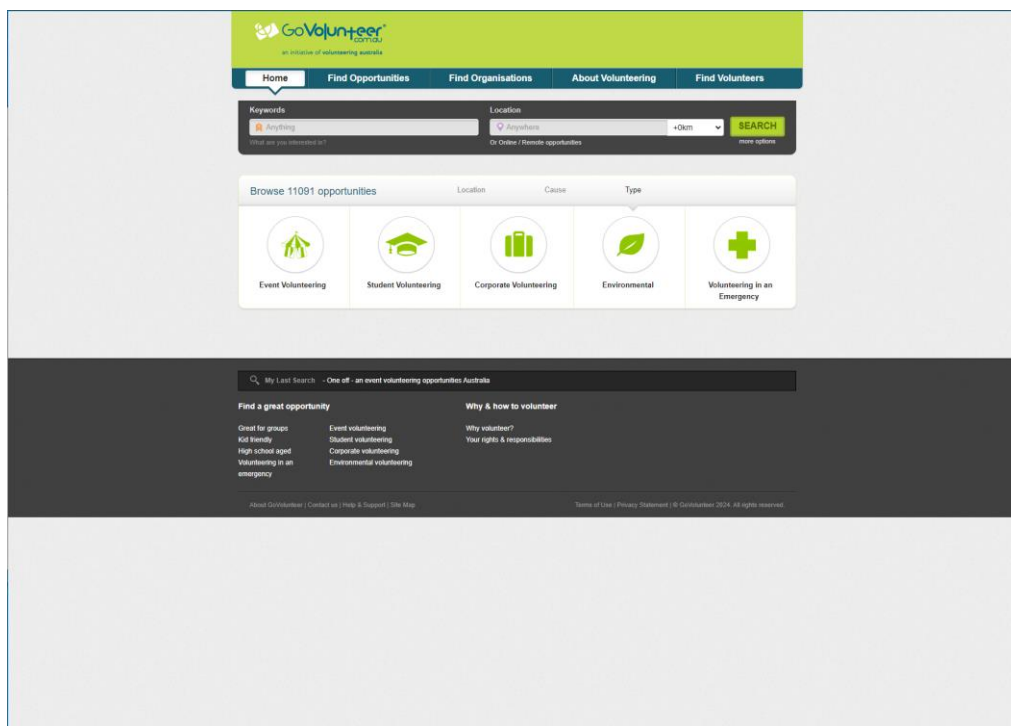


Figure 4: Go Volunteer Home Page, very empty, does not even fill the whole screen (footer is in middle not bottom).

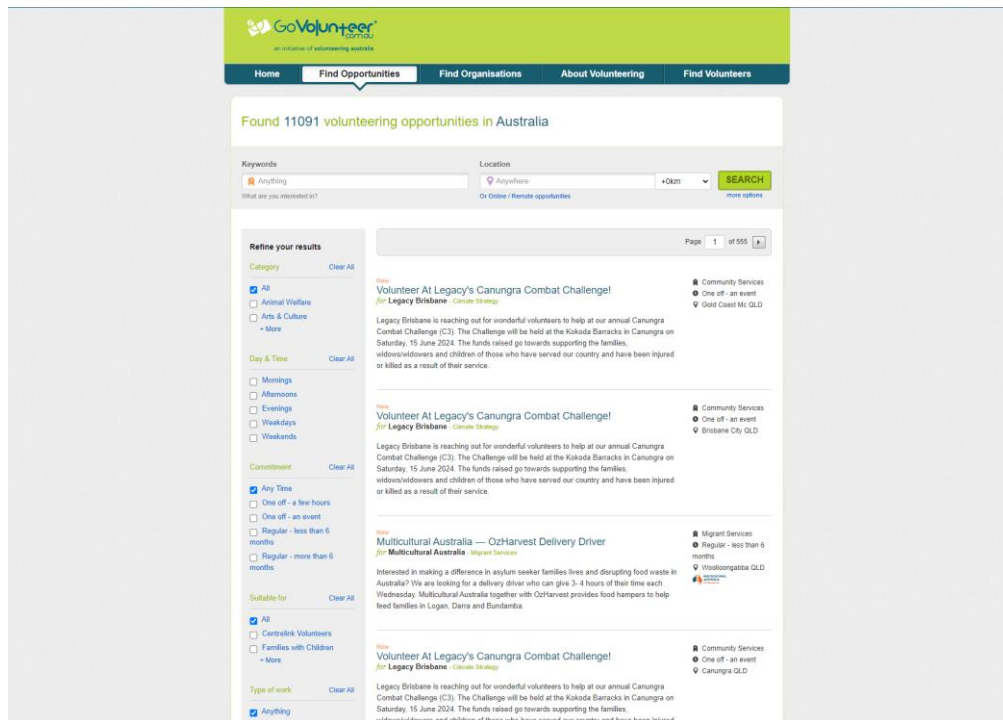


Figure 5: Go Volunteer Search Page, does allow for users to fairly easily see and filter opportunities.

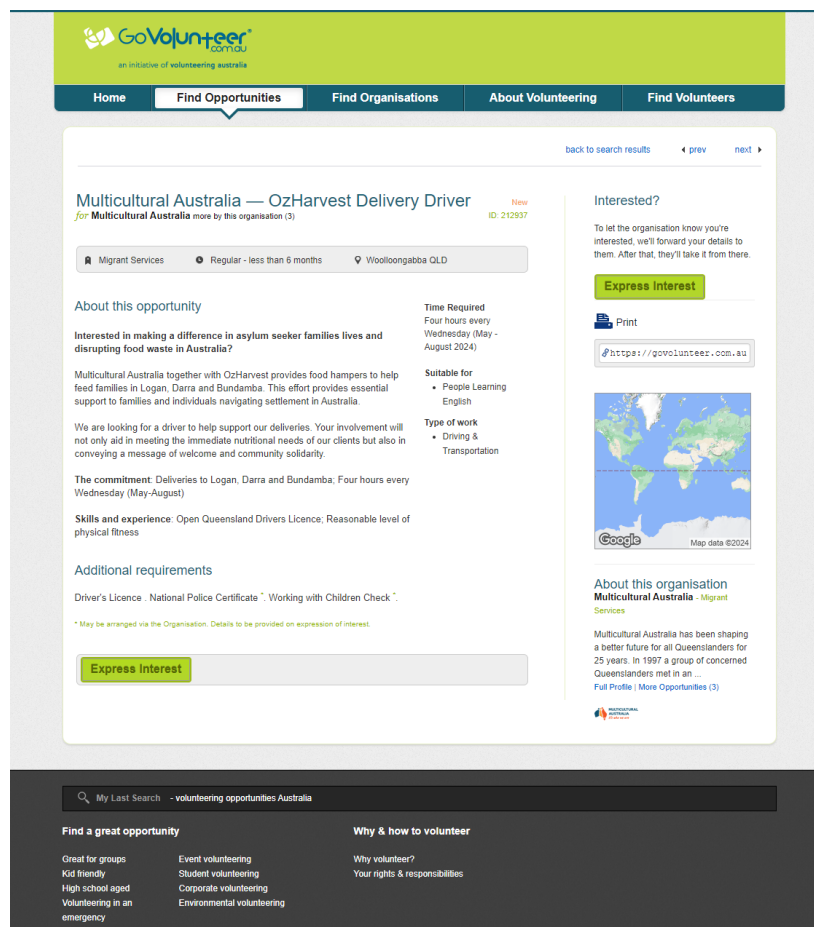


Figure 6: Go Volunteer Event Details Page, similar layout to Seek Volunteer

Strengths:

- Filters in left side bar allow only opportunities relevant to the user to be displayed.
- Opportunities in large centre column, showing the event title in larger text, a longer description as well as the key details regarding the event timing, location and type shown on the right.
- Provides opportunities for volunteers to provide details about their skills and qualifications.

Weaknesses:

- By default, shows opportunities in other states, would be good to filter by the members location by default if they are logged in.
- Uninteresting home page.
- Home page doesn't even fill up the whole screen, footer is just weirdly in the middle of the page.
- Minimal use of images.

City of Adelaide Volunteering

Link to website: <https://app.betterimpact.com/PublicEnterprise/93b61083-81f6-45e7-9459-f2d7751ea48a>

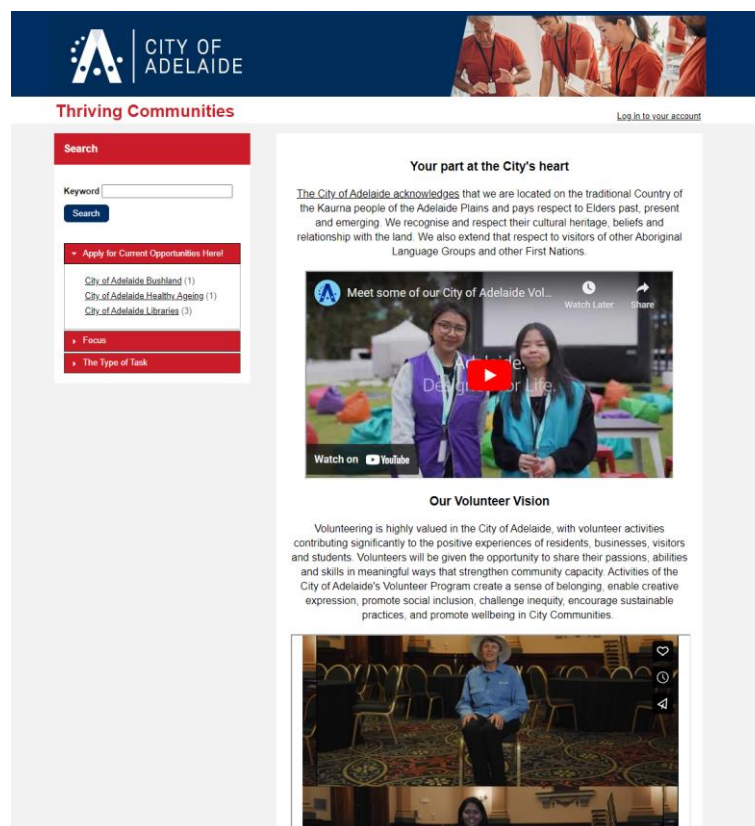


Figure 7: Top half of City of Adelaide Volunteering Home Page

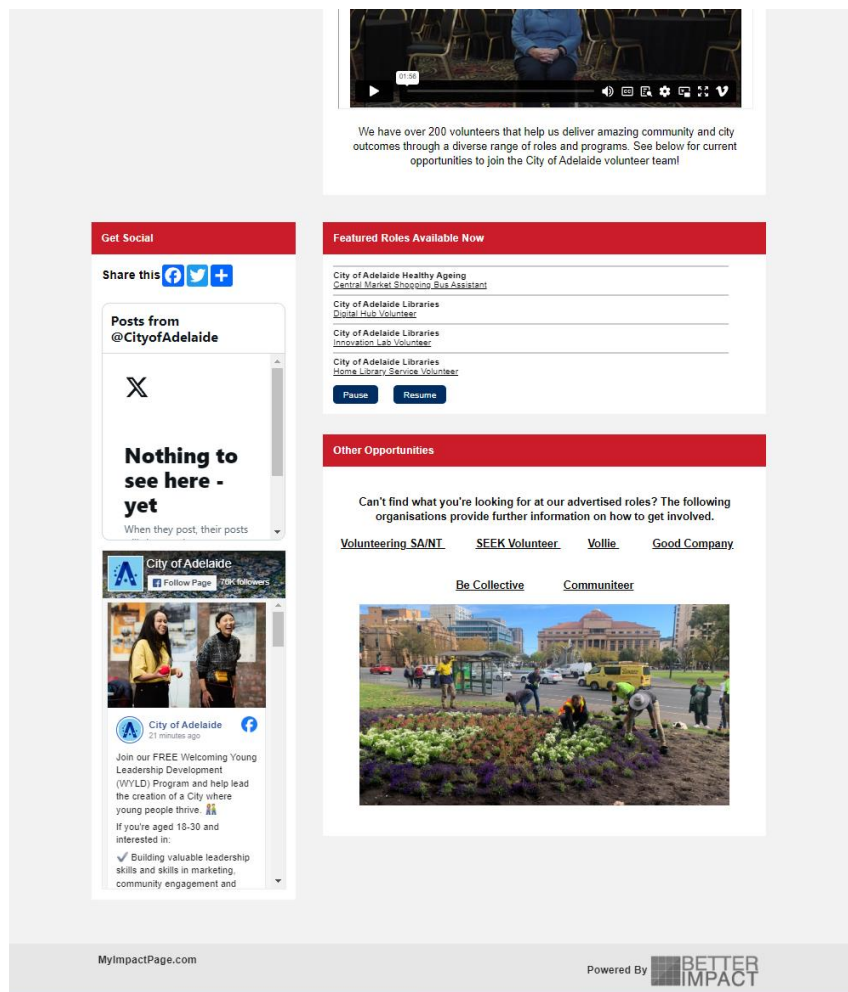


Figure 8: Bottom Half of City of Adelaide Volunteering Page

Strengths:

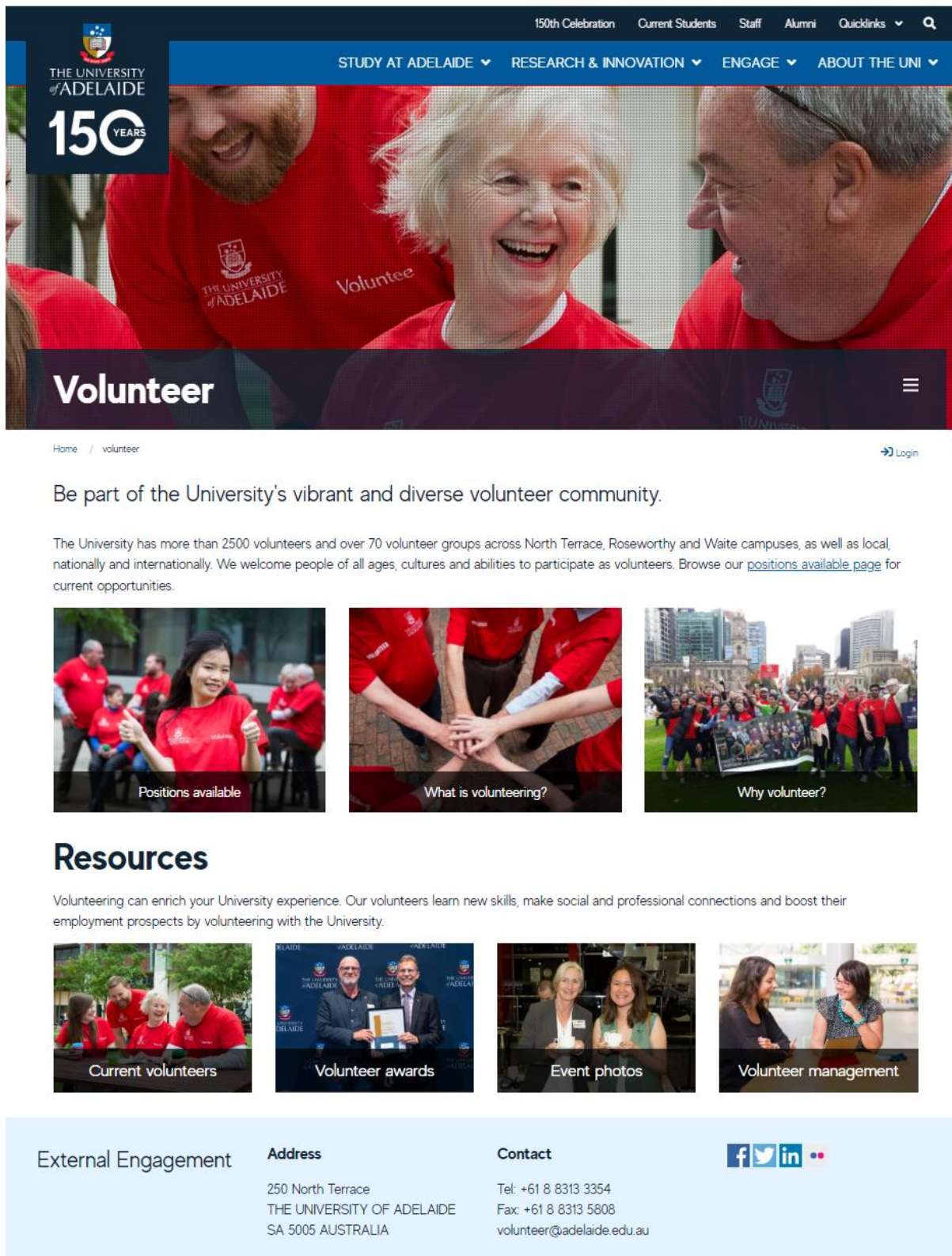
- Social media integration on home page.
- Filter by type of volunteer work (computer support, environmental improvement, teaching, companion).

Weaknesses:

- Everything is basically on a single page, would be better if things were split into a main page and another page for the available opportunities (at a minimum).
- No clear link to register your interest on main page.
- Weird sidebar on the left which is in two separate pieces.

University of Adelaide Volunteering

Link to website: <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/volunteer/>



The screenshot displays the University of Adelaide Volunteering Home Page. At the top, a dark blue navigation bar includes links for '150th Celebration', 'Current Students', 'Staff', 'Alumni', and 'Quicklinks', along with a search icon. Below this, a lighter blue bar features 'STUDY AT ADELAIDE', 'RESEARCH & INNOVATION', 'ENGAGE', and 'ABOUT THE UNI'. The main header area is a large image of three smiling volunteers in red shirts, with the '150 YEARS' logo on the left and the word 'Volunteer' in a dark blue box. Below the header, a 'Home / volunteer' breadcrumb trail and a 'Login' button are visible. The main content area starts with the text 'Be part of the University's vibrant and diverse volunteer community.' followed by a paragraph about the 2500+ volunteers and 70+ groups. Three featured tiles are shown: 'Positions available' (a woman giving a thumbs up), 'What is volunteering?' (hands stacked in a circle), and 'Why volunteer?' (a group holding a banner). A 'Resources' section follows, with a paragraph about the benefits of volunteering. Below this are four more tiles: 'Current volunteers' (a group of people), 'Volunteer awards' (two men holding an award), 'Event photos' (two women with coffee), and 'Volunteer management' (two women talking). The footer is a light blue box with 'External Engagement' on the left, 'Address' (250 North Terrace, THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE, SA 5005 AUSTRALIA) in the center, 'Contact' (Tel: +61 8 8313 3354, Fax: +61 8 8313 5808, volunteer@adelaide.edu.au) on the right, and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

150th Celebration Current Students Staff Alumni Quicklinks

STUDY AT ADELAIDE RESEARCH & INNOVATION ENGAGE ABOUT THE UNI

THE UNIVERSITY of ADELAIDE 150 YEARS

Volunteer

Home / volunteer Login

Be part of the University's vibrant and diverse volunteer community.

The University has more than 2500 volunteers and over 70 volunteer groups across North Terrace, Roseworthy and Waite campuses, as well as local, nationally and internationally. We welcome people of all ages, cultures and abilities to participate as volunteers. Browse our [positions available page](#) for current opportunities.

Positions available What is volunteering? Why volunteer?

Resources

Volunteering can enrich your University experience. Our volunteers learn new skills, make social and professional connections and boost their employment prospects by volunteering with the University.

Current volunteers Volunteer awards Event photos Volunteer management

External Engagement

Address

250 North Terrace
THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE
SA 5005 AUSTRALIA

Contact

Tel: +61 8 8313 3354
Fax: +61 8 8313 5808
volunteer@adelaide.edu.au

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Figure 9: University of Adelaide Volunteering Home Page

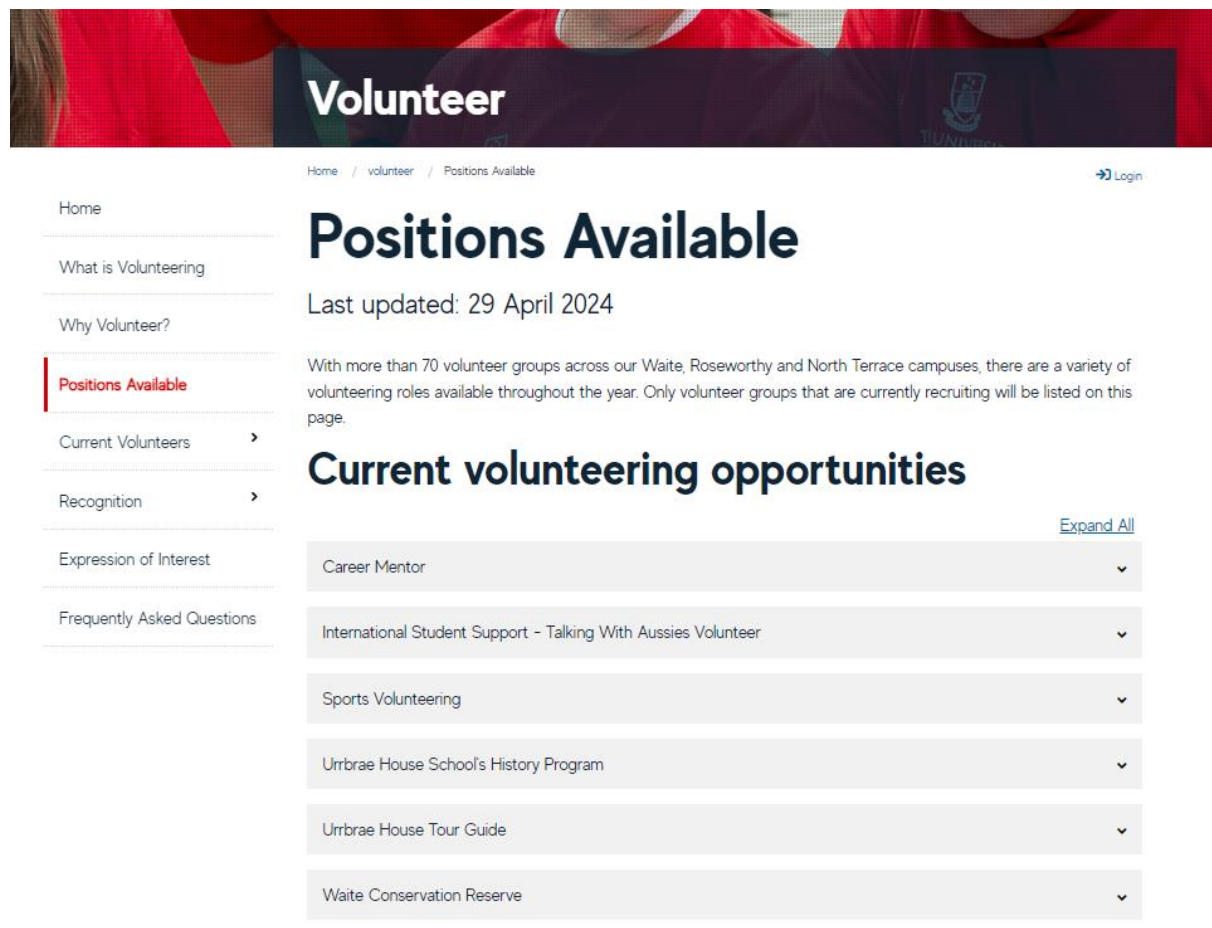


Figure 10: University of Adelaide Volunteering Positions Available Page

Strengths:

- Good use of pictures.
- Easy to find relevant information from home page.
- Obvious link to positions available.
- Why volunteer page to promote the benefits of volunteering,

Weaknesses:

- Can't see exact dates/times of commitments, just what's available in general.
- Different application process for each type of volunteering (some email, some online forms), would be better to streamline this by having a single process for all opportunities.
- Doesn't seem very scalable, difficult to add new events/opportunity types without significant website redesign.
- No options to filter opportunities to be relevant to user.

Summary of Research

From identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the above website, some key things to either include or avoid were identified. Some of the most important of these are listed below, although all points mentioned above will be considered when designing our website.

- Website must be split into pages which group relating content and functions together.
- Filters must be present to allow user to display the opportunities only relevant to them.
- Where possible, images should be utilised to avoid the website being just large blocks of text.
- Search results for opportunities should only display a brief description of the event, as well as key info such as location and time. Details should be visible in a separate page.