

GOOMERI

PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

VOLUNTEER PACKAGE



www.goomeripumpkinfestival.com.au

[#goomeripumpkinfestival](https://www.instagram.com/goomeripumpkinfestival)

History of the

GOOMERI PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

The inaugural Goomeri Pumpkin Festival was held on 1 June 1997 under the name Goomeri, Town of 1911, Pumpkin Festival.

During the 1990s, Goomeri, like many other rural areas, was in a time of prolonged drought and water shortages. Farmers and local businesses were doing it tough and morale was at an all time low. Somethings never change, 23 years later and we are still in the same situation.

A town meeting was held to discuss ideas for improving the town's morale and lagging business economy. At the meeting, one of the ideas was to have a festival of some kind. As pumpkins had been traditionally grown in the area over a number of years, the idea of a Pumpkin Festival was born.

A small group of enthusiastic supporters banded together to organize the first festival. Amidst cries of, 'It'll never work', 'I've never heard such a silly idea!' and so on, the committee forged ahead and the first festival was held. The idea of rolling pumpkins down a hill was so way out that it was appealing and thus the Great Australian Pumpkin Roll was born and Policeman's Hill got its name.

The purpose of the festival was to bring people and money into our town's flagging economy and to extend country hospitality to the visitors whom we hoped to attract. And, attract them we did! The first festival had an attendance of approximately 1000 and was a raging success. There were 71 pumpkin rollers and the Great Australian Pumpkin Roll had made found its place in the history of the town. Local business owners were encouraged to open their doors for the festival and take advantage of the increased population as a result.

Goomeri was on a roll! The 1997 success provided the incentive for the committee to continue with another festival in 1998 as more people were willing to become involved. The town had received a well needed boost which we needed to capitalize on. Goomeri had shown what a little initiative and daring could do – we took a risk and it paid off big time!

The Goomeri Pumpkin Festival has continued to grow each year since 1997, to the extent where it has received state, national and international recognition. The Great Australian Pumpkin Roll™ has continued to grow and, in 2018, there were over 600 Pumpkin Rollers sending their pumpkins racing, splattering and hurtling down Policeman's Hill. Policeman's Hill (named so because the Police Station is at the bottom) has become a tourist attraction in its own right as people come to see where these pumpkins roll.

The festival has expanded over the years to include many more pumpkin based competitions including Pumpkin Bowls, Decorated Pumpkins, Giant Pumpkin competition, Pumpkin Patch Snatch, Pumpkin Pageant and the Pumpkin Power Shot Put.

Add to these events the many market stalls, the huge Street Parade, whip cracking, children's amusements, woodchop and chainsaw demonstrations, roving entertainment and great pumpkin food, and you have a family friendly, entry free event for everyone to enjoy.

GOOMERI PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Why should you volunteer at our festival?

- To become a part of our community
- To contribute towards improving the social and community values of our region
- To connect and engage with the community
- To engage motivation
- To assist in removing social insecurity and mental issues within our community
- Just to have “FUN”

GOOMERI PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

As a Volunteer, what will you get?

- Experience in a rewarding community environment
- An equal opportunity organisation
- Free entry to the “Great Australian Pumpkin Roll”, we’ll even supply the pumpkin
- Volunteer Break-out area
- Lunch and cold water provided
- Goomeri Pumpkin Festival Shirt
- Hi vis safety vests supplied (to be returned)
- UHF Communication system
- Free campsite for duration of voluntary Engagement
- Possible future career prospects utilising experience gained
- Post event Volunteer Thank You BBQ

GOOMERI PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

VOLUNTEER PACKAGE

What **Goomeri Pumpkin Festival** asks of its volunteers?

We ask that you:

- Support **Goomeri Pumpkin Festivals** aims and objectives
- participate in all relevant induction and training programs
- only undertake duties you are authorised to perform
- understand and comply with the organisation's policies and procedures including equal opportunity, health and safety, privacy and confidentiality Policies
- notify your supervisor or a member of the committee of any health and safety issues or potentially hazardous situations that may pose a risk to you or others and report any accidents or incidents relating to staff, volunteers, or the workplace
- behave appropriately and courteously to all volunteers, members and the public in the course of your role
- use any property or equipment given to you in your role safely and only for purpose of the role and return it to the organisation when you finish your volunteer role
- let us know if you wish to change the nature of your contribution (e.g. hours, role) to **Goomeri Pumpkin Festival** at any time
- comply with the law at all times, and
- be open and honest in your dealings with us and let us know if we can improve our volunteer program and the support that you receive.

GOOMERI PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

VOLUNTEER PACKAGE

Volunteer Agreement

Please sign to acknowledge that you have read through this Volunteer Package and agree to participate in our Volunteer Program.

Volunteer Full Name

Volunteer Signature

Date: