

# MITCHELL VOLUNTEERS!



*Recognising and celebrating our inspirational volunteers.*

# Contents.

Welcome	4	Irene Telford	46
Acknowledgements	5	Sean Kerris, Margot Green and Phillip McLean	48
Michelle Byrnes and Marg Ashford	6	Bill Hogan	50
Pam and Alex Priestly	8	Peter Welsh	52
Alan Vidal	10	Lions Club of Seymour Goulburn	54
Kilmore Men's Shed	12	Carol Smith	56
Kilmore and District Hospital	14	Ted Gray	58
Marg Elliot	16	Ron Jessup	60
Wilma Hammond	18	Mick Sanderson	62
Vyviene Whitehurst	20	Heather Dunn	64
Beverley	22	Alice and Jack Solomon	66
Ruth Hall	24	Jeff Wilmot	68
Gordon Hastie	26	Peter Oblak	70
Alan Cook and Norman Mason	28	Mitchell FReeZA/Volume Committee	72
Gregory Mallett	30	Mitchell Dog Walking Group	74
Snack Attack, Broadford CFA	32	Wandong Heathcote Junction Neighbourhood Watch and Community Group	76
Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell	34	Bernie Melvaine and Carolyn Atkinson	78
Audrey Flannery and Angelica Skora	36	Victoria State Emergency Service	80
Goulburn Park Wall Mural Painting Group	38	Judy Clark and Rob Eldridge	82
Seymour Quilt and Craft Fair	40	David James	84
Seymour Visitor Information Centre	42	More Information	86
Patricia Archer and Mary Steyne	44	Contacting Council	87

# Welcome.

Mitchell Shire Council acknowledges and appreciates the vital role volunteers play in contributing to the Mitchell community. The volunteers of Mitchell achieve so much each and every day - and it does not go unnoticed.

Volunteers contribute to the incredible work of over 100 not-for-profit organisations and community groups within Mitchell Shire. These include emergency services, sport clubs, service clubs, education, health services, community services, environment, animal welfare, places of worship, childcare, tourism and more; Mitchell volunteers are truly a team of dedicated, diligent, resilient, and incredible people!

The Mitchell Shire community is leading the way in volunteering, with an impressive 21% of the population volunteering, as opposed to the Victorian average of 19%.

These people are strengthening the community in which we live, and contributing to a stronger, more resilient Mitchell Shire.

This Mitchell Volunteers! booklet recognises and celebrates Mitchell's amazing volunteers. We want to provide a snapshot of differing types of volunteers and volunteer roles within Mitchell Shire. We hope that these incredible people will inspire others to follow in their footsteps, and volunteer their time doing something they are passionate about; we want to create a culture of volunteering at Mitchell!

Thank you!

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are warned that this booklet may contain images of deceased persons.*

# Acknowledgement.

Council would like to sincerely thank and acknowledge the Mitchell External Volunteer Advisory Panel for their input, advice and dedication to developing and supporting volunteering in Mitchell Shire. Their contribution to the development of this booklet has been invaluable, and we appreciate the time and expertise volunteered to this project.

The Advisory Panel members are people who live, work or volunteer within Mitchell Shire, and include Margaret Canny (Getting There Network); Pat Coffey (The Seymour We Want/U3A); Audrey Flannery (Youth Council); Pam Freemantle

(Kilmore CWA); Danni George and Peter Heading (Nexus Primary health); Jason Hutson (SES/CFA); Jitka Jilich (Kilmore and District Hospital); Lisa Linton (Rivers and Ranges); Mark Perrott (OKR FM); Jacqui Sims (MCRAG); Damion Toes (Scouts Victoria); and David Waye (Pyalong Community Centre).

Council would also like to sincerely thank and acknowledge photographer Ashleigh Dunn from Ashleigh May Photography, who volunteered her time to photograph and edit the photos appearing in this book.

Photography by:



# Michelle Byrnes and Marg Ashford.

Michelle and Marg contribute substantially to improving the state of sport in Mitchell Shire, for all to enjoy.

Michelle is currently the Treasurer of the R.B. Robson Stadium Committee in Wallan, and has been volunteering with the Stadium Committee of Management since 2009. Prior to that, Michelle volunteered at her child's kinder and primary school since 2004. Michelle enjoys seeing the improvements that they can bring to the stadium, which will benefit all users.

"It's good to watch the stadium grow because of the changes and improvements we have done over the years. I enjoy seeing people enjoy what we have done, and see them using the stadium" – Michelle.

Marg has been volunteering in Wallan for 30 years. Since this time, Marg has been a volunteer with the Wallan District Netball Association (WDNA), the R.B. Robson Stadium,

and the Wallan Neighbourhood House as a committee member. She is currently the Stadium's delegate and user group representative for the WDNA, and the Vice President, Score Secretary, official scorer and Life Member of the WDNA.

When asked about her volunteering, Marg says "I am there if I am needed. I like to keep things going for others. I do like to try and encourage people to get involved. It's something that needs to be in their blood. I've made a lot of good friends, and it's a good social thing to do" – Marg.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**R.B. Robson Stadium:**  
[www.robsonstadium.com.au](http://www.robsonstadium.com.au) or email:  
[info@robsonstadium.com.au](mailto:info@robsonstadium.com.au)

**Wallan and District Netball Association:**  
[www.wallananddistrictnetball.org.au](http://www.wallananddistrictnetball.org.au)





# Pam and Alex Priestly.

Pam and Alex are married, and certainly do enjoy every aspect of their lives together, including volunteering. They are both valuable volunteers for a number of groups in Mitchell Shire, and have been volunteering since they arrived to Mitchell Shire in 2000. They have been volunteer Foster Carers for the Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP) for six years, and have fostered 30 greyhounds to date; pictured are their adopted greyhounds, Dylan and Jimmy. GAP is dedicated to finding homes for greyhounds that are no longer suitable for racing, and foster carers take dogs into their homes to help them with the transition from racing dog to pet.

Pam and Alex are both also volunteers with the University of the Third Age (U3A) Kilmore and District Inc., which is a self-help learning group for semi-retired and retired people. Pam is currently a volunteer on the Committee of Management, a membership convenor and a lunch club convenor, while Alex convenes a walking group and the recorder group. Finally, both Pam and Alex are involved with the Mitchell Shire Concert Band, and volunteer their time assisting with the band concerts.

Alex volunteers because it “gives me an interest, along with like-minded people. It is easier to make new friends, keeps me active and gives satisfaction at being able to pass on knowledge gained over my life”. He encourages people to “Give it a go. There are many spheres of opportunity to explore, or if you have a special talent or experience, there will a forum for you to display it” – Alex.

Pam said that she has “made an awful lot of friends, I keep active and get to do things. It keeps the mind going as well as the body. It is a good way to meet new people” – Pam.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**Greyhound Adoption Program:**

[www.gap.grv.org.au](http://www.gap.grv.org.au),  
phone: (03) 5799 0166 or  
email: [gap@grv.org.au](mailto:gap@grv.org.au)

**U3A Kilmore and District Inc.:**

email: [u3akilmore@y7mail.com](mailto:u3akilmore@y7mail.com)

**Mitchell Shire Concert Band:**

[www.mitchellshireconcertband.org.au](http://www.mitchellshireconcertband.org.au) or email: [secretary@mitchellshireconcertband.org.au](mailto:secretary@mitchellshireconcertband.org.au)

# Alan Vidal.

Alan is a valuable member of the Wallan community, and volunteers his time to the Greenhill Reserve Committee of Management, and Wallan Football Netball Club, having begun with the club in 1967. Alan manages all activities for the ground and surrounds, is the ground liaison with Council, and organises contractors for the facility when required. Alan maintains the grounds, and cleans up rubbish around the Reserve, to ensure that the community can all enjoy a well-maintained and clean space.

Alan said he has been lucky in life, so likes to contribute back to the community. Alan gets satisfaction out of getting things done, and sees the importance in preserving things for the next generation.

When asked what he would say to others to encourage them to volunteer, Alan replied:

“If you’ve got the time, do it. You don’t have to be an expert, you just have to put your hand up and give it a go in what you want to get involved with”.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**Wallan Football Netball Club:**  
[www.wallanmagpies.com.au](http://www.wallanmagpies.com.au)

**Greenhill Reserve Committee of Management:**  
Mitchell Shire Council on  
(03) 5734 6200.





# Kilmore Men's Shed.

The Kilmore Men's Shed is a community-based, not-for-profit group that is accessible to all men, regardless of age. Their primary activity is the provision of a safe and friendly environment where men are able to work on meaningful projects at their own pace, in their own time, in the company of other men. A major objective is to advance the well-being and health of their male members.

The Kilmore Men's Shed raise funds that are put back into the community and Men's Shed programs. They provide a safe alcohol and drug free environment, which encourages regular social interaction. The Men's Shed discuss men's health issues, promote mateship and support, and encourage intergenerational bonding through partnering with local schools.

There are four Men's Sheds in Mitchell Shire: Kilmore, Broadford, Seymour and Puckapunyal. If you

would like to know more about the Men's Shed in your area, or would like to join, email:

**Kilmore:**  
kilmoremensshed@gmail.com

**Broadford:**  
broadfordmensshed@gmail.com

**Seymour:**  
seymourmensshed@gmail.com

**Puckapunyal:** puckapunyalcentre@gmail.com

Pictured are committee members of the Kilmore Men's Shed.



# Kilmore and District Hospital.

Volunteering at the Kilmore and District Hospital is extremely diverse across the each setting including: aged care facilities; the hospital auxiliary; and in the Hospital opportunity shop.

Volunteers are involved in fundraising through raffles, cake stalls, fashion parades, manning a monthly stall at the Wallan Market; running an annual community fair; and sorting and

selling clothes and other items for the op shop three days per week.

Volunteers offer support in the lifestyle and wellbeing program in aged care which predominantly involves socially connecting with older people from our local community requiring residential care. This can be as simple as enjoying a simple conversation, reading a newspaper together,

enjoying table games, music, dance, community access activities; cooking and sharing meals; hand and nail care; hand massage; special events, and so much more.

Volunteering in the hospital commenced in May 2015 and this involves volunteers providing social contact and support to patients whilst also assisting with some background support to staff. This

is a gradually expanding area of volunteering at the hospital.

If you are interested in volunteering with the **Kilmore and District Hospital:** visit [www.kilmoredistricthospital.org.au/volunteers](http://www.kilmoredistricthospital.org.au/volunteers) or email [kilmoreweb@humehealth.org.au](mailto:kilmoreweb@humehealth.org.au)

Pictured are volunteers from across all hospital and aged care settings. This





## Marg Elliot.

Marg moved to Kilmore in 1989, and since joining the Kilmore Tennis Club committee in 1990, she has been heavily involved in the growth and continued success of the club. In addition to serving as Secretary for a number of years, she was club President for 9 years and continues to remain an active committee member. Marg is also a representative on the JJ Clancy Reserve Committee of Management, and held the position of Secretary and President for many years.

Marg said she has always been a volunteer, and since moving to Kilmore to live, decided to just come along to the Tennis Club and join; she had never played tennis in her life! She has always been the sort of person who likes helping people, and believes it is because of the good influence from her mum, who was also an avid volunteer in the community.

When asked what she liked best about volunteering, Marg replied:

“The thought of being able to help people. I love tennis and love seeing people enjoy tennis. It is something we can do as a family and I get a big buzz out of it!”

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**Kilmore Tennis Club:**

[www.tennis.com.au/kilmoretcinc](http://www.tennis.com.au/kilmoretcinc) or  
email [ktc@hotmail.com](mailto:ktc@hotmail.com)

**JJ Clancy Reserve Committee of Management:**

Mitchell Shire Council on  
(03) 5734 6200

# Wilma Hammond.

Wilma has been an extensive and valuable volunteer in Mitchell Shire, and contributes substantially to the community. She was a foundation member since the re-construction of the Kilmore Mechanics and Free Library Inc. in 1994, is a member of the Kilmore and District Residents and Ratepayers Association, and a volunteer with Kilmore OKR FM, the Kilmore Tennis Club where she organises the Monday Ladies Competition, the Kilmore Show, and organises a Choir with the Hall, and a Children's Drama Group. Wilma is also a volunteer with the Save Monument Hill Group, and regularly organises educational and factual night walks on Monument Hill for the community.

Wilma said that having children made her realise that she had to put time into the community, and her volunteering started out because of her kids. She has always volunteered

while her children were at school, with school reading, school canteen and school sports.

Wilma believes that it makes her feel part of the community and volunteering helps her to become rooted within the community. She said volunteering benefits go both ways; she is helping the community, but she is also learning about the environment, and it supplements her own knowledge.

"You will always learn something about where you live and who you work with. It is very rewarding" – Wilma.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**Kilmore Mechanics and Free Library Inc.:**

[www.theruralstore.com.au](http://www.theruralstore.com.au)





## Vyvienne Whitehurst.

Vyv is a passionate and valued member of the community, and has been the Secretary and Treasurer at the Kilmore Agricultural and Pastoral Society Inc. since 1999. Vyv played an integral role in bringing the group back from almost folding, to now being a thriving community organisation. Vyv contributes to the planning and delivery of the Kilmore Show, which has been operating since 1856; it is an important and exciting event on our community event's calendar.

Prior to moving to Mitchell Shire, Vyv volunteered as a Scout Leader in Greensborough, and is a life member of Diamond Valley. She said she has always been a volunteer and likes to give back to the community. When asked why she volunteers, Vyv replied:

“To help the community. If nobody helps, it goes backwards. All the little things add up; just need to give little

things. Give the best you can, while you can” - Vyvienne.

The Kilmore Agricultural and Pastoral Society welcomes new members, whether your interests are in horses, dogs, art, photography, home craft or entertainment there is something for everyone to get involved in and make the Kilmore Agricultural Show a true community celebration.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**Kilmore Show:**  
kilmoreshow@gmail.com or visit  
[www.kilmoreshow.org.au](http://www.kilmoreshow.org.au)

# Beverley.

Beverley has spent the last six years as the head of a group of volunteers at Freedom Care. Beverley has been involved with Freedom Care since it began, and assisted in setting it up, supported by a dedicated team of volunteers; Beverley certainly is an inspirational and valued member of our community.

When asked about her volunteering, Beverley replied:

“I enjoy it, it's quite rewarding. As long as you are capable, there's all different types of work to do; it is definitely worthwhile”.

Freedom Care began as an immediate response of love and care to the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires. The ongoing drive and passion from all the volunteers involved, has been truly inspiring, and has contributed to making the community grow and flourish. Freedom Care supports the community in so many ways, through

weekly food hampers for people on a low income, unemployed, under employed, a pensioner or have experienced a circumstance that is making it difficult to make ends meet; operating the Second Chance Op Shop; delivering the Feed our Kids program, and so much more.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**Freedom Care Inc.:**  
[www.freedomcare.com.au](http://www.freedomcare.com.au) or email  
[admin@freedomcare.com.au](mailto:admin@freedomcare.com.au)





## Ruth Hall.

Ruth is a great asset to our community, and has been volunteering within Mitchell Shire for almost 50 years. She is currently the treasurer for the Eastern Hill Cricket Club; is a volunteer with the Seymour Visitor Information Centre; a volunteer with the Lion's Club of Seymour Goulburn; and is a volunteer with Nexus Primary Health, delivering meals to the community through the Meals on Wheels program. Previously, Ruth has been a volunteer with her local kinder committee, Little Athletics and Seymour Girl Guides as a leader.

Ruth attributed her volunteering to her parents, and believes that if your parents are community minded and volunteer, then their children should follow in their footsteps. Ruth believes that volunteering will help to leave the town in a better way than what it is.

“Don’t stand back; put your hand up and do it. There is always something

available for anyone to do; all people have skills to do something. Don’t do it for accolades, do it because you love it”.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**Nexus Primary Health:**

phone: 1300 77 33 52,

email: [info@nexusprimaryhealth.org.au](mailto:info@nexusprimaryhealth.org.au)

or visit: [www.nexusprimaryhealth.org.au](http://www.nexusprimaryhealth.org.au)

# Gordon Hastie.

Since moving to Mitchell Shire 20 years ago, Gordon has been an inspirational community member, volunteering his time for many local community groups. Gordon is the past President of the RSL, is the club Administrator for the Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell, is involved in the Australian Rotary Health Project on post-traumatic stress disorder in returned soldiers, is a member of the Mitchell Shire Suicide Prevention Network, and is on the Board for Nexus Primary Health.

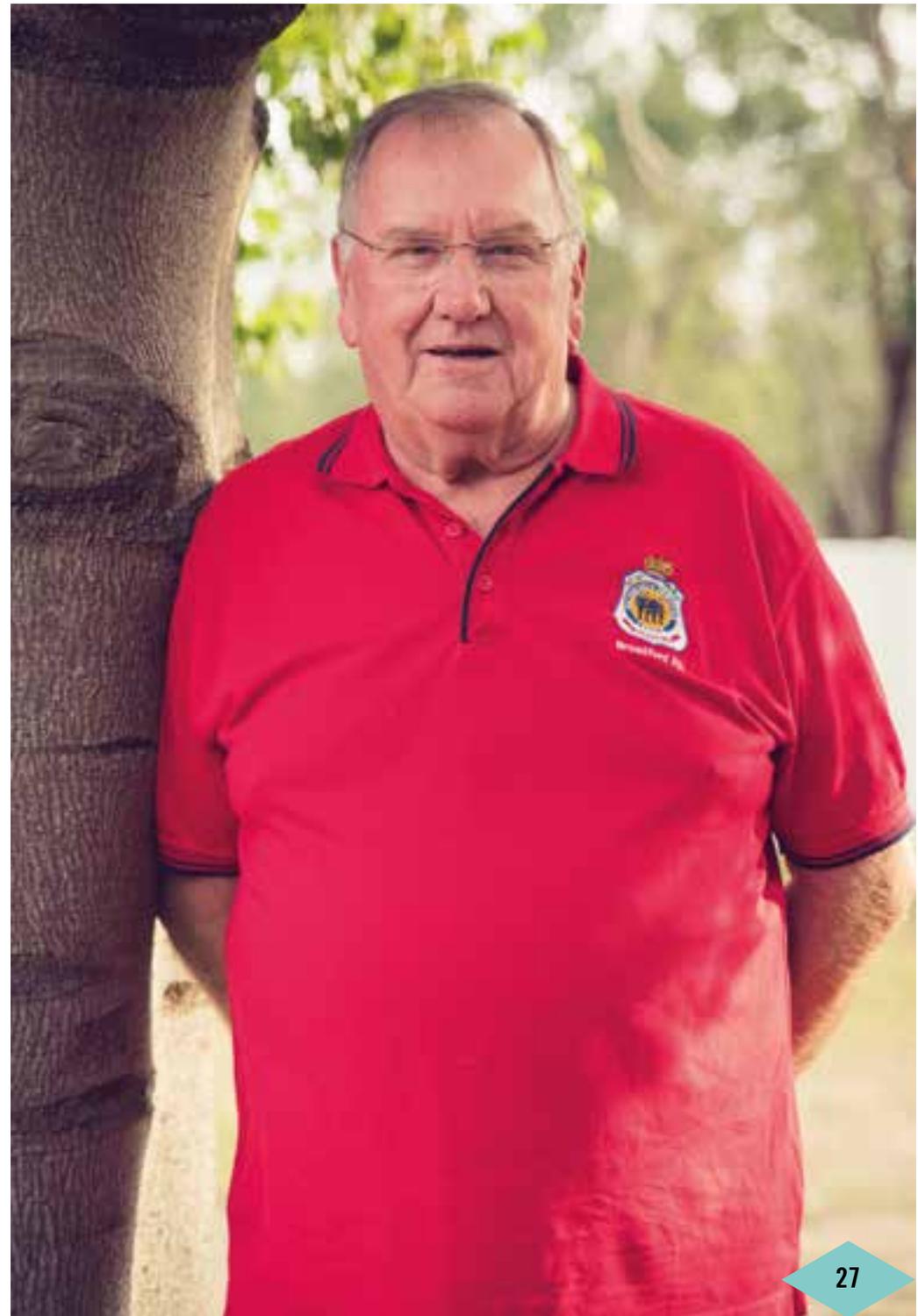
Gordon said it was time to put something back into the community. When asked about what he likes most about his volunteer involvement, Gordon replied:

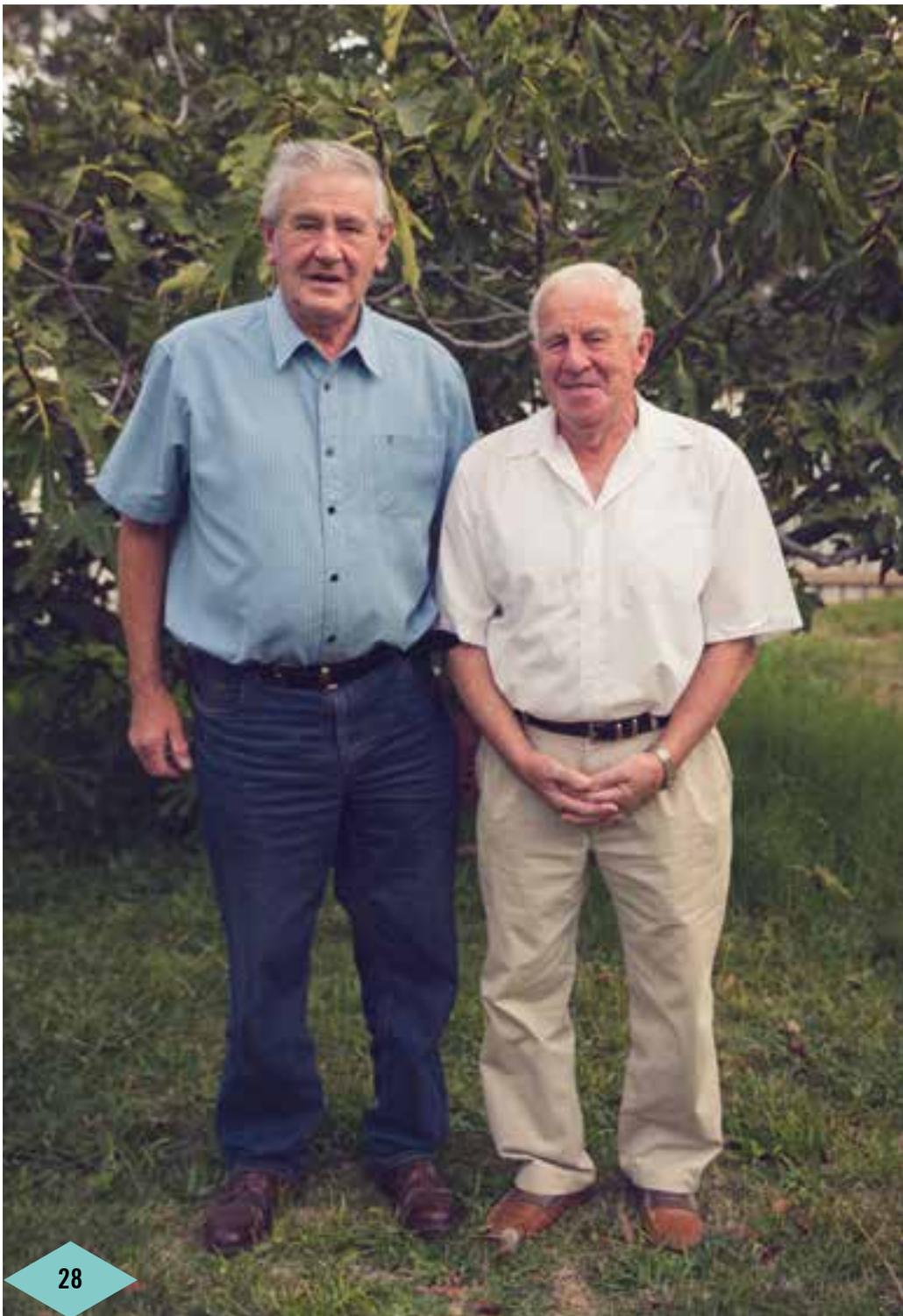
“It’s very rewarding; it’s a great pleasure. The fellowship, meeting with other volunteers and working with others in the community is what makes it great” – Gordon.

The Mitchell Shire Suicide Prevention Network exists to help people recognise in others, the needs they have, and to talk to them so they may be referred to the correct places. It comprises volunteers with different backgrounds, from multiple community and service groups, including Rotary, Lions and community house. The network promotes the work of organisations like Wesley Mission and Beyondblue to reach out to people in need.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell:**  
southernmitchell@rotary9790.org.au or  
visit [www.portal.clubrunner.ca/8920](http://www.portal.clubrunner.ca/8920)





## Alan Cook and Norman Mason.

Alan and Norman have been long standing volunteers with the Broadford Cemetery Trust, and both play a major role in ensuring the Broadford Cemetery is managed properly.

Alan has been a volunteer with the Trust since 1991. He is a general committee member and caretaker of the cemetery. Alan has played a major role in the restoration of grave sites and overall maintenance of the cemetery grounds. Alan says it is the opportunity to “be able to help the community, to help out in a little town where you can” that he likes most about his volunteering.

Norman has been a volunteer with the Trust since 1989. He has been Chairperson since 1993 and throughout this time also undertook the roles of secretary and treasurer. Norman is responsible for overall cemetery management, grave allocation, ordering and installation of plaques, and the liaison with

family members and the community. Norman also contributed to the initiation and planting of the rose garden. When asked about his volunteering, Norman replied:

“You get praised – constant pat on the back for the work you do. Go ahead and do it; if you have your heart and soul in it, go for it as it is great satisfaction” – Norman.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**Broadford Cemetery Trust:**  
broadfordct@gmail.com

# Gregory Mallett.

Greg's story is a little unique. Greg has been a volunteer member for the CFA for 27 years. He was an active firefighter with extensive experience prior to losing his vision due to illness. Greg has since volunteered his time as a member of the District 12 Incident Management Team, where he is utilising his fire ground knowledge and making a valuable contribution taking on the important role as radio controller.

Greg said that the “comradery and giving back to the community” is what he enjoyed most about volunteering.

CFA volunteers come from all walks of life, and volunteers play a key role in helping CFA to protect Victorian lives and property. Volunteering with CFA is not just about firefighting. All people with various skills are welcome. In addition to firefighting and emergency roles, many support roles exist, including community education,

fundraising, brigade training, brigade equipment maintenance, media and public relations, multicultural liaison, brigade administration and the junior members program.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**CFA Victoria:**

[www.cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteer-careers](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteer-careers),  
phone: (03) 9262 8645 or  
email: [volrecruit@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:volrecruit@cfa.vic.gov.au)





# Snack Attack, Broadford CFA.

The Broadford 'Snack Attack' is a subdivision of the Broadford Fire Brigade, and is utilised as an Emergency Catering appliance designed to feed large quantities of emergency service personnel meals in times of crisis. It is manned by an all-volunteer staff consisting predominantly of Broadford Fire Brigades "Non-Operational" (Non-firefighter) and some "Operational" (firefighter) Members.

Snack Attack was first put together some 20 years ago when the need was identified to ensure that Operational Fire Fighters in the field, some working up to 12 hours, had the chance to eat and have a much deserved break.

At any large deployment you will see the "Snack Attack" providing assistance for those in need and it is not unusual to feed numbers into the hundreds in a very short period of time, with very little notice.

The "Snack Attack" works with the Broadford Fire Brigade as a whole

to deliver a small piece of a much larger picture – enhancing our area's fire-fighting and emergency resilience capability. Without the Snack Attack the Broadford Fire Brigade and surrounding brigades would suffer; similarly, without the Broadford Fire Brigade, the "Snack Attack" would not be able to provide its much needed function.

The Volunteers of the Broadford Fire Brigade are proud to assist with the "Snack Attack" project, as are all members of the Broadford Fire Brigade proud to assist with whichever role they chose to take in our diverse and capable organisation.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**CFA Victoria:**

[www.cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteer-careers](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteer-careers)

phone: (03) 9262 8645 or

email: [volrecruit@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:volrecruit@cfa.vic.gov.au)

# Rotary Club of Mitchell Southern.

The Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell is a service club encompassing the townships of Broadford, Kilmore, Wallan and surrounds. The club has over 20 members and is involved in many community events and projects.

Such events are the Broadford Australia Day Festival; Kilmore Art Expo; Broadford Senior Citizens Christmas Luncheon; and Wallan Relay for Life. Ongoing club projects include the annual Bowelscan Program; Community Police Person of the Year; local Pride of Workmanship Award; the Kilmore Art Walk (partnering with Kilmore Art Society); and research into Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in returned servicemen and women from conflict areas (partnering with RSL).

The club is fun and vibrant, with a great mix of people. Meetings are held every Tuesday night 6.30pm for a 7pm start at Kilmore Trackside.

For more information or to volunteer, please email:

**Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell:**  
southernmitchell@rotary9790.org.au or  
visit [www.portal.clubrunner.ca/8920](http://www.portal.clubrunner.ca/8920)





# Audrey Flannery and Angelica Skora.

Audrey and Angelica are inspirational young people, contributing to making their community a great place to live in for other young people. Both Audrey and Angelica volunteer with Mitchell Youth Council, which is an advisory committee of Mitchell Shire Council and a youth development program. It provides an important opportunity for young people to have input into Council decisions. Angelica and Audrey are also both volunteer presenters at OKR FM Kilmore Community Radio, hosting their own radio shows.

In addition to Youth Council and OKR FM, both Angelica and Audrey are heavily involved in their community. Angelica has contributed substantially to the Cyber Tattoo Campaign, by publically standing up against cyber bullying. She also volunteers regularly for various community events through the Freeze/Volume Committee. She was recently awarded the 2016 Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year Award.

“Do what you love. Whether it is speaking on the local radio, or going out into the Shire helping, try and do it because you love it and think that you’re helping other people. Imagine how many people can be so happy, just like you can be” – Angelica.

Audrey has grown up volunteering, and dedicates most of her spare time to volunteer work; she is a strong advocate for young people getting involved with volunteering. Audrey also volunteers for the National Breast Cancer Foundation, and recently organised a fundraising campaign and community event, which raised over \$10,000 for education and research. She was also awarded the 2015 Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year Award.

“Volunteering is a good way to get experience and to prepare for the future, and a great way of helping others. I have so much fun learning new things and meeting new people. It is a good first stepping stone into your career” – Audrey.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**Mitchell Youth Council:**  
Mitchell Youth Services on  
(03) 5734 6200 or visit  
[www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/  
community/youth/youth-council](http://www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/community/youth/youth-council)

**OKR FM Community Radio:**  
(03) 5781 0919 or visit  
[www.okrfm.com.au/index.php](http://www.okrfm.com.au/index.php)

# Goulburn Park Wall Mural Painting Group.

A small group of volunteers, led by local artist Diane Grant (nee Di Laverie), repainted the Goulburn Park Wall Mural on the Sound Shell. The originally mural was painted by Di Laverie and Bev and Alan Kilpatrick with the support of volunteers in 1993, which was Seymour's 150th anniversary year.

The mural restoration project began in 2015, with volunteers being recruited from the Seymour and District Art Society, and the Seymour U3A group. The project took over four months to complete, with over 150 hours of volunteer time generously donated.

Goulburn Park is one of Seymour's best parks, and the mural attracts many visitors, who admire the incredible work completed by a small group of talented volunteers.

Next time you are in the area, do yourself a favour and stop by to visit the mural.



# Seymour Quilt and Craft Fair.

The Seymour Quilt and Craft Fair has been going strong for six years, and has become a fundamental event in the Mitchell events calendar. So much so, that it was awarded the Australia day Event of the Year Award for 2015. The Fair is held each October at the Anglican Church and Hall in Seymour, with over 50 volunteers dedicating their time to provide a major event for Mitchell Shire.

There are multiple community groups involved in the delivery of the Fair, including the Seymour Country Women's Association, the Seymour Spinners and Craft Group, the Old Courthouse Spinners Group, the Nagambie and Seymour Men's Shed's, the Anglican Church, the Country Clogging group, and many other local quilters. The Fair requires four months of careful planning and

preparation, and without the support of all the participating community groups and volunteers, this event simply would not occur.

The Fair is one of Seymour's best displays that promotes our Shire's wonderful work of local art and craft artists.

If you want to find out more, stop by the **Seymour Spinners and Craft Group** at the Old Court House in Seymour, or visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Seymour-Quilt-And-Craft-Fair-1665949340293748/](http://www.facebook.com/Seymour-Quilt-And-Craft-Fair-1665949340293748/)



# Seymour Visitor Information Centre.

The Seymour Visitor Information Centre (VIC) is located on the Goulburn River, at the beautiful and historical Old Court House. A team of dedicated and valuable volunteers work tirelessly to provide interesting and useful information for visitors and locals who stop by to sample what Seymour has to offer.

Seymour is a town rich in heritage. The Seymour Court House was completed in 1864 and was used as a Telegraph Office before the First World War.

The volunteers at the VIC have experience ranging from a couple of weeks to over 20 years, since the inception of the Seymour Visitor Information Centre in 1993. The volunteers do a fantastic job of promoting Seymour and tourism within Mitchell Shire and surrounding areas.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please phone:

**Seymour Visitor Information Centre:**  
(03) 5799 0233 or email: [visitorinfo@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:visitorinfo@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au)

The VIC is open daily from 9am to 5pm.





# Patricia Archer and Mary Steyne.

Patricia and Mary are both heavily involved in the community, and contribute substantially to enabling people to enjoy horse-related activities. They are pictured here with the gorgeous Bo, who is full of personality!

Trish has been volunteering in Mitchell Shire since 1970. She was a Coach and Secretary for the Seymour Riding Develops Abilities (RDA) for 16 years, and has just recently handed the reins over to pursue other volunteering interests. Trish is now actively contributing to the Seymour & District U3A, where she is the Secretarial/Public Officer, keeper of memberships, overseer and maintenance of I.T. equipment and website, and prints the newsletter. Trish was also a past Ring Steward with the Seymour Agricultural Society; past secretary for the Seymour Pony Club; and past Secretary for the Upton Rd Horse Trials. We asked Trish why she volunteers; she replied:

“It gets you out into the community. It gives you a feeling of wellbeing. You meet other people – all walks of life and all sorts” – Trish.

Mary has been a volunteer with the Seymour RDA for 18 years, and initially got involved because of Trish, and because she loves horses. Mary was a Coach for many years, and is now a volunteer caring for the horses and

leading riders during sessions. When asked what she liked best about her volunteering, Mary replied:

“I get to meet people and love watching the children develop into confident young people getting out and about. It’s a great way to interact with them, while they grow with their disabilities”.

RDA Victoria is a not for profit organisation that enables individuals with a variety of disabilities, ages and backgrounds to develop independence, a sense of freedom and to reach their equestrian goals, through adaptive coaching techniques and equipment. The Seymour RDA operates in association with the Seymour Special School. They meet every second Thursday during school terms and most RDA days, riders are able to walk across the park with their Aides to the Centre. There are approximately 20 volunteers involved, but they would like to encourage younger volunteers to join.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**Seymour RDA:**

[www.rdav.asn.au/centres/seymour/](http://www.rdav.asn.au/centres/seymour/) or  
email: [rdaseymour@gmail.com](mailto:rdaseymour@gmail.com)

**Seymour Pony Club:**

[www.seymour.ponyclubvic.org.au](http://www.seymour.ponyclubvic.org.au)

# Irene Telford.

Irene is a Seymour local, who has been volunteering in Mitchell Shire since she moved here, about three years ago. Irene is heavily involved in the local community, and is the Treasurer and Newsletter Editor of The Seymour We Want (TSWW), the President of the Beam Mitchell Environment Group, a tutor at the Seymour U3A, and a member of Mitchell Shire's Community Liaison Group.

TSWW is a not-for-profit group, run entirely by volunteers, which encourages positive community development throughout the Seymour area. They support local community groups and individuals, leading to a better Seymour. Similarly, the Beam Mitchell Environment Group is a community group that was formed in 1989 to provide a forum for environmental action and discussion within the Mitchell community. They are an incredible group, who work hard to create a thriving community.

Irene is interested in the environment and the community, and is very community minded. Opportunities

arose in areas she was passionate about, and Irene was interested in making a difference, so took them on, and we are certainly thankful that she did!

Irene said the thing she liked most about volunteering was:

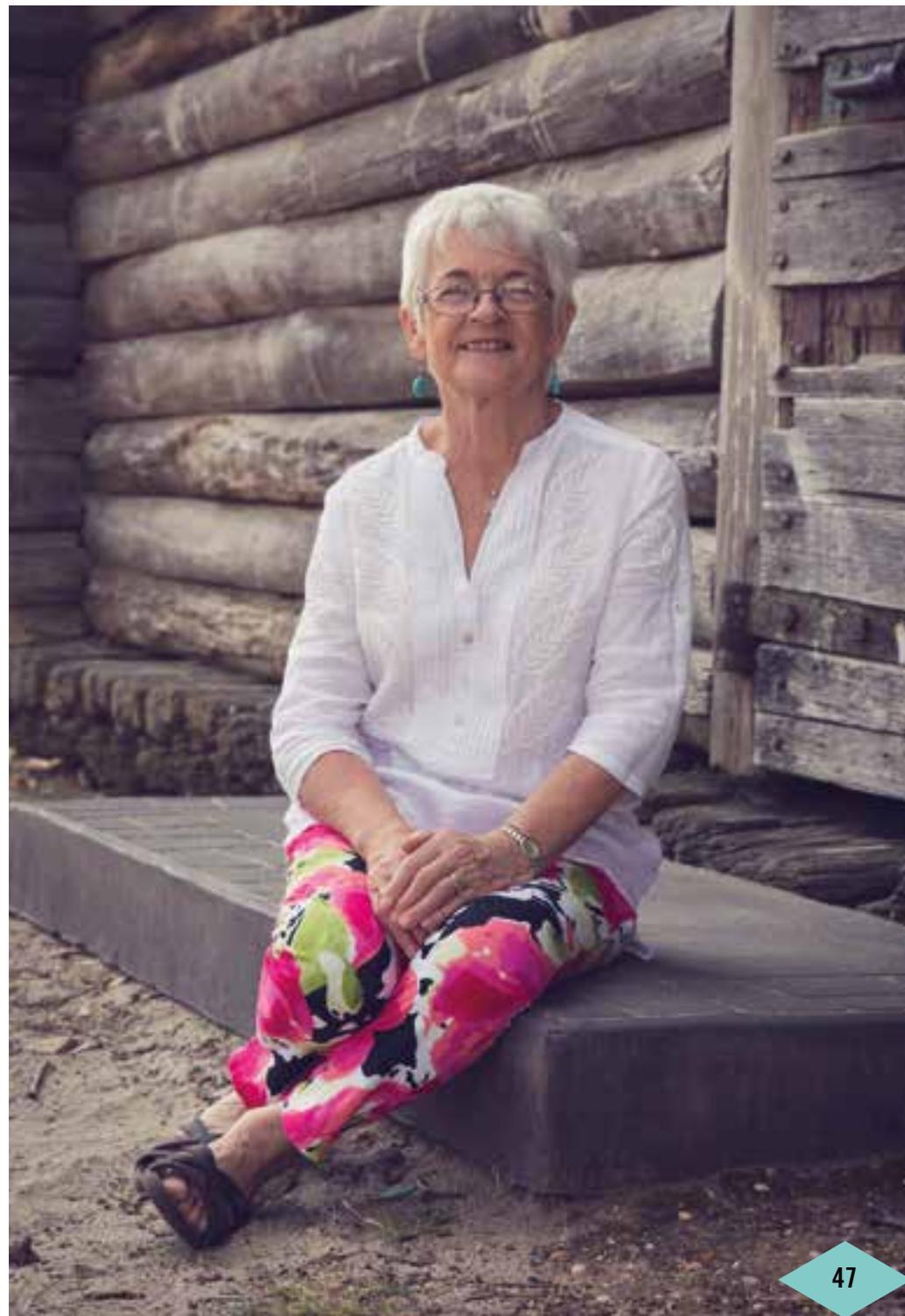
"It gives me the opportunity to make a difference. I get to meet new people and it is fun! It is a place where I can contribute!"

She wants to encourage others to volunteer their time in something that really interests you, and "makes you come alive" – Irene.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**The Seymour We Want:**  
[www.theseymourwewant.org.au](http://www.theseymourwewant.org.au)

**Beam Mitchell Environment Group:**  
[www.beam.org.au](http://www.beam.org.au) or  
email: [beam.inc@hotmail.com](mailto:beam.inc@hotmail.com)





# Sean Kerris, Margot Green and Phillip McLean.

Sean, Margot and Phillip are three incredible CFA volunteers, committed to making a difference, and keeping our community safe. Phillip has been volunteering in Mitchell Shire for 35 years, and has been the Captain for the Glenaroua Fire Brigade for the past 13 years. He is a much respected community man; farmer; Committee Member and Life Member of the Seymour Agricultural Pastoral Society; the President of the Seymour Working Sheepdog Club; and organises the 'Woolly Cup' Sheep Race for the Australia Day event. Phillip said the thing he likes most about volunteering is "connecting with like-minded people within the circle, as it then creates community".

Margot has been a valuable member of the Hilldene Fire Brigade since 1978. During her time with the brigade, Margot has taken on the roles of Secretary and Communications Officer. Margot has also taken on the roles of the Mitchell Shire Group's Secretary and Communications Officer; Radio Operator for the Seymour Incident Control Centre; a wildlife carer; and was the first lady President for the Seymour Agricultural Pastoral Society. Margot is a Life Member of the Hilldene Fire Brigade and the CFA, and is also a National Emergency Medal Recipient – she

certainly does her part to make our community great! About her volunteering, Margot says she "enjoys and loves it because of the people. I want to try and help other people. I have been told that I am not much of a taker but a good giver!"

Sean is a young volunteer, and has been with the Trawool Fire Brigade since 2012; he also makes himself available to turn out with the Seymour Brigade when required. Sean is certainly a future leader, and it is promising to see such an enthusiastic, dedicated and mature young man, volunteering for his community. Sean said he chose to volunteer because of his father: "My dad was in the Brigade and I always wanted to follow his footsteps, so I joined, and I have encouraged other friends and family to join. It is something I can see myself doing as a career".

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**CFA Victoria:**

[www.cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteer-careers](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteer-careers),  
phone: (03) 9262 8645 or  
email: [volrecruit@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:volrecruit@cfa.vic.gov.au)

**Seymour Agricultural Pastoral Society:**

[www.seymouragshow.org.au](http://www.seymouragshow.org.au) or email:  
[secretary@seymouragshow.org.au](mailto:secretary@seymouragshow.org.au)

# Bill Hogan.

Bill has an extremely important volunteer role in the community. Bill regularly drives the buggy for Travellers Aid at Seymour, and transports and assists people with mobility challenges to transfer between trains and the bus interchange. Bill also drives vehicles for Community Accessibility, which is a not-for-profit and mobility support service provided in the community to assist with transport of disadvantaged residents get to where they need to go. Community Accessibility works in partnership with clients, carers and other professionals providing, high quality and flexible services. Through leadership, and a dedicated team of staff and volunteers, they promote social well-being and independence.

Bill also volunteers his time with the Seymour Senior Citizens, where he is the President, the maintenance man and volunteer bus driver. Bill regularly picks up members from their homes, and drops them off for regular meets. In addition to this, Bill also organises day's out with the members, and takes them out for a full day of fun and activities. Senior Citizens Centres and Clubs provide a relaxed friendly

environment for people to enjoy social contact and participate in a wide variety of activities. The clubs promote wellbeing, vitality, strength and a positive approach to ageing. There are four Senior Citizen Clubs located in Mitchell Shire: Broadford, Kilmore, Seymour and Wallan.

When asked about his volunteering, Bill replied:

"I like the company of people. I like the idea of charity, and like to give back to the community and helping people. Go ahead and do it. You never know when you will need it yourself".

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**Traveller's Aid:**

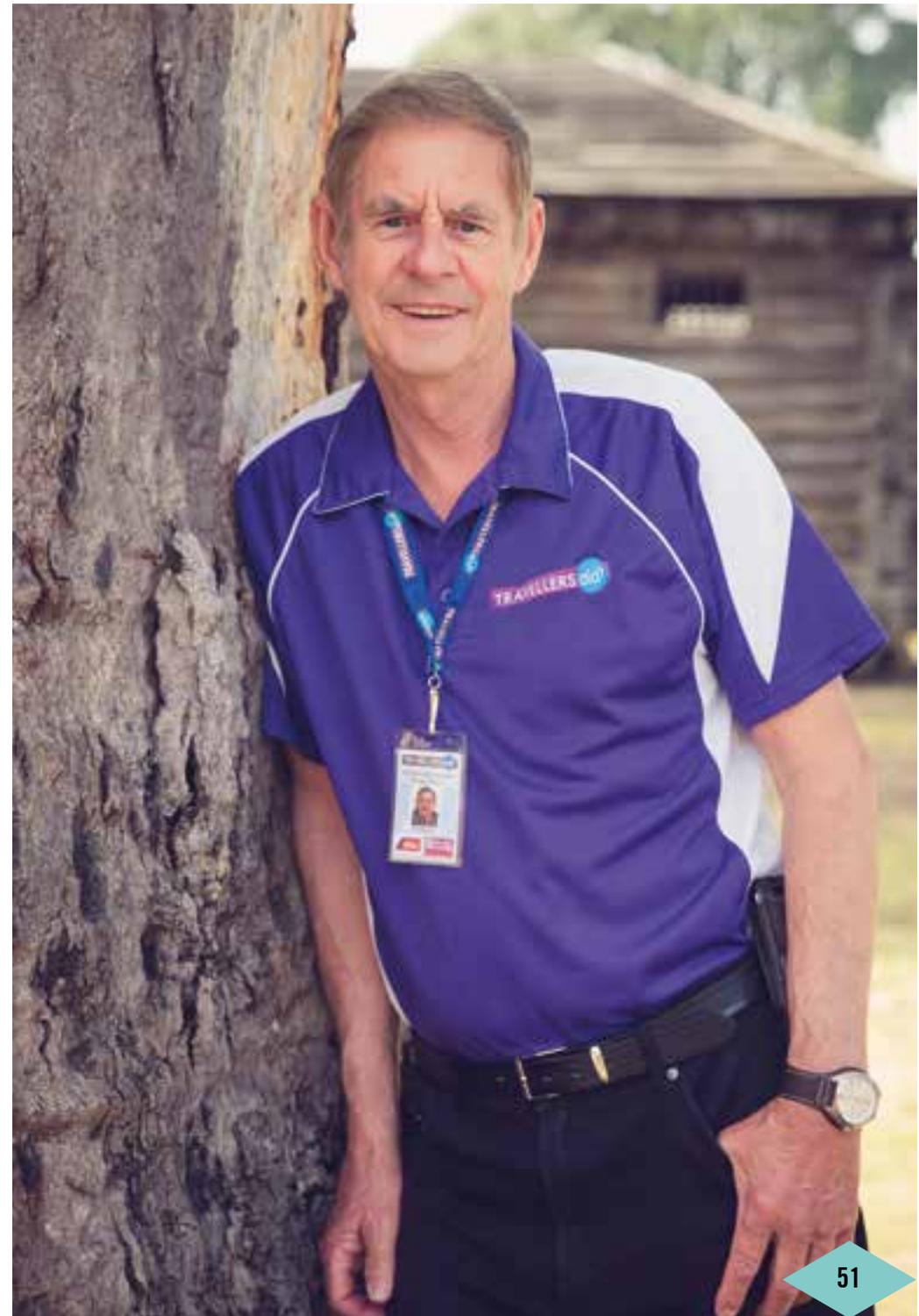
[www.travellersaid.org.au](http://www.travellersaid.org.au)

**Community Accessibility:**

[www.communityaccessability.com.au](http://www.communityaccessability.com.au)  
email: [amseymour@gettingthere.net.au](mailto:amseymour@gettingthere.net.au)  
or phone: (03) 5799 2965

**Senior Citizens:**

Mitchell Shire Council: (03) 5734 6200





## Peter Welsh.

Peter is an active member and volunteer with the Seymour Local Aboriginal Network (LAN). Peter assists in planning and setting up local community events that are organised by the LAN, in partnership with government and other service providers. Peter is also an active member of the LAN Events Committee, and is a great role model for young aboriginal men in our community.

Peter said the thing he likes most about volunteering is “the interaction with other people. It’s very enjoyable, so get out there and do it!”

The Seymour LAN is made up of Aboriginal residents who work together to provide a voice for their community, identify issues, priorities and plan for the future. The Seymour LAN conducts its business under the mantra of ‘run by the community and for the community’. The two main guiding principles to achieve their goals are ‘respect’ and ‘commitment’. Their main goals are to raise the

profile of the Aboriginal community in Seymour and surrounding districts in a positive way; to improve training and education opportunities for Aboriginal people in Seymour and surrounding districts; and to empower local Aboriginal people to aspire to take leadership roles in the community.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in becoming a member, please visit:

**Department of Premier and Cabinet, Local Aboriginal Networks (LANs):**  
[www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/aboriginal-affairs/aboriginal-community-development/local-aboriginal-networks-lans](http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/aboriginal-affairs/aboriginal-community-development/local-aboriginal-networks-lans) or contact the Aboriginal Community Development Broker, Aboriginal Victoria, Department of Premier and Cabinet on (03) 9665 9507.

# Lions Club of Seymour Goulburn.

Lions Clubs are an international service organisation which began in the USA 100 years ago and has spread to over 200 countries, including Australia. The Lions Club of Seymour Goulburn has 34 members to serve Seymour and wider community.

Volunteer services includes delivering Meals on Wheels, driving the Travellers Aid buggy at the railway station, delivering library books to home bound residents, and operating Driver Reviver stops on the Hume Freeway. Volunteers also arrange community events including Carols by Candlelight and the Labour Day Market. All the funds raised from sausage sizzles and community events are returned to the community or Lions projects such as Disaster Relief.

Lions support youth by providing school scholarships and conducting Youth of the Year Quest for young leaders. Lions Eye Health Program and recycling eyeglasses are their

Vision projects and Lions volunteers also give their time at the Pioneer Park Cemetery working bees to support the environment.

Lions believe that where there is a need, there is a Lion. When asked “what do you enjoy about being a Lion?” members replied with “all the friends I have made in Lions” and “being useful and making a difference in my community”.

“As one person, I can do so little, but with a group of Lions, we can do so much more in our community.”

TWO MORE HANDS means more members, which means more support, which means more help for the community. TWO MORE HANDS.

If you are interested in joining **Lions**: visit [www.seymourgoulburn.vic.lions.org.au](http://www.seymourgoulburn.vic.lions.org.au) or email [seymourgoulburn@lionsclubs201v5.org](mailto:seymourgoulburn@lionsclubs201v5.org)





## Carol Smith.

Carol is a valued member of our community and dedicates so much time and effort to make Mitchell a great place to live. Carol is the President of the Lions Club of Seymour Goulburn; the Secretary of the Seymour Volunteer Group of Cancer Council Victoria; a volunteer Peer Educator with the Council for Ageing (COTA), and also volunteers with the St. Vincent De Paul in Seymour; Meals on Wheels; the Library for Housebound; and was the past secretary and Council member with the U3A.

Carol said she began volunteering for the Seymour Volunteer Group of the Cancer Council as she “wanted to do something to reduce the impact of cancer in our community”. The group raises funds for cancer research, prevention and support through National events, such as Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea in May, Daffodil day in August, and Pink Ribbon Day in October, as well as local fundraisers such as the Oaks

Day Luncheon with the Seymour Goulburn Lions Club.

Carol is also involved with the Seymour Relay For Life, which is a team event to raise funds for cancer research; she has been involved since it started in Seymour. Each Relay For Life event is organised by a local volunteer organising committee in partnership with Cancer Council Victoria. Volunteers with Relay For Life gain many benefits and development opportunities, including strengthening your team work and communication skills, practical work experience to strengthen your resume, and a chance to increase your community interaction and social interaction. There are two Relay For Life events in Mitchell Shire: Seymour and Southern Mitchell.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**Cancer Council Victoria:**

[www.cancervic.org.au](http://www.cancervic.org.au) or

email: [volunteer@relayforlife.org.au](mailto:volunteer@relayforlife.org.au)

# Ted Gray.

Ted is a dedicated community member, who gives his time to benefit all. He has been a volunteer with the Trawool CFA Brigade since 2005, is the current Brigade Community safety Delegate, and was awarded the Black Saturday Emergency Medal for his bravery and valued services. Ted has also been a volunteer with the Seymour & District Art Society since 2005, acting as President and committee member. He is a volunteer with the Seymour Old Courthouse Committee since 2009, and a Patron and Committee Chairman for the Relay for Life.

Ted also has his own radio show, and is a volunteer with the Seymour Puckapunyal Community Radio since 2010, also acting in the roles of President, Treasurer and commentator, in which he was awarded two media awards.

Ted was asked what he liked most about his volunteering; he replied:

“It’s the total involvement in the community. It’s a way of being able to support areas that can be involved in by the general community. Honestly, it is the best thing that has ever happened to me! Get off your backside and do it!”

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**Seymour & District Art Society:**  
[www.seymourartsociety.org.au](http://www.seymourartsociety.org.au)

**Seymour FM:**  
[www.seymourfm.com.au](http://www.seymourfm.com.au)  
email: [admin@seymourfm.com.au](mailto:admin@seymourfm.com.au) or  
phone: (03) 5792 1039





## Ron Jessup.

Ron has a special role in our community, and has been church Minister for 34 years. He currently is the Chaplain and Community Support Representative with the Seymour Football and Netball Club, and has been volunteering with them for four years. Ron is available to provide confidential support to players, members and supporters for grief, loss, relationships, personal issues and spiritual matters.

Ron is also a volunteer with Seymour FM Community radio, and has his own radio show. Ron presents two weekly shows, “As A Matter of Interest”, talking about local topics with local people, and the Christian themed program “Faith, Hope and Love”. He believes that it is a great to acknowledge people and personally try and encourage people who serve the community in various ways.

We sat down to ask Ron about his volunteering; he replied:

“I just love helping people. I really want to help people live well. I try and put out positive messages so people can go well and be encouraged in life. I am a strong believer in community and the benefits of working together. I love seeing people respond and make good choices. It really is a good thing to serve others – it’s good to look outside yourself to give to others”.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please visit the website:

**Seymour Football Club:**  
[www.foxsportspulse.com/  
club\\_info.cgi?c=0-6165-80584-0-  
15701531&slD=92241](http://www.foxsportspulse.com/club_info.cgi?c=0-6165-80584-0-15701531&slD=92241)

# Mick Sanderson.

Mick is a long-time volunteer in Mitchell Shire, and is truly an inspirational and honoured community member. Mick has been a volunteer with the Seymour Fire Brigade for 60 years; Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria and District 12 President for 20 years; Committee Member on the Mitchell Shire Council Fire Prevention Committee since 1983; President of the former Hume Highway Fire Brigades Association for 29 years; Area Manager and Life Member for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal; as well as Brigade Delegate on multiple Committees and Associations. Mick has been awarded the National Medal and 2 Bars, and the Victorian Urban Fire Brigades Association Gold Star Award for his many years of service; he is a treasured member of our community.

Being the regional representative for the Good Friday Appeal in Seymour, Mick oversees the fundraising activities, and works closely with local community groups and Fire

Brigades. The Good Friday Appeal is a non-denominational, non-political organisation that exists solely to raise funds for the benefit of The Royal Children's Hospital. The strength of the Good Friday Appeal lies with the thousands of people who volunteer their time, expertise and creativity to organise fundraising activities throughout the year.

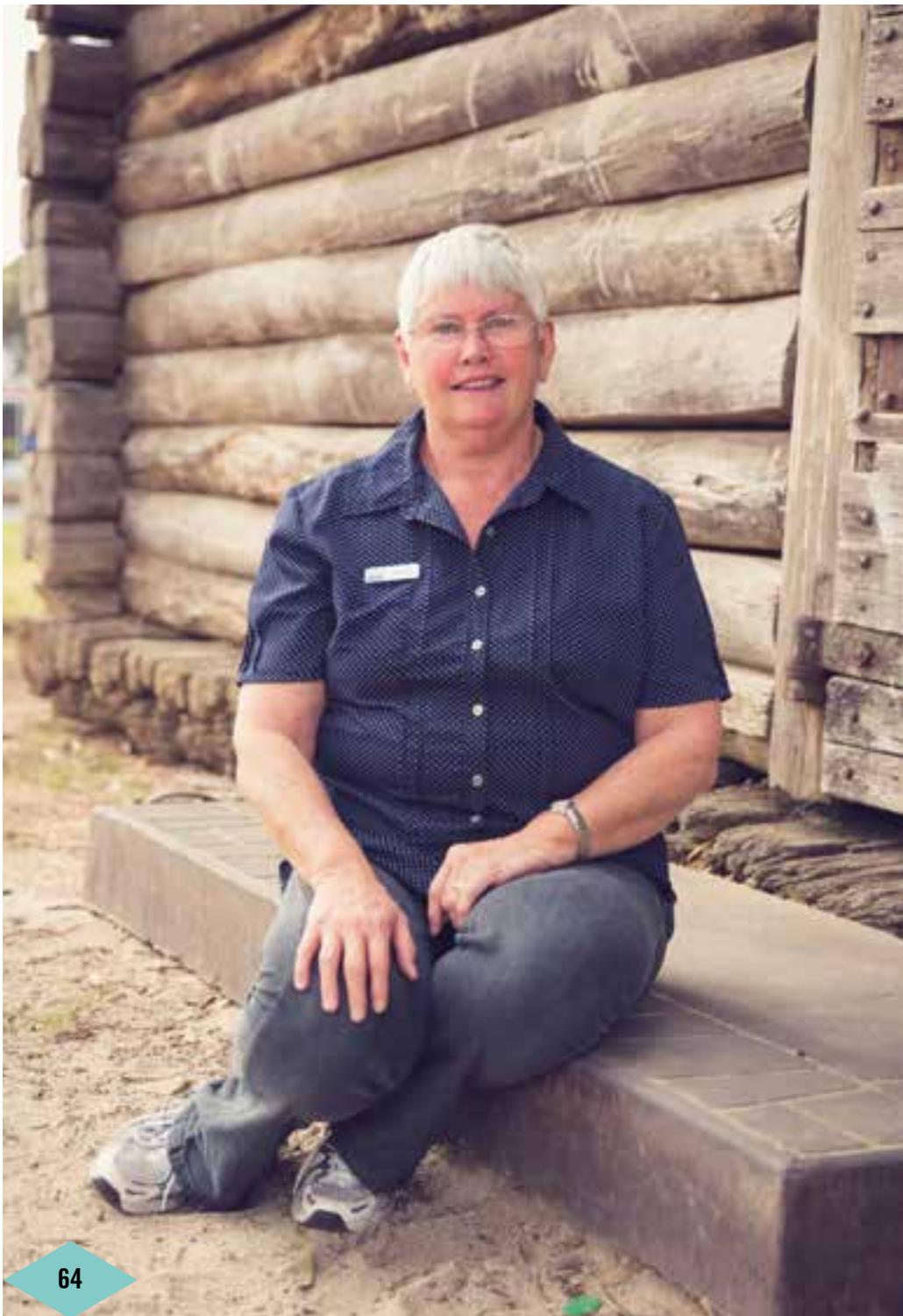
We sat down and spoke to Mick about his volunteering; he replied:

"I needed something to do. All my mates joined the CFA at the same time, so it was good to give back to the community. I encourage people to give it a go – that's life, get into something. There are so many things out there that someone can volunteer in".

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**Good Friday Appeal:**  
goodfridayappeal@heraldsun.com.au,  
phone: (03) 9292 1166 or  
visit: [www.goodfridayappeal.com.au](http://www.goodfridayappeal.com.au)





## Heather Dunn.

Heather has been a volunteer within Mitchell Shire for 15 years, when she started with the Meals on Wheels Program. She has since been a valuable volunteer with Seymour Health's Planned Activity Group (PAG), where she supports the staff to provide meaningful activities for the group. The Seymour Health's PAG provides a social activities program for people aged over 65 years, and younger people with disabilities. The PAG aims to meet the need and interests of older people in a manner that promotes participation and enjoyment. Heather is also a volunteer with the Lions Club of Seymour Goulburn.

Heather said she initially put her hand up to volunteer as she felt like giving back to the community. She likes being helpful and meeting new people. When asked what she would say to others, to encourage them to volunteer, Heather replied:

"Go for it; you get so much out of it. It gives you a whole new life!"

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**Seymour Health:**  
phone: (03) 5793 6100;  
email: [info@seymourhealth.org.au](mailto:info@seymourhealth.org.au) or  
visit: [www.seymourhealth.org.au](http://www.seymourhealth.org.au)

# Alice and Jack Solomon.

Alice has been volunteering in Mitchell Shire for 15 years, and is a volunteer on a number of committees. She is an inspiring community member, and a role model for women and girls in the community. Alice runs a local radio program at the local Seymour FM Community Radio, is a volunteer with the Indigenous Regional Action Group and a Life Member of The Seymour We Want. Alice is also the current Chair of the Seymour Local Aboriginal Network (LAN); she helps with LAN meetings and developing local projects and partnerships with services and local government.

The Indigenous Regional Action Group is an inclusive mechanism for the Victorian Aboriginal community to develop local responses to family violence matters, ensuring they are responsive and culturally relevant to Aboriginal individuals, families and communities in Victoria. They implement community led responses that educate, prevent, respond to and reduce family violence in Aboriginal communities.

When asked why she volunteers, Alice replied:

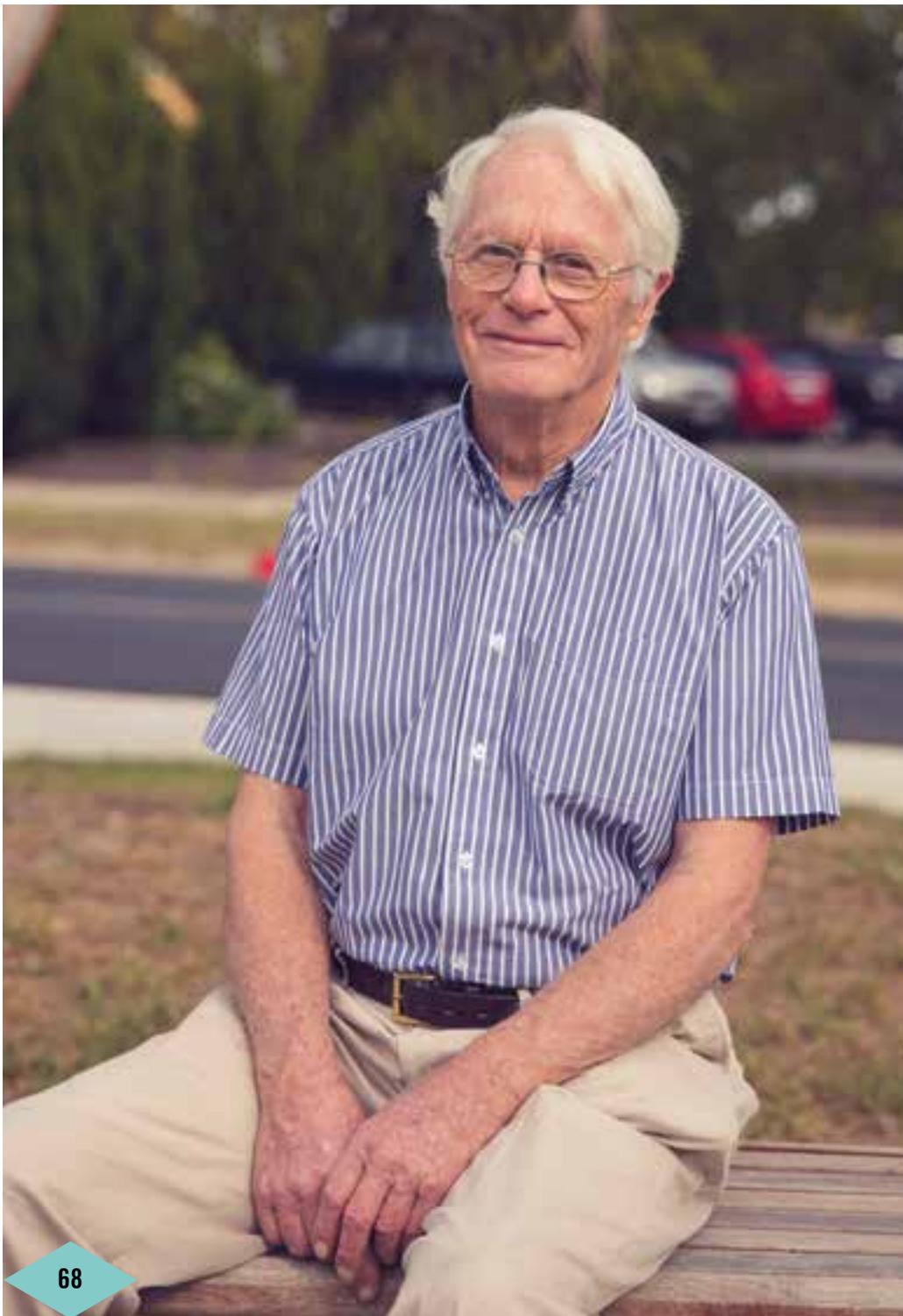
“I have a disability and can’t work, so volunteering is my way of contributing to the community. I feel like I’m making a viable contribution. It makes me feel useful”.

Alice is pictured with her husband Jack, who is also an active and valued member in the community.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in becoming a member, please visit:

**Department of Premier and Cabinet, Local Aboriginal Networks (LANs):**  
[www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/aboriginal-affairs/aboriginal-community-development/local-aboriginal-networks-lans](http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/aboriginal-affairs/aboriginal-community-development/local-aboriginal-networks-lans) or contact the Aboriginal Community development Broker, Aboriginal Victoria, Department of Premier and Cabinet on (03) 9665 9507.





## Jeff Wilmot.

Jeff is working hard to do his bit to make the community great, and our green areas beautiful! He is a passionate and esteemed member of our community, and contributed to the ideas being promoted by Sustainable Seymour.

Jeff has been volunteering with Landcare since 1996, and is the Treasurer of the Dabyminga Catchment Cooperative (DCC). The DCC is the operational group for two Landcare Groups - Reedy Creek Landcare Group and Tallarook Landcare Group. The group is made up of landholders in the Reedy Creek/Dabyminga Creek Catchments, from the forests of Mount Disappointment and the Tallarook Ranges through to the Goulburn River near Tallarook. The Cooperative meets every two months at the Reedy Creek Community Hall. Projects include Paterson's Curse Control, establishment of the Tallarook Arboretum, protection of

Tyaak Flora Reserve, weed removal and revegetation along Reedy Creek, and more.

Jeff was asked about his volunteering; he replied:

"I felt it was something that needed to be done. I want to see the environment improve in general, and I get a lot of satisfaction by getting involved and getting things done, and seeing the place looking better. I love working in the community and being a part of it, and encourage people to find out what your interests are and get involved!"

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please visit:

**Victorian Landcare:**  
[www.landcarevic.net.au](http://www.landcarevic.net.au)

# Peter Oblak.

Peter has been a tireless volunteer in the community, and spends up to seven days a week volunteering his time. Peter began volunteering in the Puckapunyal and Seymour communities in 1988, upon his posting to the Puckapunyal Military Area, and continued upon his discharge from the defence Forces in 1998.

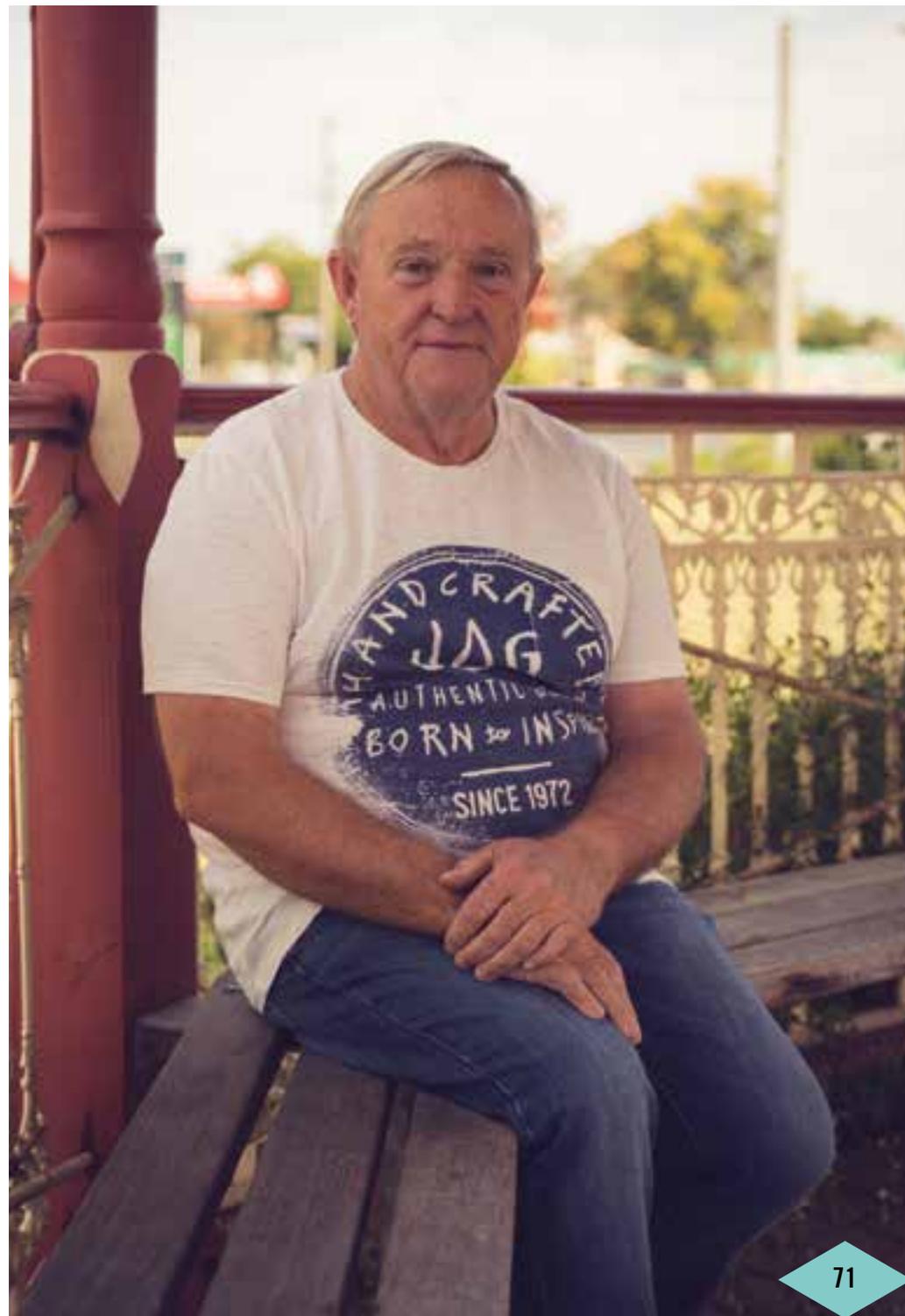
Peter has been a volunteer with multiple groups, including the Seymour and District Cricket Association; Seymour and District Junior Football League; Lions Club of Seymour Goulburn; Kings Park Recreation Reserve Committee of Management; Seymour Little Athletics; Eastern Hill Cricket Club; St. Mary's Junior Football Club; Puckapunyal School Council Committee; Puckapunyal Kindergarten Association; Puckapunyal Scouting Group; Puckapunyal Girl Guides; Puckapunyal AUSKICK Coordinator;

Seymour RDA; Seymour Relay for Life; and is a volunteer Justice of the Peace.

"I love the mateship and seeing the end product, the outcome of what you do. It is good to look back and say 'we did that'. It is great fun. It gives you something to do, you get to meet people and the compliments you get from other people, just makes you feel good" – Peter.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please visit:

**Mitchell Shire Council:**  
[www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/volunteering](http://www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/volunteering)





# Mitchell FReeZA/ Volume Committee.

Mitchell FReeZAVolume is an innovative youth development program providing young people between the ages of 12 and 25 with the opportunity to attend affordable and accessible music and cultural events in a safe, drug and alcohol free environment. Mitchell FReeZAVolume events are organised and delivered by a dedicated team of young volunteers, who represent the Committee.

Pictured are three FReeZAVolume Committee members, Rylee Pabedinskas, Dellareece Matson and Erin Smith.

Rylee has been volunteering with FReeZAVolume for three years, and prior to that, volunteered her time with the Bangers & Thrash Crew. In her time with FReeZA, Rylee has helped to deliver 15 events to young people in the community, and was integral in the successful Colour Dash to support the homeless. Rylee initially got involved as she “loves the opportunities it gives within our community, and it helps with my study in social work and in my career” – Rylee.

Dell has been volunteering for four years, and initially started with the Mitchell Youth Council, Community Liaison Group, Kilmore Quilters and Cyber Tattoo; she has been

volunteering with FReeZA for three years. Dell chose to volunteer as she wanted to do something that would add excitement to our community; she “wanted to help create a more fun environment for young people in the community”. Dell believes that all young people should volunteer, as it will provide them with skills that can be used in the workplace.

Erin has been volunteering her whole life, when she started helping out at the age of four with her local Scout group, and has been volunteering with FReeZA for five years. Erin likes to see the change she can make in the community, and it makes her feel good to see people happy and thankful for what they do.

“Doing something good for others shouldn’t be about money, but something good to do in the community. You have so much fun and meet so many people along the way, and people appreciate it!” – Erin.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact

**Mitchell Youth Services:**  
phone: (03) 5734 6200 or  
email: [youth@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:youth@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au)

# Mitchell Dog Walking Group.

The Mitchell Dog Walking Group was initially set up as a social group for people who had adopted greyhounds, and wanted to get out and meet other like-minded people while enjoying a walk and a chat. As the popularity increased, the group changed its name from Greyt Greys & Friends, to include all dog breeds and their people, and is now known as the Mitchell Dog Walking Group.

Groups of people and their canine companions meet up and connect for walks in Mitchell Shire. Walks are held on the last Sunday of every month (weather permitting), and all are welcome. People and their dogs need to be capable of walking approximately 1.5 hours, and hopefully join the group afterwards for a coffee and a chat.

We sat down with Pam Freemantle, who was instrumental in getting the Mitchell Dog walking Group up and running, to ask her about her volunteering:

“Volunteering is a wonderful way to get to know the local people. It makes you feel good and giving makes you feel better than receiving. You come home feeling better when you volunteer. I encourage people to find their own way; find what you enjoy and just do it”.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in joining, please contact:

**The Mitchell Dog Walking Group:**  
email: [freemantle2u@gmail.com](mailto:freemantle2u@gmail.com)





# Wandong Heathcote Junction Neighbourhood Watch and Community Group.

The Neighbourhood Watch exists to keep the community safer through close liaison between community and local police, education of local children on safety issues, and encouraging local youths to participate in community projects. Neighbourhood Watch also exists to bring people together; it is not always about crime. By definition Neighbourhood Watch is also about watching out for your neighbours and your neighbourhood. The Wandong Heathcote Junction Neighbourhood Watch Facebook page also exists, which is an open interactive forum for idea exchange.

The Community Group has evolved to represent the views of our residents, and to take a lead negotiation role in matters which affect the well-being and aspirations of the community. The WHJCG provides leadership in community development and

involvement. It undertakes projects and tasks that improve our amenities and lifestyle. The WHJCG produces the monthly community newsletter “Whats News” and operates the [www.wandong.vic.au](http://www.wandong.vic.au) website to promote town services and businesses and to disseminate community news and information.

Both groups are completely managed by volunteers, and are always seeking new members. The more volunteers involved, the better informed and safer we are, and the more effectively planned community initiatives and activities can be delivered.

If you are interested in joining, and becoming involved in keeping your community happy and safe, contact:

**Wandong Heathcote Junction Neighbourhood Watch:**  
[wandongnhw@gmail.com](mailto:wandongnhw@gmail.com)

# Bernie Melvaine and Carolyn Atkinson.

Carolyn and Bernie have both contributed significantly to the local community through various volunteer roles. Bernie is a current volunteer with the Kilmore Kookaburra Girl Guides, and has been a Guide leader for 32 years. In addition to the Girl Guides, Bernie also volunteers with the Kilmore and District Adult Riding Club. She was also a founding member of the Kilmore Netball Club, and initially got involved with volunteering because her children, to help out with the clubs and keep them going.

When asked what she liked most about volunteering, Bernie replied:

“The friendships you make; the satisfaction of getting the job done, and knowing that you are helping someone” – Bernie.

Carolyn has been a Guide leader for 29 years, is a State Trainer for Girl Guides, is the Guide representative on the Kilmore Guide/Scout Hall Committee of Management, a member of the Kilmore Historical Society, and the No Lift Special Interest Group Treasurer. In the past, Carolyn volunteered with the Meals on Wheels, and the Kilmore Primary School, and

was a committee member for the caladenia Social Club and Kilmore Toy Library.

Carolyn says volunteering with the Girl Guides is very rewarding. She added:

“Watching the girls grow up from my unit, knowing I’ve taught them life skills and personal development; the rewards are enormous!” – Carolyn.

Girl Guides provides a non-formal education program that engages girls in fun and energetic activities. The program is designed to develop leadership skills and opportunities for girls and young women aged 5 - 17 years. Volunteering with Girl Guides also provides women with an opportunity to give back and share their wealth of experience to girls who will be tomorrow’s leaders; there are currently two Girl Guides groups in Mitchell Shire: Kilmore and Seymour.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**Girl Guides:**

[www.guidesvic.org.au](http://www.guidesvic.org.au)

**Kilmore and District Adult Riding Club:**

[www.kadarc.org](http://www.kadarc.org)





# Victoria State Emergency Service.

The SES serves the community in a wide variety of ways during times of emergency, including flood, storm, tsunami, and earthquake emergencies. SES can be called upon to clear trees from roads, driveways, buildings or fences or provide temporary repair to buildings damaged by storms or strong winds. SES supports other agencies including: aiding Victoria Police with searches, road crashes and lighting; assisting the CFA with staging area management during bushfires; and helping Ambulance Victoria with casualty handling. They have also been requested on occasions to assist other interstate SES organisations during major disasters.

Mitchell Shire is serviced by two units of trained SES volunteers, based in Kilmore and Seymour. Volunteers engage in a range of tasks 'on the ground' at emergency situations as well as those involved 'behind the

scenes'. Members of the SES access extensive training to undertake the tasks they perform and develop leadership, communication and problem solving skills along the way.

The main reason most **SES** volunteers get involved is to support their community. If you feel you would like to get involved with a great bunch of like-minded people and be one of those helping to serve your local community, call 1300 842 737 or visit [www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au)

Pictured are volunteers from the **Kilmore SES Unit**.

# Judy Clark and Rob Eldridge.

Judy and Rob work diligently to improve the state of the environment, and to make Wallan a more environmentally resilient place, of natural beauty with diverse flora and fauna.

Judy has been volunteering in Wallan for seven years, is a member of the Wallan Environment Group, a founding member of Transition Wallan Inc. and convenor of Wallan Home Harvest. Judy is also a community representative on the Wallan and District Community Network, and is currently organising a cabaret on behalf of the Wallan Public Hall Committee. When asked what she liked best about volunteering, Judy replied:

“I am driven by the need to improve our understanding and actions about climate change. I love to meet people and exchange ideas and hear about what people are doing to change to a simpler lifestyle. My special hobby is edible gardening, so Transition Wallan Inc. organised Wallan Home Harvest as a practical action to reduce carbon emissions, get to know my neighbours and generally have a good time together locally” – Judy.

Rob contributes substantially to improving the state of Wallan, and has been volunteering for nine years in Mitchell Shire. He is the President of the Wallan Environment Group; a Committee member for Wallan Home Harvest; a member for Transition Towns; Director for the Merri Creek Committee of Management; and has been a volunteer on multiple advisory committees and action groups.

Rob said he initially started to volunteer because he “always wanted to put back into the community. There was a lack of open passive space in Wallan, so I joined the Wallan Environment Group to try and improve it. I get a satisfaction of making a difference. My kids and grandkids also live in Wallan, so it’s a bit of a legacy too”.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**Wallan Home Harvest:**  
[www.wallanhomeharvest.org.au](http://www.wallanhomeharvest.org.au)

**Wallan Environment Group:**  
[WEG@gmail.com](mailto:WEG@gmail.com)



# David James.

David was a foundation member of Friends of Wallan Creek (now Wallan Environment Group) and has acted in the role of treasurer since its inception; he has been a valued volunteer in Mitchell Shire for almost 16 years. David is the Treasurer of the Wallan Scouts and has been a driving force behind the establishment and ongoing growth and success of the Wallan Market. He also established the Wallan Swap Meet. Both of these events are major tourist attractions for Wallan. David is also the treasurer on several other committees, and is an outstanding role model for our community.

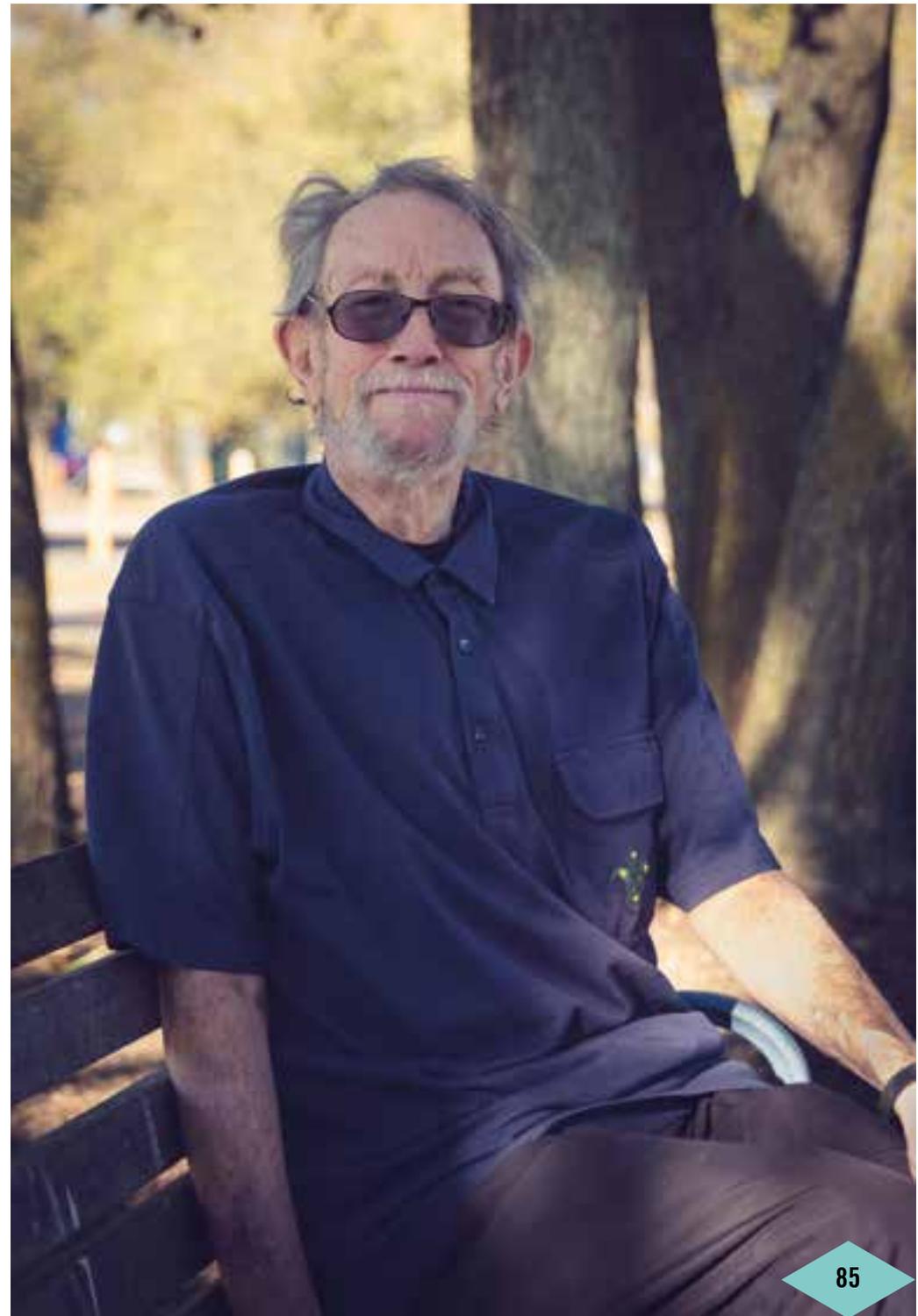
David said he gets a sense of satisfaction from his volunteering. He enjoys “making good friends and working with people who are good putter-inners. If you have the time, it is satisfying to get involved. You don't have to do a lot, but it is pleasant to go down and help”.

Scouts is a worldwide movement that has shaped the development of youth and adults for 100 years. People from wide cultural or religious background including those with an intellectual or physical disability enjoy an unlimited range of activities. Scouting encourages the physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual development of young people so they may play a constructive role in society as responsible citizens and as members of their local and international communities. This aim is achieved through a strong and active program that inspires young people to do their best and to always be prepared.

If you want to find out more, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

**Wallan Scouts:**

[www.wallanscouts.com.au](http://www.wallanscouts.com.au)



# More information.

**For more information about volunteering in Mitchell Shire, visit:**

[www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/volunteering](http://www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/volunteering) or phone (03) 5734 6200 and ask to speak to the Community Development Officer.

For more information about volunteering, visit the following websites:

**Department of Health and Human Services:** [www.volunteer.vic.gov.au](http://www.volunteer.vic.gov.au)

**Volunteering Australia:** [www.volunteeringaustralia.org](http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org)

**Volunteering Victoria:** [www.volunteeringvictoria.org.au](http://www.volunteeringvictoria.org.au)

**Go Volunteer:** [www.govolunteer.com.au](http://www.govolunteer.com.au)

**Indigenous Community Volunteers:** [www.icv.com.au](http://www.icv.com.au)

**Australian Volunteers International:** [www.australianvolunteers.com.au](http://www.australianvolunteers.com.au)

Mitchell Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodial Owners of the land on which we work and live, and pay respect to Traditional elders, both past and present.

# Contacting Council.

Telephone: (03) 5734 6200

Fax: (03) 5734 6222

Email: [mitchell@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:mitchell@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au)

**National Relay Service:**

TTY users phone 133 677 then ask for (03) 5734 6200

Speak and Listen users phone 1300 555 727 then ask for (03) 5734 6200

Telephone Interpreter Service: 131 450

**Service Centres**

**Broadford Customer and Library Service Centre**

113 High Street, Broadford, Victoria 3658

**Kilmore Customer and Library Service Centre**

12 Sydney Street, Kilmore, Victoria 3764

**Seymour Customer and Library Service Centre**

125 Anzac Avenue, Seymour, Victoria 3660

**Wallan Customer and Library Service Centre**

Wellington Square, 12/81 High Street, Wallan, Victoria 3756

*“Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it. Because what the world needs, is people who have come alive” – Howard Thurman.*

