

Media Release

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For immediate release

Uniting AgeWell thanks its army of volunteers during National Volunteer Week

Over 600 dedicated volunteers will be recognised and celebrated through a series of luncheons, barbeques, dancing and high teas across Uniting AgeWell this **National Volunteer Week 9-15 May**.

From assisting with leisure and lifestyle activities to transporting residents, helping in the garden or even administration, volunteers play an integral role at Uniting AgeWell, making a positive difference to the lives of the people it supports.

Like 94-year-old Geelong resident Irene Herviou, who celebrates 25 years of volunteering with the Uniting AgeWell Kalkee Community this year.

Irene has given her time and skills to a number of programs, including pastoral care and assisting in the Kalkee Op Shop.

Or John Pittman, who will receive a Volunteer Recognition Award from Launceston City Council on Tuesday, May 10.

“I really enjoy helping others and knowing the difference I can make in the residents’ lives through simple activities such as organising footy tipping, Melbourne Cup sweeps, bingos and lawn bowls,” John said.

“The residents also really appreciate assistance with everyday tasks such as helping them out with their smartphones, changing their watch batteries and holding simple conversations.”

Uniting AgeWell Strathdon Community Lifestyle Coordinator Matt Daley says each volunteer has strengths and passions they can bring to enhance the lives and wellbeing of Uniting AgeWell clients.

“Volunteers give us the opportunity to enhance the range of activities we can offer our clients”, he said.

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Uniting AgeWell is an organisation of the Uniting Church in Australia

“Our volunteers’ life experiences all differ, therefore the opportunities are huge.

“They come from all backgrounds and age groups, and assist in a variety of ways, with many going above and beyond their expectations.

“They range from primary and secondary school students to retirees looking to give back to the community.

“We also facilitate intergenerational programs with local schools, giving students the opportunity to understand older people with many students developing strong bonds with our residents.”

Volunteers across Uniting AgeWell will be recognised over the week with a certificate of appreciation at their respective communities.

To become a volunteer and make a difference to the lives of Uniting AgeWell seniors, visit <http://www.unitingagewell.org/pages/Volunteering.aspx> or email volunteers@unitingagewell.org.

Photograph and interview opportunities are available.

Please contact Communications and Social Media Advisor John Le on: 0417 647 000, or email JLe@unitingagewell.org

About Uniting AgeWell

Uniting AgeWell is an organisation of the Uniting Church in Australia with a long tradition of providing quality aged care services for older Australians. With services available throughout metropolitan and regional Victoria and Tasmania, Uniting AgeWell offers a range of specialised options to support health and wellbeing include independent and assisted living, home care, social support and therapy programs, respite and residential care communities. For further information visit www.unitingagewell.org