

Media Release

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For immediate release

Uniting AgeWell volunteer to receive Volunteer Recognition Award this National Volunteers Week

Uniting AgeWell volunteer, John Pittman, will be recognised at the Launceston City Council's Volunteer Recognition Awards during National Volunteers Week, May 9-15.

Lifestyle Coordinator Karen Robinson says the beauty of volunteering in a senior services organisation is everyone can bring their personal talent and passion and fit in no matter what their capacity.

"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," she said.

"Volunteers are our unsung heroes. Many such as John go above and beyond the role expectations, contributing to and enhancing the wellbeing of our residents."

John Pittman started volunteering at Aldersgate Kings Meadows in 2002 because he wanted to give back to the community in his retirement.

He now volunteers around 15 hours a week and has committed over 1,500 hours assisting residents and their activity programs in 2015.

He will be presented with the Volunteer Recognition Award for Hours of Service – Individual Volunteer at the **Launceston Town Hall 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," he 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."

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Uniting AgeWell is an organisation of the Uniting Church in Australia

Beth Madden, who has been managing and maintaining the Aldersgate Kings Meadows garden for the past four years, says volunteering is a privilege.

“I’ve seen the garden develop into a sanctuary used for BBQs, lunches and a quiet place for reflection,” she said.

“I really enjoy interacting with residents, being able to suggest activities for them and just providing friendship.

“It is a privilege to be a volunteer at Uniting AgeWell and be entrusted with the residents.”

Volunteers from Uniting AgeWell’s Kings Meadows and Aldersgate Village Newnham sites will be recognised and presented with a certificate of appreciation at a special Volunteers luncheon on Thursday, May 19.

Media are invited to attend the event:

Thursday, May 19, 12pm-1pm

Uniting AgeWell Kings Meadows

12-22 Hobart Rd Kings Meadows

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