



34 SYNOD 2019

Moderators Community Service Medals 2019

Each of the individuals awarded have notably demonstrated outstanding contributions to enriching the lives of local Queensland communities. The recipients for the 2019 Moderators Community Service Medal are as follows:

Robyn Carmichael

Nominated by: Calvin Hanton on behalf of the entire congregation of Ashgrove West Uniting Church (member of Ashgrove West Uniting Church)

Robyn has completed more than 35 years of volunteering including 12 for Love Wraps/Yarn Friendship Group. She has also volunteered for Blue Care and Frontier services. For the past 10 years Robyn has been the leader of the Yarn Friendship Group aka Love Wraps Group based at Ashgrove West Uniting Church. This is group of 25+ women in the plus 50 age group who knit squares which are then transformed into 288 piece colourful woollen blankets. This group makes approx. 300 blankets and 100+ beanies all of which are distributed through the neediest members of the Australian and overseas community. These Blankets were sent to the people of St George and Charleville community after the 2010 floods, to Victoria after the Bushfires in several events, they are distributed to many who work with street People and homeless throughout Brisbane and in country areas etc. This is only a small snapshot of what happens with these woollen garments. Robyn is the driving and caring force to ensure all orders are fulfilled as soon as a need arises anywhere and organizes the delivery and distribution through her private army of other volunteers. Every Blanket is signed with the words "Knitted with Love for You". Robyn is a very active member of our church at West Ashgrove. As well as her work with Love Wraps, Robyn also organises up to 4 bus trips a years for the elderly in the community to go to craft events, lovely days out to scenic locations and just so all participating can have time together instead of being "Home Alone".

David Seeto

Nominated by: Cathy Cash, Volunteer Services Manager at St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital.

David was a founding member of the cardiac peer support program at SAWMH (known as the Patient 4 Patient program) in 1995 and has served as a regular weekly volunteer ever since that time. He is also a life member of the Cathay Community Association which focuses on providing services for the aged in the Chinese community in Brisbane. He has volunteered for 24 Years. The Patient 4 Patient program at St Andrew's consists of a small group of volunteers who have experienced significant heart disease and had major surgery in the past. Following their successful recovery and adherence to a healthy lifestyle they are able to provide a unique peer support perspective. By visiting inpatients both pre or post-surgery their input provides an important source of psychosocial and motivational support to the cardiac patient in the early stages of convalescence. In his capacity as a founding member of the Patient 4 Patient group at St Andrew's, David has willingly mentored new volunteers over the years, supporting them with wisdom, patience and kindness. Feedback from patients has been consistently positive, speaking of a man who has a kind, pleasant and professional manner and who listens and shares with compassion and without judgement. An important part of the cardiac peer support role is to encourage patients to follow their post- discharge exercise program in order to give the best possible long term health outcome following their surgery. David has always led by example, with an unwavering commitment to his own cardiac health through regular attendance at the cardiac rehab gym at St Andrew's in earlier days and then at the Wesley. David has been a quiet achiever and a great role model as a volunteer. He is humble, genuine and honest and even on days when there may only be one patient to see, he believes that his visit to the hospital has been worthwhile.

Craig & Julianne Ashton

Nominated by: Caroline (Caz) Whiting

Craig and Julianne have volunteered for the past four years with Pilgrim and have volunteered at Stanthorpe for a few years as well. Julianne and Craig Ashton have been with us at Pilgrim Aged Care for nearly four years. Julianne and Craig (husband and Wife) are loved dearly by the residents and Staff alike. Julianne and Craig assist

with activities two days a week. It is hard to put into words just how valuable they are to us and the residents. They come in each day with smiles and cheer, instantly the feel of the Facility changes, the love and support they offer the residents and Staff is invaluable. Julianne and Craig have their own "Master Chef" activity in which they re-create the recipes of the residents of times gone by, the residents assist with the cooking and of course the sampling as well. This activity gives the residents a feeling of home which is what we strive to achieve each day. The other activities that Julianne and Craig are involved in are one's that if not for their presence we would not be able to offer, Craig assists in battling isolation that some Male residents feel when they move in by creating an opportunity for the men to engage with each other in a game of cards, a Friday afternoon beer and chat and has been such a success. Julianne and Craig are always there for an ear when things are hard and support the residents and their families in times of need. Nothing is too much trouble for these two; they give their all each and every time. When we have events they are always there from start to finish, often staying back late or helping on a day where they are not normally there. They go with any changes that happen with grace and make each day for the residents amazing. Julianne and Craig are special people that have given their time, heart and passion tirelessly and I would love to see them recognised for just how special they are to us, the Residents would be over the moon if they received this award. Julianne and Craig are what UnitingCare would love all staff and Volunteers to be, they have given their time, heart, passion and love for Blue Care each time they are there. They live for the residents and the smiles are their reward. Without these two beautiful souls the resident's lives would not be as rich and full as they are now.

Bev Currie

Nominated by: Jeff Grant (pastor at Sarina Uniting Church from 2015 to now)

Bev has volunteered for 30 years as a Lifeline Telephone Counsellor in Mackay - from 1980 to 2010. Please describe the ways in which the nominee's volunteer work truly reflects UnitingCare Queensland's mission statement: Bringing life in all its fullness through improving the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities as we: Reach out to people in need; speak out for fairness and justice; Care with compassion, innovation and wisdom. Bev is all of the above. She is also a religious Instructor Koumala State School 1980 – 2001 Uniting Church Fellowship Association, Mackay Secretary 18 years, 2000 – 2018 CQ Presbytery delegate continuously 1977 – present ACW, Australian Church Women Secretary Mackay 1983 – 2018 – 35 years.

Bev Taylor

Nominated by: Trevor Marett, chair of the Church Council at Beenleigh Region Uniting Church.

(Trevor also coordinates the Community Support Centre of Ministry, the Pastoral Care Support Team, facilitates the Long Term Planning Group and the 150 year celebration working group. He works in the gardens and preaches once in a while. He also supports Beth Nicholls and the team on the Presbytery Mission Development reference group). Bev has been the Coordinator of our Emergency Relief ministry which sits under the Community Support Centre of Ministry. We partner with WMQ in this activity. She has been doing this since April 2013. Bev lives out the BRUC mission to "Bring people to fullness of life in Christ" and our values to be "Alive in Christ", "Reach out in love" and "Make disciples". These fit well with the Uniting Care Queensland Mission statement: Bringing life in all its fullness through improving the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities as we: Reach out to people in need; speak out for fairness and justice; Care with compassion, innovation and wisdom. Specifically, Bev has: 1: trained and facilitated a skilled group of volunteers to ensure a quality service can be provided on behalf of BRUC and other stakeholders for the benefit of the community. 2: engaged compassionately with community members (clients) doing it tough and who face and sometimes present many challenges. 3: worked collaboratively with the BRUC Office Manager, the Community Support Centre of Ministry Coordinator and Church Council to ensure the church is adequately informed about the implementation of the ER Program. 4: restructured administrative processes around record keeping ensuring effective data collection and accountabilities. 5: partnered with Wesley Mission Queensland to successfully deliver both State and Commonwealth Emergency Relief Funds to marginalised people in the Community. This included the adoption of new government data, information, and evaluations tools and systems. 6: initiated additional activities and services which enable BRUC to better "Reach Out In Love". Bev has:

- i) Developed a program to collect pre-loved clothing which is made available to those in need.
- ii) Instituted a system to collect and distribute food and hygiene packs.
- iii) Facilitated a pre-Christmas Hamper Day at which around 25 clients receive gifts of extra food and children's gifts at an activities/BBQ day.
- iv) Built connections with Centrelink, Wesley Mission and other agencies to establish a referral base for those who need extra support.

At the end of 2012 Church Council had concerns about the ongoing viability of conducting an ER program

because our coordinator had need to leave and we had few volunteers. A review was facilitated and a call to the congregation was made. Along with a number of people Bev came forward and ultimately agreed to coordinate the BRUC ER program. All up 14 people engaged in our training and although some were not in a position to volunteer regularly a strong group has remained and Bev's role in building and maintaining that team, since April 2013, has been vital.

Betty Perrin

Nominated by: Joyce Rieck, member of the Rosewood Uniting Church, secretary of the Church Council and Treasurer of the Adult Fellowship.

Betty has volunteered for 50 years including at Goodwill Op Shop organised by Rosewood Uniting Church, with funds going towards Rosewood Community Centre, SU for School Chaplaincy, and Rosewood Uniting Church. Betty is now 91 years of age, but she refuses to let her age slow her down. Also Betty is the only original Rosewood Meals on Wheels volunteer who is still volunteering for Meals on Wheels. She started cooking meals in her own home once a month in 1969 and continued until Cabanda (the local nursing home) took over cooking the meals in 1987. Since then she has been helping to deliver meals once a month. Betty has been the provider of the Rosewood Pensioners League for the past 14 years. This involves preparing morning tea for 40 - 50 each month and cooking a meal for 70 - 80, six to ten times a year. Betty is on duty at Goodwill every Friday and has been for the past 10 years. The Goodwill volunteer is often faced with real needs. Betty provides a sympathetic, listening ear for people with problems as well as looking to their practical needs. Betty is known as a person who recognises a need and then moves to do something to meet that need. Betty is an unassuming, hands-on type of person. I remember, many years ago when my children were small. I was sick in bed and because I missed a meeting, she came to my house and said, "I may not have many talents, but I can work", and she took over running the household until I was well again. Betty is humble and just gets on with doing whatever she senses needs doing at the time. And she has been like that all her life.

Marlene Burgess

Nominated by: Carla Maas

Marlene works at the Blue Care Thrift Shop as a trusted and valued volunteer. Prior to retiring, she worked in many rolls with Blue Care, finishing her career as the Thrift Shop Co-Ordinator. After retiring, she has been volunteering for over 7 years. Marlene greets every customer with friendly banter, often making those having a bad day leave with a laugh. She is a valued member of our volunteer team and can always be relied upon to fill in for myself (the current Thrift Shop Co-Ordinator) as needed for holidays, sick days and the like. I know the shop is in excellent hands when Marlene is running the shop. Marlene has worked for Blue Care for many years. Her roles have included everything from Cook to Carer, Administrator to Thrift Shop Co-ordinator. Even after retiring from Blue Care, she has dedicated a further 7 years to Blue Care through her volunteer work at the Blue Care Thrift Shop in Malanda.

Bev Lacey

Nominated by: Rev. James Stevenson, minister in the Maroochydore Uniting Church and Bev's minister for the past 6 years. He also provides pastoral care to Lifeline Counselling Centres and I am proud to support Bev in all she is doing.

Bev has been providing volunteering chaplaincy and pastoral care to the Lifeline community at Maroochydore and the Kunda Park Distribution Centre in particular for over 18 years. Rising from an initiative of the Maroochydore Uniting Church Bev has faithfully and lovingly visited each week around morning tea to meet, support and care for the staff and volunteers. Along with her care she brings her famous pikelets which has now become a welcome and encouraging tradition. Bev calls it her "food for the stomach" that cares for the soul. Over the time Bev has developed a mutual love and trust and rapport that has emerged into true Christian friendship. Bev continues to express this ministry even with the recent passing of her husband Graham, who, together, were lovingly respected in this work too. Bev also attended the shop managers meetings, offering prayer and devotions. Bev is deeply loved and respected by all and this was demonstrated by the love and care and empathy shown to her as Graham's passing. Bev is truly a worthy nomination for the Moderator's Community Service Medal. In her presence among the staff, the sorters and other volunteers Bev will listen, encourage and share deep empathy as needed. In caring for the concerns of their lives, Bev offers wise counsel and loyal support. She has been involved in the Lifeline Bookfest, awareness campaigns for the issues Lifeline advocates for. Bev, whether by her

energetic personal presence or by the presence of the pancakes has established a deep tradition of care and concern for the people of the Kunda Park Distribution Centre. Apart from this commitment to the Uniting Care Community, Bev is an elder, RI Teacher and coordinator, and passionately involved in many other groups and people in the community. Her faith and her love and desire to share this good news of the life of Jesus in real terms is integrated in her being and witness.

June Rice

Nominated by: Melanie Wheeley, minister of Moggill Uniting Church.

40 years of service to the Moggill Uniting Church Community Centre. June has led this ministry for 40 years, pastorally cares for her leaders and attendees; a space of care and connection for approx. 100 people on a weekly basis, most of whom are seniors in our community. June also visits each member when they are sick/in hospital (for over 50's that is a lot!). The Moggill Uniting Church Community Centre supports many community programs including the Ipswich Women's Refuge; McIntyre Centre. Their groups create quilts for kids and Women at risk; beanies for stillborn babies at the Royal Brisbane Hospital and much more...the facilitation of this whole ministry has largely been carried forward by June.

Irene Batzloff

Nominated by: Wendy Williams, elder at St Stephens Uniting Church Toowoomba. Wendy has known Irene for 22 years.

Irene has volunteered for all her life, most noticeably as hospital chaplain for over 20 (just retired). She has also volunteered for St Stephens Meals on Wheels, Hosted international students and been a Caledonian Society Chieftain. Irene exemplifies all the qualities described. She is a highly respected member of the wider Toowoomba community and seen by all to live out her faith through her acts and love for all. Irene is a blessing to her community. She is always willing to "give a hand" if she is capable of doing it. She has been an Elder at St. Stephens for over 20 years and been involved in SCOPE a women's service club that support youth. Irene also volunteers as a Friend of the Empire Theatre and has made many costumes for all sorts of occasions. Irene was Secretary for the Caledonian Society for 12 years and then last year was given the honour of becoming Chieftain. For all the years she worked as a teacher she would give of her time each holiday to volunteer for St Stephens Meals on Wheels. I am sure there are many other ways she has volunteered over her life but she was not able to reveal all when I interviewed her. She is worthy of this medal.

Jan Bayton

Nominated by: Christine Schulz, Pine Rivers Uniting Church.

Jan has volunteered for at least 20 years for the Emergency Relief Network Pine Rivers.

- Providing food and household goods to families in need
- Working with other groups in the community to coordinate food, household goods and Christmas Hampers.
- Organising and training volunteers and Work for the Dole people to work with compassion and care to distribute food and household goods.
- Developing caring relationships with families in long term need.
- Assisting two homeless people to be involved in this work thus building their own skills and self-esteem.
- Involving the congregation in a variety of roles to support the needs of the families e.g. one woman woks all year to gather gifts and prepare them for the Christmashampers.

Jan has worked tirelessly to develop and maintain this service, even when she was nursing her blind mother before her death. She has been steadfast in her efforts to gather funds, food and other goods to help the ever increasing numbers of families.

Bau Earle

Nominated by: Gary Pember, Volunteer Manager at The Wesley Hospital.

As a member of the Wesley Auxiliary for many years, including President, Bau has made a significant contribution to the health and wellbeing of patients through her support of fundraising efforts and purchase of much needed medical equipment. Bau EARLE - As we all know, our childhood has a strong influence in shaping

the person we are today. In Bau's case, she was the second of three daughters born to Reverend Norman and Mabel Deller during their 15 years of missionary work in Fiji from 1921 to 1936. Through her parents' example of faith, commitment and service, Bau has followed a similar journey of giving to others in good times and in bad. Bau's connection to The Wesley Hospital goes back five decades following the passing of her 14 year old daughter, Robyn. Sadly, Robyn was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 1965. The legacy of the young girl's generous spirit lives on through Bau who became involved with the St Helen's Hospital Auxiliary three years later. From 1975, during the construction stage of The Wesley Hospital, Bau joined the Wesley Auxiliary. When the Wesley opened its doors in 1977, Bau's first role was flower convener. This involved the coordination and scheduling of 60 volunteers responsible for attending to patients' flowers. In 1984, the mother of five took over The Wesley Hospital Auxiliary presidency from her predecessor, Lady Mary Thomson. This was followed by membership of the Hospital Board in 1985. Bau's presidency came at a time when the hospital was going through a period of change and innovation, including the establishment of the day surgery unit and emergency centre. As President, Bau was instrumental in providing leadership and guidance to Auxiliary members. Through her encouragement and motivation, the Auxiliary held numerous events and fundraising activities resulting in significant donations to the hospital for the purchase of life-saving equipment. Although having stepped back from leadership roles, Bau remains an active member of the Auxiliary. Her commitment and dedication to The Wesley Hospital have been unwavering for over 40 years and culminated in The Wesley Hospital's Volunteer of the Year Award in 2016. She is truly an example to us all and is a worthy recipient of this year's Moderator's Medal. There is no doubt that if Robyn was here with us today, she would be very proud of her mother.