



One of the joys in working with 4CRB is to occasionally speak about ordinary Australians who do a super ordinary job. In between all the social chaos and confusion it's always humbling to communicate with these people. These are the volunteers or unsung heroes of Australian society that literally hold this nation together with their good works. It never ceases to amaze me how humble they are and often avoid publicity or being thanked publicly. Here at the radio station there are many wonderful volunteers too and over time I meet so many good folk who give of their time to help a good cause. Now it's my opportunity and privilege to highlight some marvellous volunteers which you will find uplifting.

Thanks to my friends at Volunteering Gold Coast here are a few saints. First up is **Mark Tierney** who for the past thirty years has been running his own business and volunteering his spare time to numerous projects. He believes volunteering up lifts society and has been a part of many projects including the planting of 6590 trees with 200 other volunteers in just 6 hours. Mark says in the case of the Nerang Riverkeepers, we believe in an old Greek proverb "a society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know, they will never sit in". Now, Legacy was founded in 1923 to care for war widows. A noble movement quietly supporting families and yet not a dollar of government funding. **Peter Hodgson** volunteers with Legacy at Coolangatta/Tweed Heads which looks after the needs of 900 war widows and their families. **Pat Anderson** has been with Volunteering Gold Coast in administration for around 10 years. Pat has worked tirelessly and at times alone except for her pet dog Abby. The early days were often challenging with few resources and much to do. Pat, like so many others just knuckled down and got the job done and is now a life member of the organisation.

Tony Munro helps students as a volunteer with reading and literature at the Broadbeach State School. Every week he often walks the 3 kilometres to the school and patiently helps students. Tony not only encourages children to enjoy reading, he loves sharing his childhood experiences and his tales involve cherished story-telling where students learn real history from a real person with fascinating stories from the past. Did I mention Tony is 87 years young.

Assisting disadvantaged Gold Coast children reach their full potential through education is an important cause to **Linda Walk**. Linda is an active member of The Smith Family VIEW club, which focuses on the empowerment of women and education of children to improve the future wellbeing of Australian society. For the past 11 years widower **John Hyman** has dedicated his time as a volunteer Council Cab Service driver. He helps elderly people do their shopping and enjoy a little socialising as well. No stranger to lending a hand John previously volunteered at early morning nipper training on the weekends and hosted exchange students.

The all important RSPCA is dedicated to helping all creatures great and small, a matter close to my heart. The RSPCA is self supporting and relies on 200 volunteers around the Gold Coast who give over 43,000 hours a year to the cause. Their Op Shops are a very important way of raising the funds needed to operate and **Marie-Claire Staddon** volunteers over 3 days a week at the Robina op shop. Marie-Claire is a French lady from Mauritius and has taken on ownership of three rescue dogs while **Irene Fleischmann** has been helping for 12 years in the West Burleigh RSPCA op shop and in the office and turns 80 shortly and is dedicated to helping all wildlife through her many hours as a volunteer. Its people like Irene and Marie-Claire who are the back bone of Australian society. **Annette Reagan** also with the RSPCA is a foster carer looking after dogs at night so the pups are not left alone. Annette helps with the transition to the homes of wonderful people who take the lost or unwanted animals as well as helping with fund raising.

Last for today but hardly least is **Rowley Goonan** who specialises in sea bird rescue. It's an unusual niche but an essential one and yet most of us would never know of his work. From swans to sea gulls and gannets Rowley is on the job as a volunteer and friend to all. What a blessing.

These are just some of the unsung heroes around the Gold Coast and afar as I'm concerned represent the very best in human society. These and thousands of others work quietly yet their work and dedication is unparalleled and priceless. Our combined thanks from all at 4CRB for your work.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley