

We The People
Program 320 November 19, 2018
We the People 320 Amy's Army



Good day to you. I meet many wonderful people as I research stories for my program, We The People. They are from all walks of life with different back grounds and if you listen carefully they all have fascinating unique and uplifting stories. The old radio programme called **The Passing Parade** comes to mind and the people I meet are part of that passing parade in life. One particular listener who's been communicating with me for a long time now is Amy Glade from Capalaba in Brisbane who has been a dedicated 4CRB devotee for years. Amy's story is of a credible caring woman trying to make sense of life and find her place in the journey and really, isn't that what we're all trying to accomplish. Let me tell you a little about Amy Glade.

Born in 1930 at the Bundaberg base hospital in Queensland, Amy shared her home town with Bert Hinkler, one of Australia's pioneers of flight. Hinkler died when his plane crashed in Italy in 1933 and a lot can happen in 88 years since those days and it has. Amy Glade is in one sense is an ordinary Australian and extraordinary in another because of her voluntary work with the community and nature and our precious unique Australian wild life. Amy is one of the many people who live outside the Gold Coast but can pick up the fortuitous signal of 4CRB and that adds to the growing number of wireless devotees in Brisbane and south into the Tweed. She lives at Capalaba and that has been her epicentre for some time, volunteering and working in the community, planting shade trees in parks for children and elsewhere as food trees for Koalas. There have been many battles with the Redland City Council about preserving the very things that bring quality of life to people while it appears the Council has been intent on destroying the area with endless land clearing and allowing concrete to spread like some rampant disease or wild fire, just like the Gold Coast. Amy has assisted many folk in retirement such as organising local choirs and providing company to lonely folk. Loneliness is the worst of social afflictions and especially so as we age. Amy tells me with **octogenarian determination** that she has never turned away anyone in need of help and this is what makes her unique because not many of us can claim that.

I like Amy because she also inspires others to do what they can for the community and nature and in this she is a **field marshal** with her own army taking others to the front line with her. Some fail, some succeed and sometimes the Field Marshal literally sheds a tear when the Redland Council or government makes another poor decision and people and animals suffer. I think it's **Amy's Army** which impresses me the most because she harnesses the humble power of the people in her own way and knows exactly what every battle is about. However on December 28 this year Amy officially turns 88 and the snowy headed, battle weary field marshal will formally retire from service but not from life. She does so simply because age has wearied her and there comes a time to cease fire and for her this will be it and the Redland area will bear the loss. One of her most treasured commendations was received in 1995 from the first mayor of Redland Shire which reads **"for your personal contribution in preserving and enhancing the Redland environment"**. At 88 Amy Glade stands tall and straight and is still ready to inspire others to do their bit in society. Now I know there are many in the community who give their all but there is a special place in my heart for the indomitable Amy Glade of Capalaba as she is living proof of the words of Winston Churchill.....Never, never, never give up.

Until next time this Kent Bayley