

We The People
Program 21
Unsung Heroes



In Australia we have a marvellous no-nonsense phenomena occurring which is entrenched in our Australian psyche and I think has its genesis in the ANZAC tradition. Call it mateship or call it the Aussie spirit, it's all about giving and helping others especially when an unexpected need occurs. The latest and most dramatic example was when so many rallied with the flood clean up in Brisbane and the phrase, The 'Mud Army' was created. It conjures up all the things we value so much in this country and really it's the back bone of our culture and something we must not lose. It's a random act of kindness and indeed very Christian at its core.

This is the fertile ground for the unsung hero to emerge and they do so in great numbers. There are so many unrecognised people out there doing wonderful things each day for others for no reward except personal satisfaction. Identifying them is difficult because they are usually unassuming people and most don't want any public recognition. Finding these folk is like panning for gold where it takes patience and persistent to find those precious specks. These are ordinary people who have ordinary lives although some are challenged in themselves. Like the Mud Army they are the unsung heroes of the Intrepid Army and the troop's number in their tens of thousands. I would like to tell you about just a few on the Gold Coast.

Michael Pyne, a single father from Brisbane is a vet at Currumbin Wild life Sanctuary who gives an inordinate amount of his personal time and works up to seven days a week to take care of our wild life. He is saint like to many and demonstrates a love for birds and animals which is outstanding. Then we have Pierce Hunter who manages a computer game shop in Robina who saw fit to replace a high level computer game for young Dallas who accidentally damaged the disc given to him for Christmas. His mother had gone without to buy the gift so it was a family catastrophe and yet Pierce willingly met the cost himself.

In hospital we often see the ubiquitous Pink ladies and Jan Woods is just one of many who chips in to help others in sickness with a kind word and encouragement and is a quiet achiever who makes a difference. Take Margaret Stevenson who volunteers in palliative care and while she sounds about 22 in reality is well into her 70's. Enthusiastic and energetic, she also sings in a choir that entertains in aged care facilities and runs outings and picnics just to bring some happiness to others toward their end time. No government assistance just love and care, thank you Margaret.

Now take Bob Murphy who cooks for the homeless and typically says others do far more than he does. Dennis Pommer and John lee do the same and these great blokes help the homeless nearly every day as they say a full belly helps a lot and maybe just maybe, this is the Tummy Army. Dedicated Judy Panton has worked with Meals on Wheels for over 10 years and brings a smile and a meal to many. She marvels at the unstoppable 91 year old woman she visits, who in spite of poor eye sight, has just bought a lap top computer to brighten her day and she quips that it may be of use in later years. Thank you Judy.

Now a few older larrikins at Elanora run a Carpenters Work Shop for all kinds of people from all walks of life. It builds self esteem and brings a bright spot to many including one lady disfigured by cancer who found solace and fulfilment there. Frank, Brian, Phil, Keith, Graham and Ian all give of their time each week to help so many and to build furniture for the disabled and to help all who come or call.

There are so many miracle workers on the job right now and their selfless efforts hold this nation together. If you know someone who should be acknowledged let me know by contacting 4CRB and I will run more narratives to recognise these Unsung Heroes. They make me proud to be Australian and bring new meaning to the phrase..... "We The People.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley