

We The People
Program 56
Unsung Heroes 2



It's a difficult dangerous world full of hate and violence where good sense and righteous values seem lost. Recently we have seen the epitome of evil in the streets of Sydney with children carrying placards demanding the beheading of those who disagree with their religion. These are things I really never imagined I would see in Australia and I hope that We The People demand that we never again give citizenship to those who promote evil. However within society there are others, our true heroes, doing good works for people every day and these folk often go without recognition through their selfless actions. They are the true Australians and our Unsung Heroes.

The Hollywood screen star Audrey Hepburn said "It's that wonderful old-fashioned idea that others come first and you come second. Others matter more than you do, so 'don't fuss, dear; get on with it'." Today let's acknowledge just a few Unsung Heroes on the Gold Coast and start with Liz and Barry Williamson who volunteer with Meals on Wheels at Palm Beach. Liz is a champion and has been on the job for years while Barry backs her and does a lot of the leg work. I say leg work because Barry is a double amputee and has two artificial legs. It was Anzac Day in 1945 when Barry as a school boy fell from a moving tram in Melbourne and was run over losing both legs below the knee. His father was a tram driver and unbelievably operating the tram behind and was there in a flash to help save his son's life. Barry still delivers meals to the aged and infirmed and is well in his 70's.

Then there's Elizabeth Sharp who lives in a retirement home in Robina and at 90 takes the time each day to read to Peggy Chapman who is blind and believe it or not they do cross words together as well. Thank you Elizabeth for making a positive difference in another's life. This year the Smith family is celebrating its 90th birthday too and it goes without saying that the Smith family is an iconic part of the Australian landscape. Brian Hunter of Mermaid Waters is a retired school principal who gives his time to help disadvantaged young people stay on track with the Smith Family education program.

Now Trish Shaw spends 6 days a week in her vehicle delivering food to needy families, churches the elderly and disabled and organisations who help others such as drug rehabilitation centres. Thanks to Trish and her husband unsold and donated food fills their station wagon to the roof to ensure good people have food on the table. Thank you Trish and John for feeding the multitude.

On the Gold Coast we have a group called Volunteering Gold Coast which places thousands of volunteers with not for profit organisations. This fine organisation helps harness the experience, skills and knowledge of so many unsung heroes for the good of many including those who struggle or are disabled as well as for the community at large. An example is Sue Marshall who freely volunteers her time to the RSPCA. This involves helping at the RSPCA op shops as well as with pets looking for homes. Sue draws a lot of satisfaction from her work as she is on a disability pension and the volunteering helps both her and the RSPCA. Finally, John Love helps the elderly by driving them to shop or see the doctor or therapist. As a retired missionary administrator John knows full well the need that exists in any community and loves to see the gratitude on people's faces when greeted with a smile and a helping hand.

So there are just a few Unsung Heroes on the Gold Coast and they represent the true Australian spirit and are happy with this country just the way it is. They freely give of themselves to help others and are peaceful respectful folk. These community heroes appreciate our democracy and freedom and are fully integrated and assimilated into our Australian way of life. **Until next time this is Kent Bayley.**