



Thankyou Volunteers

South Gippsland Shire Council is celebrating the contribution of volunteers in line with International Volunteer Day this week.

Volunteer roles across the shire are many and varied with over 6,000 residents giving their time to support activities and programs such as; sporting events and clubs, art galleries and historical societies, community events, meals on wheels and community transport.

The meals on wheels drivers are in charge of delivering meals monthly, fortnightly or even weekly depending on their availability. This service is invaluable to the vulnerable members of the community and allows for friendly communication and regular check-ins while giving volunteers a chance to meet new people within the local community.

Community transport volunteers are responsible for taking those who cannot use or don't have access to public transport for medical appointments and who don't have family or friends to assist. This service regularly helps those who have dialysis treatments, appointments with specialists or need to attend specialist centres and clinics like the Eye and Ear Hospital or Peter McCallum.

Each year community transport volunteers can complete up to 1662 trips, 10,523 hours and 149,320 kilometres travelled.

Volunteering results in a helpers high, a powerful physical and emotional feeling experienced when directly helping others. Which means just a few hours of volunteering can make a difference to volunteers and those around them.

South Gippsland Shire Council's Volunteer Development Officer, Dana Hughes has expressed her thanks to the volunteers who have donated their time this year to support the community

"It is important to reach out and help those who need it most as it can be the only time that they get out of the house or even spend time talking to someone new.

"We as a community should be proud of those who donate their spare time to give something back and I encourage everyone to do it," said Ms Hughes.

To get involved volunteering please contact Council's Community Strengthening team on 5662 9200.

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