

Rotary Club of Melbourne

Sir John Reid Community Service Award



Past Recipients

2021: Emily Shepard

Emily Shepard co-founded UsherKids Australia (UKA), an organisation dedicated to ensuring children diagnosed with Usher syndrome (USH) and their families have access to an informed, committed and caring community of healthcare professionals and peer support networks to allow them to thrive in their everyday endeavours.

Emily has continuously volunteered her time to UKA since it was founded in 2016. She has volunteered at least 40 hours per week to this role, often providing support at night and on weekends to the families in the UKA community. Emily devotes her time to support newly diagnosed families and offers them advice and recommendations based on her own lived experience, to help reduce the isolation felt following a rare disease diagnosis. She organises conferences to improve the knowledge of healthcare providers working alongside children with USH, as well as social events to foster connection between parents, families and children to provide psychosocial support.

As a direct result of Emily's tireless dedication to her volunteer work, the UKA community has now grown to over 50 families and 500 professionals. If it were not for Emily and her vision, there would now be many families in Australia trying to navigate the complex journey of supporting a child with a rare disease on their own. The assistance that UsherKids has provided to those families, and the clinicians supporting them is invaluable.

In addition to Emily's work with UKA, she also volunteers her time through her involvement with numerous other

organisations. Emily has been the lead organiser of the International Usher Network Conference which showcased research, experiences and best practices that are shaping the world for those with USH. She has also worked to ensure equality and equity in education, community participation, healthcare, future medical treatment, and research for children diagnosed with vision impairment. Emily works collaboratively with researchers to increase evidence-based practice, and mentors University of Melbourne genetic counselling students on community placement.

Emily's commitment and contribution to the community makes her a most worthy recipient of Rotary Melbourne's Sir John Reid Community Service Award. Her dedication to service above self truly reflects the values of Rotary.

Pictured Emily Shepard with President Reg Smith.



2020: Rosie Creswell

Rosie's life has been one of service to the community with her career choice of nursing reflecting her care and concern for others. Beginning with Sunday School and Mothers' Club, she moved on to Girl Guides when her children were involved. She later took on the leadership and administrative commitment of Girl Guide Commissioner in her area for three years. After volunteering in the Mercy Hospital Day Surgery Department, Rosie spent 11 years at the Kew and Hawthorn Citizens Advice Bureau. Here one of her major roles was organising legal aid for needy clients. In 1992-94, while visiting her husband who was involved in building the Thai-Laos Friendship Bridge, Rosie observed the desperate needs in the local hospitals. She used her nursing contacts to organise major collections of medical and theatre supplies and equipment from many Victorian hospitals. She personally delivered these donations or arranged for their delivery by her husband's colleagues to ensure they reached their correct destinations. From 2004 to 2019 Rosie was a weekly volunteer at the Cabrini Malvern Day Oncology Unit. Her role was to provide not only refreshments and reading matter but more importantly to give emotional support and companionship to the patients undergoing chemotherapy. The value of a listening ear to share fears and anxieties was inestimable. Patients report that her empathy was extraordinary and that she gave comfort to many. In addition, her nursing training enabled her to anticipate the needs of both patients and staff who had a huge respect for her. She was a highly valued member of the team. This only ended when, aged 80, she had a severe stroke on her way to work on New Year's Eve 2019. That she had touched so many lives was evidenced by the outpouring of calls, cards, flowers and gifts she received from patients and staff. Rosie loved her work at Cabrini and this was reciprocated. Rosie's long record of volunteering makes her a most worthy recipient of Rotary Melbourne's Sir John Reid Community Service Award. Her dedication to service above self truly reflects the values of Rotary.

2019: Libby Clarke

With 21 years of service, Libby Clarke is one of Very Special Kids longest serving volunteers. Very Special Kids cares for children with life-threatening conditions by providing a children's hospice. They also provide support services for families throughout their experience of caring for children with life-threatening conditions, from diagnosis through to adulthood or bereavement. Libby's volunteer service has been unique as most of her contribution has been in emotionally challenging programs that offer a safe and affirming space for families to explore the impact of their child's passing. Libby has made a significant contribution as a volunteer in the Bereavement Support Program, which provides a range of activities designed to meet the individual needs of families. These include ongoing emotional support, activities for siblings, weekend retreats for parents, and she has a key leadership role in the annual Remembrance Day. Libby has supported hundreds of children and teenagers through her leadership and mentoring roles. In particular, the Adolescent Camps and Adolescent Days program for both bereaved and non-bereaved teenagers who are coming to terms with the changes in their family. Libby has the ability to identify situations where she can do far more than simply support, supervise and have fun with the children. She is able to recognise a special moment a child is having and encourages them to work through their difficulties, to draw on their own strength, and trust their own ability to not only survive the experience, but to grow through it. Her wisdom, care and compassion has helped many children to build competence, maturity and self-love. Libby's long record of consistently striving to help those in the community who are facing overwhelming challenges makes her a most appropriate recipient of Rotary Melbourne's Sir John Reid Community Service Award. This is service above self and is true volunteerism as applauded by the Sir John Reid Award.

2018: Kevin and Rhonda Butler

Kevin grew up on his parents' farm in Kilmore East and was a primary school teacher for 23 years before going into full-time farming and a transport business in 2000. In 1976 he married Rhonda. After the February 2009 Black Saturday fires swept through their property Kevin immediately set about re-fencing. Rhonda's response to the help they were given was 'now it's our turn to help others' and they sought assistance for neighbours in the rebuilding of theirs. As the enormity of the catastrophe was revealed this guiding generosity became a rallying point. Kevin and Rhonda took on the task of seeking volunteers and then coordinating them to assist with the removal and the subsequent rebuilding of burnt-out boundary fences. And so began BlazeAid. TheButlers made their house and shearing shed home for BlazeAid volunteers and headquarters for the management of the operations. This ensured that materials and equipment could be stored and volunteers fed and accommodated. All communications, planning and publicity were undertaken on the property. Rhonda's hospitality and generosity in warmly welcoming, feeding and accommodating the army of volunteers and working out the logistics has been an extraordinary feat. In addition, her efforts have extended to the personal care and emotional support of fire survivors. BlazeAid's recovery work has continued, following fires and floods in other States, in partnership with local councils and Rotary. Thousands of volunteers have come from all over Australia and overseas on learning of this great compassionate work via worldwide publicity and the BlazeAid website. The almost 6000 kilometres of fences re-built by over 14,000 volunteers do not reflect the humanitarian impact on the local communities. The help and hope that BlazeAid brings to rural families after natural disasters cannot be quantified. Throughout the nearly 10 years of BlazeAid's work Kevin and Rhonda Butler have worked tirelessly to ensure the integrity of what is done for those affected by crisis. They have been meticulous in their management of accounts and funds provided as well as the auditing of equipment and resourcing. This has become a benchmark for rural recovery best practice.

2017: Mr Jim Markovski

Jim's commitment to at risk youth extends over 35 years' experience working in the western suburbs of Melbourne. He is currently the General Manager of Youth Services for the Les Twentyman Foundation. The organization works with "at risk", marginalized and disengaged young people in the community. Jim has operational management and a client caseload as part of his employment and is on call 24 hours a day for 45 weeks of the year. However, what makes Jim stand apart is that he is not satisfied with simply 'doing his job'. For many years he has spent a very significant amount of his personal time and energy in working outside of his formal role to assist people in need. This activity has primarily been directed to young people, with most of his personal time with the Redskins Basketball Club. This club has evolved since 1996 with Jim's encouragement and strong support from a small group of approximately twenty young males (14 - 16 years) who regularly played basketball. The young people formed a couple of teams and entered them in the Sunshine Basketball Association's competition with the club name "Ricochet" Basketball club. The cultural backgrounds of the young people at the time were very diverse, Asian, Eastern European, African, South American and Anglo-Saxon. Many were from low socio-economic backgrounds, experimenting with drugs and alcohol and testing society's rules. Since Jim's involvement over 3,000 young people have been associated with playing basketball at some level for the club (1,200 girls and 1,800 boys). Now there are currently 385 players registered and 40 teams made up from various culturally diverse backgrounds. There are 233 males and 152 females participating. The Redskins basketball club continues to support marginalised and "at risk" young people through unconditional support whenever and wherever. This support enables players to realize their true potential, and take control of their own lives, ensuring a more purposeful and acceptable future.

2016: Mrs Margaret Carter

Margaret Carter has volunteered with Traveller's Aid Australia (TAA) for over 22 years. Margaret joined the TAA General Committee (the forerunner of the Board) in 1993 as the CWA representative (where she was District Governor). In 1994 Margaret was asked to assist the "Trading Table" which largely operated at the Spencer St (later Southern Cross) station selling a range of homemade and other goods to the general public. The trading table was a critical part of TAA's cash flow at times, and through Margaret's and others efforts over \$300,000 was raised for TAA's work. Margaret's voluntary contribution to the community doesn't just include TAA and the CWA but prior to this she volunteered with the St John's Ambulance Society stretching back to before 1956. Margaret is still a TAA ambassador, a role in which she continues to spread the good word about TAA in the community. In her role as ambassador, Margaret is able to promote the contemporary service provider TAA is today. A service which enables people through its medical companion accompaniment, it's on site mobility assistance (like the buggies), its education about travel assistance and it's on site personal care provided at the two biggest railway stations in Melbourne. Margaret has helped to shape TAA as the service it is today.

2015: Mr Brad Reid

Brad's commitment and dedication to fostering real solutions for homeless youth began more than 20 years ago, when he began his involvement with the Lighthouse Foundation which was established in 1991 to provide long-term accommodation and support to young people who would otherwise be homeless. He soon became hands-on with the East Malvern home committee, attending regular meetings and helping practically around that home as well as organizing fundraising for the direct costs of the home. Brad found himself in a position where he could organize regular significant philanthropic funding for the home, which supports young people who would otherwise be homeless. This project has had a profound effect on young people's lives helping them to gain independence and find their way to a more secure and fruitful future. As the young people transition to independent living, others take their place, so a home may typically help six young people over each 12 month period. Brad was able to generate interest from many others to join him in supporting the young people who moved through this suburban home, including helping them to find employment and work experience. Brad became the Chairperson of the East Malvern home committee and drove its operations impressively for many years. He still continues today as a committee member, and has maintained the funding stream for the home through a Trust that he auspices. He was acknowledged (in 2008) as the Stonnington Young Citizen of the Year for his energy and enthusiasm in engaging with young people who find themselves alienated within society and without the family support that most of us take for granted. His loyal support has seen dozens of young lives changed in the East Malvern Lighthouse home over the past decade alone, as well as the hundreds that have moved through the Lighthouse residential and outreach programs. Despite his heavy business commitments, he has frequently given generously of his time to be a spokesperson and ambassador for Lighthouse's work with homeless youth. Through his years of loyal, high-level skilled volunteering work, Brad has contributed significantly to the delivery and development of the model of care used by the Lighthouse Foundation. This is a model that is now being used across Victoria and other states, and which has proven crucial in providing support for traumatised child victims of family violence. Brad's generosity and dedication is reflected in his long standing commitment and ongoing support of the Foundation and the Project that he sponsors. He has enhanced the lives of many young people and assisted them immensely in making a positive difference to their lives.

2014: Mr John Wakefield

John's commitment to people with disabilities began when he was employed as a nurse at the Kew Cottages. While there he established a scout troop for young men with disabilities and ran it in his own time. In 1986 John was involved in a serious car accident, which left him with an acquired brain injury and unable to continue as a nurse educator. In overcoming his injuries John's passion was only further fuelled to promote the needs of people with disability. John then became active in the establishment of Headway Victoria, a support and advocacy agency for people with head injuries, later becoming its president. John was appointed as a member of the Victorian Minister for Human Services' Quality Improvement Reference Committee in the 1990's and served in that capacity with humanity and distinction for the life of the committee. For a number of years John was an active member of the state branch committee of the Australian Society for the Study of Intellectual Disability and for the past 9 years has been a board member of the Friends of L'Arche, Melbourne; an organisation assisting people with intellectual disabilities to build community links and friendships and become an integral part of an accepting and embracing community. John has continued his dedication to lifting the profile of people with needs through his many "hands on" contributions in a voluntary capacity with organisations such as the Northern Region Accommodation Committee, the Nillumbik Disability Advisory Committee, Melbourne City Mission, Leadership Plus, and The Department of Transport's Accessible Transport Committee. John's contributions are significant but his firm commitment is even further highlighted when one realises that, since his accident, John has been unable to drive. This has meant that all his many hours of community service work, undertaken at all times of the day and evening and often at significant distances from his home, required him to use public transport. John's generosity of spirit is reflected in his perseverance regardless of his own circumstances. He's has opened many doors and enhance the richness of the lives of people with disabilities.

2013: Mrs Margie Haartson

Margie has been a dedicated volunteer for nearly three decades. When Open Doors commenced operations in 1984 as a crisis counselling service in the Ringwood region, Margi applied for one of the first volunteer counsellor training courses. Since that first training course, Margi has been a dedicated and tireless volunteer; counselling weekly, attending monthly training, and since 2004 has been an important part of the counselling team at healing retreat weekends, three times a year. Not only has Margi 'rolled up her sleeves' to take an active part of improving people's lives, she has assisted with the management of Open Doors in various capacities. For example, she has assisted with educational presentations in schools, organised conference and fundraising events, and served on the Board of Management as a general committee member and as Vice President since 1986. In addition to Margi's work at Open Doors, for almost as many years, she has been helping to enrich the marriages of many couples. She has conducted over 80 marriage preparation courses in conjunction with her husband John. Each course typically involves 12 hours of hands-on counselling for each couple involved, and she has conducted these courses in her own home and at her own expense. If that wasn't enough, Margi has been holding marriage enrichment seminars for groups of 4 to 10 couples for nearly 20 years at locations across Victoria. Recently, Margi volunteered her services with Hope Builders International. Last year, she visited a city in Uganda at her own expense to help improve living standards for the disadvantaged. Clearly, Margi is a dedicated, tireless, and passionate volunteer. She's touched the lives of many and has made the world a better place from her compassion, empathy and willingness to make a positive difference to people's lives.

2012: Mr Robert 'Mac' Adam

Robert Adam was given a rare and inspiring insight into the world of the deaf and how they may rise above their impairment and contribute to the welfare of the world around them. Not a word was spoken by Robert, who is deaf, as he “signed” his entire presentation; nor did he need to in order to convey his perspectives and achievements. It was also poignant for members to learn that Sir John Reid’s wife was also deaf and yet lived her life fully. Robert’s contribution has centered on the Victorian School for the Deaf where he has been a Board member and President over long periods since 1966, and he described some of the supportive community services provided to the deaf community over that time. At the time of the Award, his efforts focused on the special needs of deaf migrants, many of whom have very limited education.

2011: Mr Todd Jasper

Mr Todd Jasper was honored for his work with disadvantaged youth, especially through Open Family Australia. Open Family has been providing outreach support and services to young people at risk since 1978. Services to street frequenting young people include transitional housing, intensive case management and homeless support, alcohol and other drugs counselling, back to school scholarships, educational and recreational programs, round the clock street outreach as well as the Chatterbox youth outreach bus. Todd has been providing voluntary support to Open Family since 1998, firstly as a street youth worker and more recently as Chair of the Open Family Australia Volunteer Committee which provides support for homeless and socially disenfranchised young people through more than 100 volunteers. His activities include over-seeing the operation of the Chatterbox youth outreach bus. In addition to the provision of food and material aid, the chatterbox is a safe space for at-risk youth to access volunteers who are able to provide referrals to youth service providers and to provide recreational and social activities. The service has been profiled at National conferences and undertaken a number of initiatives in relation to awareness and strategies to address the problems of alcohol abuse, missing persons, violence and sexual abuse of young people. Todd has also helped to develop sporting and art appreciation and participation sessions for youth at risk. As project co-ordinator Todd involved young people in a film workshop production “Talk to me” that featured on Australian Story in 2008, and helped develop the Open Family “Identity Uncut” photography course and exhibition. At Open Family Todd has also been involved in projects to ascertain the needs of young homeless people in the CBD, worked with others to offer skate parks in the city and participated in the Melbourne “Knife Exchange”. These outcomes have helped to provide a bridge between late night outreach for this disadvantaged at-risk group and mainstream services. Todd also undertook voluntary work as a customer service representative at the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria between 2000 and 2004. More recently he has established a new charitable organisation, “Jasper Brown”, focused on addressing the critical lack of youth specific crisis accommodation in Melbourne. Todd is able to combine his voluntary activities with full time work as the Procurement and Logistics Manager at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

2010: Mrs Lynne Dunoon

The Sir John Reid Community Service Award was presented to Mrs. Lynne Dunoon for her work as a volunteer in the multiple birth volunteer support program, which operates under the auspices of the Australian Multiple Birth Association. Lynne created the program in 1997 after organizing assistance for a family who had quadruplets in the Swan Hill region. Lynne took on the task of setting up a network of support services involving over 100 volunteers for the family over a 12 month period to complement limited government and community support. The award was presented to Lynne by members of Sir John’s family. Lynne went on to formalize and

network the program for families with triplets or quadruplets around the east coast of Australia, providing assistance to communities in Queensland, New South Wales, the ACT, as well as Victoria. As part of this activity she has produced a guidebook and personally assisted in the recruitment, training and rostering of networks of supporters, typically 35-50 per family, for over 80 triplet and quad births. The program has gradually built up over the years and typically supports at least a dozen families a year. It has received widespread community and health service support. Lynne has now created and coached a group of six consultants to propagate the program throughout Australia so that it is not dependent on her alone, and thus ensures its sustainability in the long term. This is still a focus of her continuing involvement. Lynne has also been involved in a wide range of community services over many years, initially in the Swan Hill area. She was a lifeline counsellor and became a parole and probation officer in the region. She set up a branch of court network in Swan Hill as a consequence. She also was responsible for refurbishing the local National theatre and Scout Hall meeting rooms, has cared for disadvantaged children, been president of Jaycee-ettes, pre-school and state school parents clubs, formed an oral history of over 150 Mallee pioneer stories, and introduced a Soiree group for isolated women in Swan Hill.

2009: Mrs Janine Slinger

Mrs Janine Slinger has worked with foster children for over 20 years under the auspices of Anglicare Victoria. She and her family have had more than fifty children come into their home in that time, mostly short term, but six of those children stayed longer than a year, and two of them joined the family permanently, as they were not able to return to their own birth families. Over the past decade she has become more involved in other aspects of fostering, in addition to the actual caring. She and her family have been committed members of the 'Kids in Care' caregiver pool. She has been involved in the training process itself, attending professional training workshops and working alongside prospective and new foster carers as a mentor while they develop their skills. In this capacity Janine is also involved in the accreditation of new carers. She attends professional forums as a foster carer representative, and has been involved with the Therapeutic FosterCare Reference group for the Outer East, and the Best Practice Engagement Project instigated by the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare Inc., which supports community service organisations in Victoria. The aim is to increase recruitment and retention of Victorian foster carers. Although hers is purely a volunteer position, Mrs Slinger considers fostering to be both a career and a calling.

2008: Dr Judith Paphazy

Dr. Judith Paphazy was presented the Community Service Award for her work with disadvantaged children and homeless youth over thirty years. The focus of all of her work has been to improve the lives of young people and families, especially those who are alienated from society. Her role in Open Family Australia has helped to place over 5,000 young people back into education or training, resulting in them obtaining additional skills so that they may engage in meaningful employment. In addition, this has often led to reconnection with family and acceptance in society. Her pioneering work with Professor Grotberg in the International Council of Psychologists (United Nations Consultative Status) in the promotion of resilience programs in schools has been taken up in countries all over the world. The resilience model used in her whole school/home program has built strength and skills in children, adolescents and adults. The outcomes have proven to be effective, resulting in harmonious families and communities. Dr Paphazy, a well-known Melbourne Consultant Psychologist, has a passion for helping children, adolescents, families and schools where educational and behavioural problems are proving a barrier for people to reach their potential.

2007: Mrs Shirley Farrow

The Rotary Club of Melbourne honours Shirley Farrow for excellence in volunteering and for her significant achievements in community service. Shirley is a retired Physiotherapist. She is a member of The Toorak Uniting Church and is involved with The John Macrae Centre, an Outreach program of the Church which conducts weekday programs to enhance the quality of life for elderly people who are socially isolated by frailty. Shirley was the Chairman of the JMC Council of Management for 8 1/2 years, with a day to day overview of the Centre, the staff, volunteers, and Fundraising. Shirley and her team have transformed the Centre into a home-like environment which services up to 75 citizens of Stonnington daily. Volunteers assist in many ways and are vital to the program. They drive members to and from the Centre, help in the kitchen, assist with annual fundraising luncheons, conduct handcraft stalls, read to individual members, and otherwise provide for the needs of their client group. The Girl Guides Association has also been a lifelong commitment. Shirley has had the privilege of travelling widely in the course of this involvement, particularly in the international field of Guiding. Shirley and her husband Gilbert belong to the Olave Baden-Powell Society and, until April 2007, Shirley was the Society's Australian National Co-ordinator. This Society is made up of former Guides and Scouts around the world who wish to financially support the World Association in its aim to provide girls and young women in developing countries with quality Guiding programs directed to enhancing their opportunities in life. At Carnsworth Nursing Home in Kew Shirley helps Nursing staff take residents for outings to city sights. Shirley is an Elder of Toorak Uniting Church and takes part in the pastoral care program by visiting older members of the congregation in their homes. Shirley Farrow has shown a quiet but consistent commitment to volunteer activities in the community over many years and is a most worthy recipient of the Award.

2006: Mrs Beryl Jones

Beryl is a quiet contributor. Her work takes place behind the scenes, and for her, is a daily commitment – including evenings, weekends, Christmas Day and at Easter. This Award recognizes Beryl's commitment – but it recognizes much more than just turning up. In selecting Beryl Jones for this Award we recognize that, for over ten years, she has been taking the lead in many projects and endeavours, approaching tasks strategically, and operating proactively and responsibly. At the same time, she has successfully engaged with others and almost single-handedly developed a pool of qualified and enthusiastic volunteers. Beryl's contribution to the community spans a number of organizations. She started her working life as a biochemistry technologist at the Royal Women's Hospital. Later, after teaching piano privately, Beryl decided to change careers and completed a Graduate Diploma in Arts Education. She went on to become a part-time Music Specialist Teacher at Essex Heights Primary School, where she remained for eleven years. Although her initial placement was part-time, her vision and enthusiasm led to her giving freely of her time to develop a fledgling music program into a large music department, one which realized Beryl's dream of providing the opportunity for all students to access music tuition on an instrument of their choice. In addition Beryl conducted all classroom music and, mostly in her own time, put together an annual musical production and Christmas concert for the whole school. At this time, Beryl led the Association of Music Educators, being the President for six years. She has been honoured with Honorary Life Membership of that organisation. It was also during this period that, in addition to her 'day job' of music education, Beryl started working at Vision Australia, as the Technical Operator on Radio 3RPH (Radio for the Print Handicapped) on a program called 'Newline'. She readily accepted responsibility for the early morning shift, commencing work at 5.00 am, including Christmas Day and Good Friday. She arrived each morning in time to switch over from the BBC and commenced the program by reading the day's newspapers. In those days, visually impaired people could access this service by using a pre-arranged code. Ten years on, Beryl still does the early morning shift, but she is relieved that, due to advances in technology, her shift now starts an hour or so later - at 6.15 am. She says that she prefers the early morning start, as it means she can go on to other volunteer roles later in the day. Beryl started volunteering with The Smith Family in Victoria in

1996, initially as the Receptionist at the Collingwood office, but she quickly advanced to more senior and varied roles. Her positions have varied over this time and her many achievements are known throughout other states. Five years ago, Beryl initiated a new group of senior qualified volunteers, and formed a Community Relations Committee. She has continued to strengthen and support the various Chairmen of the Committee and worked with the group to ensure that their motivation and interest is sustained by helping them to meet their agreed goals and outcomes. The establishment of this group has added significantly to the capacity of The Smith Family in Victoria, bringing a range of additional skills into the organisation. The group meets monthly, and is involved in activities that profile The Smith Family as well as raise funds. About the same time, Beryl accepted responsibility to develop a Smith Family Speakers' Bureau – a team of trained volunteers who speak to over 40,000 people each year. She targets people with particular backgrounds to suit the audiences, recruits new volunteer speakers, and arranges their initial training and ensures that the group is kept up to date with the organisation's contemporary messages. She is also proactive in successfully generating speaking engagements.

In addition to managing the Speakers' Bureau, Beryl has extended the reach of The Smith Family by liaising with many Melbourne schools, and she represents the organisation at all speaking engagements with students, at school assemblies, cheque hand-over ceremonies, etc. Beryl also writes and produces a monthly newsletter for Smith Family volunteers, thus providing a valuable communication tool for friends of The Smith Family all over Victoria. Four years ago, Beryl accepted an additional role at The Smith Family – that of a Mentor Supervisor in student2student program. Her background as a teacher equipped her well to seek out other volunteer mentors to work with students in Years 6, 7 and 8 at a number of Melbourne schools. Through the student2student program, these students are engaged in a peer reading program where younger students who are poor readers, read to the older students over the telephone three times per week, for about 20 minutes. The success of this program is dependent on a number of factors, one of which is the readiness and ability of the older (advantaged) students to mentor and lead the younger, disadvantaged students. The role of the Mentor Supervisor in this process is critical and Beryl has been a champion and is untiring in her role of achieving excellence that is recognized throughout the organisation. Over and above her service to the community through her work at various schools, Vision Australia and The Smith Family, Beryl provides excellent, sustained and valued support to Rotary. Her husband Des was District Governor in 2000-01 and Beryl supported him totally during this period – and continues to do so today. Des is no stranger to the Rotary Club of Melbourne. He continues active participation in a number of Rotary areas of work, one of which is his current and very busy involvement in the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund. Beryl supports Des every step of the way – and, together, they make a powerful team. What makes Beryl's contribution special is not only her proactive, considered and enthusiastic approach to projects and programs in a wide range of areas, but her unflinching commitment and her ability to accept responsibility for a large number of varying roles – and all simultaneously. She continues to inspire others, demonstrate leadership, mentor other volunteers, and is always ready to accept new challenges that make her work relevant and indispensable.

2005: Mr Bill Nagy

Bill is a community development worker working with the disadvantaged, homeless and abused people in St.Kilda, Doveton and Frankston. His work is supported by approximately 100 volunteers from local communities, church groups, service groups and representatives from The Coalition on Alcohol and Drug Education. The people he helps are generally those that are not serviced by the mainstream welfare organizations or Government agencies. A key part of the support provided by Bill and his group involves the operation of bi-weekly soup vans. Bill and his team have been operating in the St. Kilda area for fifteen years and in Doveton/Frankston for over four years. Each fortnight, volunteers make up supplies of soup and sandwiches which are dispatched, along with handouts of clothing and bedding, from the vans through-out the evening and into early next morning. The operation of the soup van provides the group with initial points of contact that are followed up by support, counselling and dialogue by Bill and other members of the group

as appropriate. The group also runs a regular barbecue for children in the Frankston area. The event is organized to provide children from disadvantaged or broken families, or from families where one or both parents are suffering from drug or alcohol addiction, the opportunity to spend time with their parents or just to enjoy being with other children. Following each get-together, Bill and his group provide support to those where the need is the greatest. This can range from the provision of clothing, to counselling, to assistance in finding accommodation or moving to a more stable and protective environment. Mr. Nagy has spent all his life as a community support worker and is a qualified chaplain, having completed theological studies with the Baptist Church. He started as a youth worker with the Salvation Army in Mordialloc before establishing his own volunteer group in the mid eighties. Bill and his volunteer group includes a wide range of professionals and community-minded individuals who provide advice or hands on assistance as required. Activities range from preparing the soup and sandwiches to; the manufacture and provision of temporary shelter for the homeless, assistance with counselling, assistance with the bush gardening service, fund raising, to driving the vans. The group has a small advisory committee that meets two to three times a year to review finances, fund raising and discuss major needs and requirements. The majority of the groups funds are raised through the operation of Bill's Bush Gardening Service. This service also allows Bill to provide work for many of the needy people he helps and is a first step for many along the road to greater self-esteem and a return to employment. The balance of the groups funds is generated through private donations and collections from the public during the operation of the soup van. Bill spends about fifty percent of his time with the bush gardening service and the balance providing support to the needy. Bill Nagy has dedicated his life to serving the less fortunate in the community and lives a commitment of service before self.



2004: Mrs Jill Wain

Jill Wain has contributed some 30 years of service to the community as a foster parent and more recently as a worker in the field. Jill entered the child welfare sector initially as a foster parent and then trained as a social worker to become manager of the Melton Foster Care Program with The Salvation Army Westcare. Jill and her husband Greg have been foster parents for 30 years. The philosophy of the Wain family is to provide a home for a child when and while it is needed to provide the support required to return these children to their own family wherever possible. Jill and Greg have provided a stable and secure environment, love and ongoing care and support for four foster children on a permanent care basis for more than 26 years. (Two were adopted, one is on a permanent care order and the fourth in a long term foster care placement.) In addition, was estimated that they have provided respite and short-term placements to more than 50 children and their birth families. At one time, this involved providing full time care to 6-month-old triplets. Through her work as a

manager of Melton Foster Care, Jill has assisted more than 300 children and their families. In her spare time, Jill is mother to four children of her own and grandmother of three. Jill left school after completing Form 4 and commenced an apprenticeship in dressmaking at Georges. Soon after she met Greg and they married and commenced a family. About ten years later with three children of her own, Jill first started to think about fostering. The family all agreed that fostering would need to be a family decision and that it would not work unless they did it as a team. Over thirty years later Jill believes that a major challenge to the field of foster care is to maintain and develop caring teams, where all the active participants and their respective roles are acknowledging as vital to the overall care of the children and young people they care for. After fostering for a few years Jill started to question what social workers were being taught. Why did they use jargon that parents did not understand? And how was the system helping parents get their children back after they had taken them away? She enrolled in a Welfare Studies course full time for two years to gain an understanding of the other side of the situation. After completing the course she was not sure whether she was any the wiser, but she did understand the frustrations and the limitations that a working environment imposed. She continued her fostering and working in the wardrobe department of Channel 10 tending to the whims and demands of the cast of Young Talent Time and working on other TV productions. In search of better understanding and insight into families Jill undertook further studies and gained a Diploma in Welfare Studies and was offered a job in a foster care agency in the northern suburbs. She then went on to complete a postgraduate qualification in Social Work. This interest in taking fostering a step further resulted in her being appointed to the position of manager of Melton Foster Care. This position has been enabled her to put into practice her beliefs and philosophies learnt after 20 years direct experience as a foster carer. The Melton Foster Care Program that was auspiced by the Salvation Army in 1995, started with 6 children and 6 carers and went on to support 11 full and part-time staff, funding for 38 children in care on any one night and 24 carers. As manager, Jill is regarded as a highly skilled carer and expert practitioner who is passionate and deeply committed to making a difference to the lives of children, young people and families. She works tirelessly to include birth families and maintain connectedness for children and young people. On the home front, Jill and Greg recently completed redeveloping an old factory in North Melbourne as a home and after many years of sharing their bedroom with babies and young children are enjoying having a room of their own for the first time. The Wain family has had a minimum of five children staying under their roof on any night. At their previous home in St Kilda they leased the old stables next door which used to be part of the local dairy and converted them into a studio with a mezzanine area which made available accommodation for the older children so they were able to stay at home as well. Jill Wain is a dynamic woman who with her family has made a significant difference to the lives of many children, teenagers and parents and is a very worthy recipient of the Award.

2003: Mr David `Mann

David Mann is the Promotions and Marketing Manager for 3AW, Magic 693 and Talk Radio Network, a position he has held for almost 15 years, having started at 3AW as an office boy in 1973. He also has his own company, Mann Promotions Pty Limited which consults on marketing and public relations activities for clients throughout Australia. Among his clients is the Metropolitan Fire Brigade where he has the role of Public Relations and Media Manager. David attends all major fires in metropolitan Melbourne, often from his property at Macedon, bearing in mind that fires are not always timed during normal business hours. His interests in emergency services beyond the fire brigade. He has worked operationally with the Police Force, Fire Brigade and Ambulance Services for over twenty years. David was known in the Emergency Services circle as "the civilian with the tri-fecta of experience". Having travelled extensively over more than 15 years across the United States working with emergency services, his experience was well recognised beyond the shores of Australia. He lectures to emergency service personnel on the role of the media in Australia and the organisation of emergency services in the USA. David is a member of the Australia Day Committee (Victoria); Chairman of the

Ministerial Crime Protection Council; a member of the Public Affairs Committee of the Bureau of Emergency Services and Telecommunication; Chairman of the Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Day Committee and Chairman of the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Restoration and Maintenance Trust. Perhaps David's current most time-consuming voluntary responsibility is Chairman of the Royal District Nursing Service, which has a turnover of some \$75 million and a staff of around 1,000. David is a Fellow of the Institute of Company Directors and a fellow of the Australian Sales Institute. He is a Past President of the Victorian Radio Time Club that is representative of the total radio industry in Victoria. David Mann is a person who finds it difficult to say no to a cause that he believes will enhance the lives of others. He is in demand to host community and charity events, which he undertakes with pleasure. Perhaps David best summed up in his stated philosophy "if you have your health, happiness, friendship and a little luck on your side, don't take it for granted".

2002: Ms Patsy Thatcher

Patsy Thatcher has, throughout her life, shown an outstanding commitment to community service. Whether serving as a Superintendent of Nursing, as secretary to a soccer club, her gardening club her local bicycle users group or as a zone leader for Neighbourhood Watch, Patsy has always given enormous amounts of her own time and effort in support of the community. In addition, since the early 1980s, Patsy has made a significant contribution to the Timorese community, both in Melbourne and in East Timor. Patsy became involved with Timorese refugees in 1980 and, at their request, began researching their community in both Timor and Australia. At this time she began her association with the 2/2 Commando Association, of which she is now a life member, becoming involved as their conduit in developing and seeding grass roots projects in the areas of East Timor the veterans had known during WW2. She began a University MA thesis on the strategies refugees develop to handle their resettlement problems, using the East Timorese community as the case study. Patsy interviewed some 800 families of East Timorese throughout Australia and became a participant observer in their community. On Patsy's first four trips to East Timor she was accompanied by an elderly member of the 2/2 Commando Association and the two of them attempted to find or aid the families of the "criado", Timorese who fed, hid and protected Australian soldiers during the Japanese occupation of Timor. Later she made many more visits on her own in order to bring medical supplies and money to various groups, particularly orphans. This was done at some personal risk because at that time she was on an Indonesian Government blacklist for her attempts to get medical help to Timorese people in the mountains and for her outspoken opposition to its actions in East Timor. In Australia, Patsy helped raise money and goods for assistance to East Timor as well as playing a significant role as an advisor and confidant to the East Timorese community in Melbourne. In the process of helping the Timorese, Patsy completed her Honours and MA thesis on East Timor, becoming one of Australia's knowledgeable experts on its history and politics, and on the East Timorese community in Australia. Patsy was a foundation member of the Melbourne East Timorese Handicrafts Support, a group organising the setting up of a national Tais (a hand woven and hand dyed cloth) industry in East Timor. She also is a member of the Port Phillip Council "Friends of Suai" committee and a consultant to the welfare committee of the Timorese Association of Victoria and the Timorese Ethnic Chinese Community of Victoria. Continuing her support for Timorese orphans, Patsy also remains active in fund raising and administering the Oan Kiak Orphan Education Scholarship Project. This is in addition to her duties as a lecturer in Asian History and Culture Units at the Australian Catholic University, Patsy volunteered once a week to help staff the East Timorese Consulate in Melbourne. She also personally drafted 1,300 letters to the Immigration Department. These were to support, among others, elderly members of the Australian East Timorese community, who, after 7-11 years in Australia faced deportation even though many had children and extended families who are permanent residents. With all her accomplishments, Patsy has never sought praise or reward for her constant efforts on behalf of the East Timorese here and in Timor itself. Her long record of consistently striving to help those in the community less favoured than herself makes her a most appropriate recipient of Melbourne Rotary's Sir John Reid Community Service Award.

2001: Dr Sam Ginsberg

Dr Sam Ginsberg is a trained psychologist who has shown an outstanding commitment to helping people. In the 1970s, he was active in campaigning to change conditions in children's and psychiatric institutions in Melbourne. He has been involved in providing pastoral care to physically and mentally disabled children, youths and adults. His voluntary work has included contributions to Iribina, Sacred Heart Mission, the Rural Fire Brigade and as a volunteer probationary officer. Sam's contribution have extended overseas. In the 1980s and early 1990s he worked with the blind, visually and intellectually impaired through Mother Teresa's mission in Calcutta, and at Whitefields, a school for the blind in Bangalore where he provided aids such as canes and light sensory equipment adapted for local conditions and enabling local production. He worked with L'ArcheHomes in India teaching structural skills for independent living for intellectually imparted residents. He has organised collections of medical journals, literature and books to be sent from Australia and India. Many of these trips were funded in part by services organisations including Rotary and Lions International. In Papua New Guinea he assisted Brother Ambrose Tottenham at school for the blind and he collects hearing aids and glasses for the people there. He worked with the people of Aitpe after the tsunami hit tragically. Additional support for the work was enlisted from the Overseas Service Bureau, Catholic Relief and United Nations. In 1997, he visited East Timor with medical equipment, audiometers and first aid medication requested by local groups. He is a founding member and was Director of the East West Centre, an organisation that collects materials and funds for India and Bangladesh. Another initiative was an aboriginal health mobile bus provided by the East West Centre visiting Koori communities in rural Victoria. Sam Ginsberg was also the honorary chairman of Hands On Health Australia, an organisation offering free medical and paramedical help to low income earners, the unemployed and disadvantaged. Helping others was the theme of Sam's response to the Award. He drew inspiration from the lives of Fred Hollows and Mother Theresa, and from John Landy's great example that helping others is more important than winning.

2000: Mr Lawton Cooke

When Lawton was inducted into the Rotary Club of Melbourne in 1971, he was already actively engaged in helping the community in the neighbourhood where his business, Sydney Cooke Limited, operated, through establishing and financially subsidising the Brunswick Creche and Brunswick Youth Centres. During the period from 1970-80, at the request of fellow businessmen, Lawton arranged for the purchase of Coonil Private Hospital and then took a 'hands-on' role in the day-to-day management of the hospital in conjunction with the Alcohol and Drug Foundation. From 1982-87 Lawton chaired the Camberwell Grammar School Building Fund Appeal which over \$1 million for rebuilding and extensions. Since 1990, Lawton has been better known as the public face of Rotary's successful "Paint Your Heart Out" programme. Working through the churches and community welfare groups in the inner eastern suburbs, Lawton would identify suitable needy people and properties to be the recipients of our Club's "Paint Your Heart Out" activities. Not only would Lawton work out the paint quantities and other materials needed, but he would order, collect and deliver these to the sites, organise and lead the volunteer painters, provide lunches and refreshments and then return all the equipment when the job was completed. Lawton then became the prime mover in introducing the Rotary Club of Melbourne to the project to build a new community centre and emergency accommodation facility in St. Kilda. Lawton's philanthropic ideals derived from his early family life during which he sold bricks at a sixpence a time to help build church halls, and became interested in the environment through helping the boy scouts clear litter. His firm had made a point of providing its factory managers with money to use for worthy community causes. Lawton explained that he was so impressed by the speakers in a conference organised in 1969 by the Trades Hall to reduce absenteeism and accidents in the work force caused by alcoholism that he attended

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings to learn more about the problem. He became involved with nine others in buying the Coonil Private Hospital which was turned into a very successful centre to help alcoholics of which he was the executive chairman.

1999: Mr Kevin Heinze

Throughout his life, Kevin Heinze has achieved many things because he cares passionately about people - particularly children. Over a period of eighteen years Kevin has visited over 2,500 schools throughout Victoria talking to children and parents about community support and help for each other. These were not simply words but were reflections of his personal experience of involvement with his own community. Together with his wife, Jill, Kevin has regularly invited his near neighbours and associates of projects in which he has been involved to share the beautiful gardens at his home in Montrose. His warm friendship and keen interest to listen to the needs of others and offer help has marked him as a special person. Over forty years ago Kevin played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Kilsyth Youth Club and the Club continues to benefit from his involvement. He was a keen player, coach and committee member of the Kilsyth Football Club and is now a life member of both the Club and the League. In later years, he has found time to provide a high level of support for his local bowling club. Kevin has provided support to the Montrose and District Rotary Club in its community activities and has dedicated part of his magnificent garden to the Club. It was from an address given by Kevin to the Kiwanis Club of Doncaster that the Kevin Heinze Garden Centre in Doncaster, which provides special programs of gardening for the disabled, was established in 1979. To see Kevin on his regular visits to the Centre engrossed in encouraging the disabled people at the Centre and to watch their positive warm responses is to understand that here is a man of great compassion and sensitivity who demonstrates in a practical way what community service is all about. There are many stories of Kevin Heinze's support for people and of his kindness and humanity, and we have mentioned but a few. It is sufficient to say that the recipient of the Award is in every way an example to us of how we should live and serve our community.

1998: Mrs Pamela Erwin

This year the awardee was Pam Erwin, a mother of four sons who despite have provide support to some of her own family in coping with learning difficulties, found the energy and dedication to assist countless other children and adults overcome learning and associated problems with their ability to socialise and fit into the community. In 1976, Pam became associated with the Movement for Learning Association as a Counsellor and for fifteen years used the skills she had acquired as a physical education teacher to develop a structured motor program for primary schools. She produced a book detailing the program and generously donated her beneficial rights in the publication to the Movement for Learning Association. Never one to be bound by the constraints of regular working hours, Pam maintained an on-going interest in the families with whom she had worked, long after her professional responsibilities ended. In 1981 the small Andale School was established to work with primary school aged children who had "fallen between the cracks" in the traditional education system. These children's learning difficulties were not severe enough to entitle them to established special education facilities but they were unable to keep pace with the workload of regular classrooms. The effect of this on these children was a growth in frustration at not coping, resulting in low self-esteem and a loss of interest and fear of learning. Pam was appointed to Andale as a part-time physical education teacher and immediately began to demonstrate her commitment by becoming involved way beyond any expectations associated with her professional responsibilities. For example, as the organiser of the school's annual camp, daily excursions and spotting fixtures, she encountered problems in transporting the twenty pupils. As bus hire was beyond the school's resources and public transport was not always practical, Pam's solution was to buy a small bus herself, make it available for school outings and become the official driver. Over recent years, Pam's

major project has been to help intellectually disabled people experience a better quality of life. Working in conjunction with the Hi-City sheltered workshops, an organisation which provides the disabled with employment and some financial independence. Pam has been instrumental in lifting the self-esteem and confidence of those with whom she worked and has assisted them in finding independence and a place in the life of the community. She has introduced them to basic household management and shopping and the delights of participating in sporting and social events. Her organisational skills have embraced remarkable range of activities. Through our Award we salute Pamela Erwin for her endeavours and real success in serving the community and the Intellectually handicapped.

1997: Mrs Joy Waller-Ogden

Joy Waller-Ogden joined the Executive of MECWA - then the Malvern Elderly Citizens Committee in 1968. As a Chartered Accountant she was always able to provide the Board with sound financial advice. She was the first Treasurer of the East Malvern Opportunity Shop, the first Treasurer of the women's group in 1977 and Secretary of the Club Building Committee which established the East Malvern Community Centre. Joy was also a member of the Constitution Sub-Committee in 1971 and in 1972 was a member of the By-laws Sub-Committee which helped draft the first by-laws which were a milestone in MECWA's development. In 1988, Joy became Chairperson of the Association and a member of the Finance Committee. Joy was a member of the Residential Planning Committee which has overseen two major projects, the hostel at Greville Street and the units at Elm Road. She was a member of the Development Committee and the Executive Committee, and was also Vice-Chairman of the Board. Joy has enormous credibility within MECWA as she has always been a hands on person. This started early with her endeavours to develop a transport roster to take frail elderly members of the Community to the East Malvern Club. At the same time in the late 1960's Joy would be in the kitchen preparing vegetables for the Meals-On-Wheels kitchen. She has been a tireless supporter of the East Malvern Opportunity Shop convening meetings in her own home, sorting goods in the backroom and working on Saturdays after having spent a full week working as an Accountant. Joy was able to grasp the vision of aged care easily and inspire others to devote their energies in this area. Recognising that frail elderly would progress beyond the need for independent living, she worked to establish MECWA House which became a model of what the community can do for itself. Knowing that the same residents would later need a nursing home, Joy helped form the Nursing Home Appeal Committee which later became known as the MECWA Million Appeal in March 1989. Again she worked as a member until this was wound up in June 1990. Joy's good humour and interest in MECWA is well known to all who have had the pleasure of working with her. Joy was awarded a Life Governorship in appreciation of her dedication to MECWA. Joy Waller-Ogden is someone who has made an enormous contribution to the Stonnington Community and in doing so is a model as to how all our communities could be enhanced if everyone would be willing to give that little bit more. Joy Waller-Ogden certainly has.

1996: Mr Matthew Pfahlert

Matt was born in Leeton NSW (what we know as the Riverina) in May 1968. Matt's parents came to Australia from New Zealand and his forbearers are from Germany. Matt did his early schooling in the Riverina and then moved to Albury High to do his VCE. After VCE, Matt moved to Melbourne to do a BA with majors in "Recreation" and "Outdoor Education" at the University of Technology. He completed his qualification in 1989. It was while doing this course that Matt had his first taste of working in the bush with young offenders. One would call these "bush rehabilitation programs for street kids". Matt then worked in Queensland on cattle properties, set up residential camps, organised one off journey style. All these programs were built and designed around disadvantaged youth. It was at this time that Matt had Government funding cut on a program and then decided his aim was to get up and running a new program without government funding. In 1993,

Matt received a call from a past recipient of the Community Service Award Ian Stapleton who ran the Mattagundi Camp and said they had been offered a property but had no immediate use for it. This was the break Matt needed and with the help of the Appin Park Rotary Club in Wangaratta was able to secure a lease and get the necessary resources to start a program for disadvantaged youth. Matt has also been honoured with the Weary Dunlop Award for "Services to Youth."

1995: Mrs Margaret Oats

Margaret Oats was born in Caulfield in 1908, one of five children. Her father was killed in 1919 and the family moved to the country where her grandmother owned a farm. An extended family network offered support with free milk, eggs and butter. Margaret remembers her childhood fondly and the philosophy of communal sharing became the cornerstone of her life. Margaret married in 1923. Her husband was a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and she assisted him in his community work through Society. In 1940, Margaret was widowed with a family of four children. She worked full-time at Woolworth and saved to buy the small Collingwood cottage which is still her home. Her remarkable career as community worker in the area began with simple daily sharing of her private time and her home, friends and people in need. There are many disadvantaged people living in the Collingwood area - many in poor financial circumstances. Margaret's early "reaching out" to help people in need grew as a natural process, and after she retired from employment this became an almost full-time occupation until recently when her activities have occasionally been curtailed by ill-health. With a handful of other people from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Good Shepherd Order, Margaret now works with around five hundred Collingwood families each year. She visits them in their homes, bringing food and clothing when needed, and offering supportive friendship, Christmas gifts, etc. At Christmas time, her home becomes the centre for the packing of many Christmas hampers, making of Christmas puddings, etc. which are distributed to her "families" in need. The Collingwood Council has long recognised her important work in their community and has provided support in many ways. One such support is Share Care which began in 1984, with Margaret as the founding Chairperson. Share Care enlists local families to care for children in emergencies of any kind, for example, if the mother is ill or overworked or simply cannot cope for whatever reason. The idea is to prevent children going into long-term care outside Collingwood. Official intervention is minimised. The project has been very successful and is an excellent product of Margaret's goal of developing interdependence among the local underprivileged. Margaret is pleased that practically all of Collingwood call her "love". It is an apt form of affection she has earned by more than 40 years of selfless service in that community.

1994: Mr John Opie

John Opie provided the inspired guidance which materially assisted the successful formation of a bone marrow register in Victoria and Australia wide. He was instrumental in the formation of the Bone Marrow Donor Institute Inc. He was personally involved when his daughter, Karen, developed chronic myeloid leukaemia and received a bone marrow transplant from her twin sister. However, John became aware, from other patients in hospital with his daughter at the time of her transplant, that many families who could not find a compatible donor within their own family. They were having to search overseas at enormous expense and distress to the family because there was not a bone marrow donor register in this country. Together with other concerned families and clinicians, he called a meeting in late 1989 where his eloquence persuaded the scientists at the tissue typing laboratories at the Red Cross Blood Bank and The Royal Melbourne Hospital to conduct pilot tissue typing of 4 patient a week at each centre. The group, then called the Bone Marrow Donor Registry of Victoria Support Group, went public in an effort to raise funds awareness and recruit potential bone marrow donors to the Register. A Committee was formed of all those interested, not just in Melbourne but in country areas such as Geelong, Ballarat etc. of families all affected by leukaemia or similar conditions that could only be cured by a bone marrow transplant. Under John's guidance, families went public to raise awareness, the

Hospital and Red Cross Blood Bank co-operated, politicians were approached, and the register was born in Victoria. The Federal Government had also been made aware of the need by leukaemia doctors. The Australian Bone Marrow Donor Register was formed a highly successful Federal initiative strongly supported by Community Groups throughout Australia of which John Opie's was the most outstandingly successful. There are now over 53,000 tested potential bone marrow donors on the Australian Register of whom over 25,000 are Victorians. In 1989, there was no-one. During all this time, John spoke many times eloquently about his own feelings and what had happened within his own family. He devoted his time to the fledgling Support Group, now known as The Bone Marrow Donor Institute. He spoke to many community groups such as Rotary, Apex, Lions and to the branches as they were established - now 22 throughout Victoria and one in Darwin. Under his guidance, plans were made with The Royal Melbourne Hospital for a Rotary Bone Marrow Research Centre to be established on campus at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. The Centre also housed the Leukaemia Family Support Group - another inspiration of John's to provide non-medical advice and practical help to families affected by leukaemia. The research centre was to be of world-class standard and the building was partly funded by Rotary International District 9800. John's vision does not end there, he sees the Institute spreading nationally and internationally, and helping less developed countries than Australia to establish bone marrow donor registers to offer hope to their own citizens, and migrants in this country. His vision was that lives could be saved that would otherwise have been lost. Families did not face the devastating situation of having to conduct their own searches, of having to mortgage their homes to raise funds for an overseas search. John was awarded the AMP Victorian Award for Community Service, the funds involved being donated to the Institute. John receives no remuneration for the many hours he devotes to the Institute, both within the organisation as President and member of many Sub-Committees, or as a member of the National Management Committee of the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Register. He gives unfailingly of his time not only to the Institute, but to those who contact him at home to talk about their problems and experiences. There are people alive today who owe their lives to the vision and compassion to John Opie. There are people currently searching the bone marrow donor register who will have hope and prospects for the future because John Opie cared.

1993: Ms Judith Dunstar

Judy Dunster was the founder in Australia of the Abbeyfield Society Limited and its Chairperson from 1981 until November 1993. The Abbeyfield Society is named after Abbeyfield Road in Bermondsey, London, where Richard Gomm and others met to plan supportive housing for older people. Abbeyfield's charter is to make available community based housing for older people with a level of support and care that enables them to live independently. Each house usually provides seven to ten bedsitting rooms with a guest room available for overnight visits by relatives and friends. Each house is serviced by a housekeeper with volunteers providing assistance and support to residents through a locally based Abbeyfield group. Judy Dunster comes originally from Edinburgh, Scotland where she attended Edinburgh University and became Secretary of the University's Charities - her first experience of community service. Judy decided that she wanted to do social work and planned to work in overseas refugee camps. But to do this, she first needed basic nursing skills. Although Judy acquired these, in the end she did not go to a refugee camp but rather to Malaya where her sister and brother-in-law lived, and worked with the Malayan Rubber Fund Board. Judy then married and, not long after, returned to the UK with her baby daughter, Susie. In order to support them both, Judy became matron of a girl's boarding school. When Susie turned three, Judy returned to Edinburgh and the University to study for a Diploma in Social Work. This turned out to be crucial to Judy's future career as her thesis was on accommodation for the disabled. It looked at various supported housing models, one of which was Abbeyfield's. Although this was Judy's first personal contact with Abbeyfield it was not her first encounter with the Society as her father before her had been very involved in it. While studying for her Diploma in Social Work, Judy met Robert Dunster, an architect with an interest in welfare matters. They married, and Judy and Robert set up house in Washington DC where Judy became involved in social action as a voluntary Community

Development Worker. Judy and Robert then moved to Australia where Judy's second daughter, Fiona, was born. Judy then enrolled at the University of Melbourne to further her social work training and, working from the University's School of Social Work, taught social work students at the Victorian Council of Social Security and the (Commonwealth) Department of Social Security. During this time, Judy also won a Government Scholarship to study for her Masters degree. In 1978, Judy and Robert went to the UK for a holiday and, whilst there, were told that the Abbeyfield Society was looking for them. As a result of this contact they learnt that many Australians wanted Abbeyfield to start up here, and so it all began. On returning to Australia in 1979, Judy approached the Australian and Victorian Council on the Ageing and, as a result, a working party was set up. Professor Ronald Henderson lent his support, and in 1981 a public meeting established the Abbeyfield Society in Australia. Judy became the inaugural National Chairperson in 1981 and Victorian Chairperson in 1983. Of course, Robert gave Judy his full backing and support during all of this. In 1985, Judy passed the Chairpersonship of the Victorian body to Pat Long, and only a few weeks ago stepped down as National Chairperson. Judy has led Abbeyfield without remuneration since its inception in Australia – a remarkable gift to Australia from a remarkable person.

1992: Mr Keith Hexter

During the early 1980's Keith's wife Esme contracted Motor Neurone Disease which results in the weakening of various muscles of the body with consequential loss of movement and control. As a result of Esme Hexter's illness, Keith became interested in how he could help his wife move certain muscles with electronic aids and switches. Esme was admitted in the mid 1980's to the Bethlehem Hospital which is a specialist Hospital for Motor Neurone patients. At the Bethlehem Hospital Keith Hexter widened his interest in using electronic switching devices to assist Motor Neurone patients and he developed in conjunction with the Bethlehem occupational therapist staff the "Esme Switch". Around 1986 Esme passed away in the Bethlehem Hospital and since that time Keith has maintained his contact with the Hospital and assisted many patients with the adaptation of switches and mechanical aids including mobile arm supports operated with micro switches to enable patients to type on a computer and send signals (eg. nurse call switches, reading machine page turners etc.). Each week Keith Hexter spends at least one day at the Bethlehem Hospital to devise aids for patients and he also repairs electronic equipment for patients such as television sets etc. Keith Hexter has made an outstanding contribution to the welfare of physically handicapped people and in particular Motor Neurone patients using his vocational skills. Keith Hexter is dedicated to the cause of assisting handicapped people retain their independency as much as possible. He has received no enumeration for his voluntary work and has not charged for much of the equipment used. Keith's community service work will be ongoing as the electronic switches/devices and be passed on from patient to patient with some adaption where required.

1991: Mrs Vera Wells O.A.M

Presented: December 11th 1991

Presented on behalf of the Club by Lady Reid - widow of Sir John

1990: Mr P. (Bill) Cockram

Presented: February 27th 1991

Presented on behalf of the Club by Mrs Margaret Ross - daughter of Sir John Reid.

1989: Mrs Marjory Lane

Presented: February 7th 1990

Presented on behalf of the Club by Mrs Jean Hughes - daughter of Sir John Reid

1988: Mr Ian Stapleton

Presented on behalf of the Club.

1987: Deaconess Virginia Davey

Presented: March 23rd 1988

Presented on behalf of the Club by: Rotarian Bishop Peter Hollingworth.

In attendance: Previous Awardee Mr John Embling.

1986: Mr John Embling

Inaugural recipient.

Presented: December 10th 1986



Inaugural presentation Sir. John Reid Community Service Award on December 10, 1986.

President John Edmonds with (left) Ms. Heather Pilcher representing awardee Mr. John Embling Executive-Director of the Distress Foundation and (right) Lady Reid.