

Thanks given to hospital helpers

By Michael Maskell

Kyabram District Health Service celebrated its volunteers last Thursday as part of National Volunteer Week.

Chief executive Peter Abraham praised the work the many volunteers did at the hospital.

"At KDHS we value the contribution volunteers make across all sections of our organisation," he said.

"Our volunteers model our organisation values of empathy, wellbeing and community."

"They make a difference in happiness and mood and we want to let them know their efforts and commitment are appreciated."

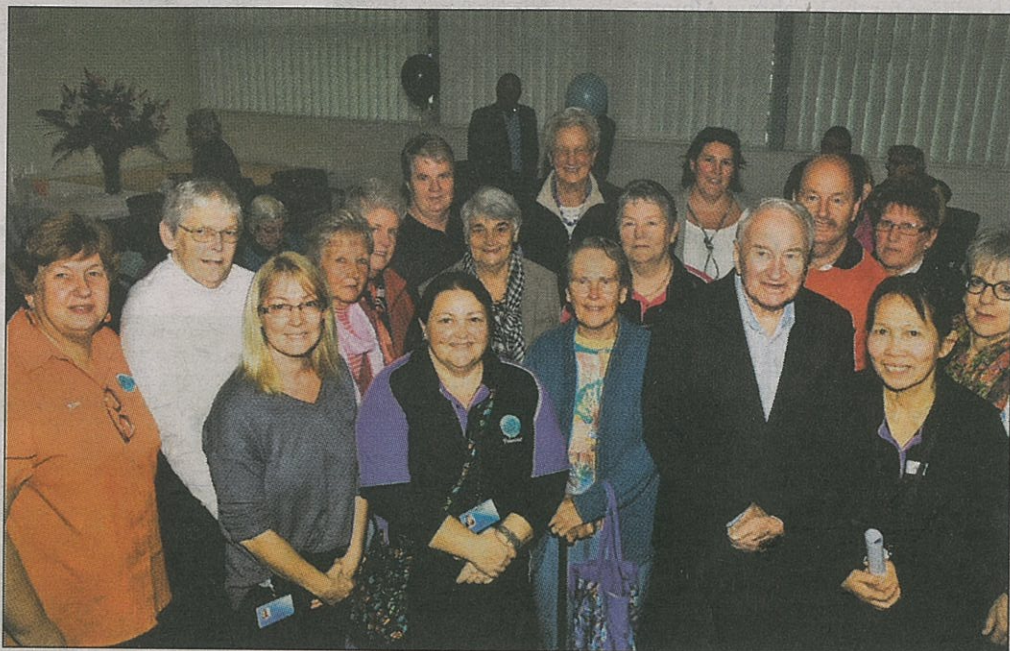
Volunteer co-ordinator Alma Limbrick handed out National Volunteer Week certificates and vouchers to the hospital's cafe to about 40 volunteers at afternoon tea and highlighted the variety of areas where they were active.

Some of the hospital's volunteers help with patients and residents, some deliver meals on wheels, others are enthusiastic members of the Ladies Auxiliary, assist with fundraising initiatives or donate their skills to assist the health service with its day to day activities.

Bronwyn Faisst, 38, who volunteers two days a week at Sheridan Nursing Home playing guitar, collecting residents and helping at meal time, had the distinction of being the youngest volunteer at the celebration.

Ms Faisst has completed 60 of the mandatory 100 hours volunteering commitment to complete her Certificate of Community Services.

She said it had been an awesome experience so far.



KDHS volunteers were thanked for making the hospital a happier place at a special afternoon tea last week.



KDHS volunteer co-ordinator Alma Limbrick with volunteer Bronwyn Faisst.

"They (the residents) are just so grateful," she said.

"I feel like I'm doing something really good every day I

come here. I feel like I've actually made a difference in some way," she said.

Ms Faaist said she chose to

volunteer at KDHS to be part of the community and to contribute in some way.

"I'm going to stay here after I've finished the 100 hours. I like that I'm not just sitting at home doing nothing. I like that I'm contributing in some way," she said.

"I hoped at the start that my volunteering would lead to paid work, but then after working here I was just getting so much out of the experience that even if I stay on forever and not get paid, it still feels good to me."

More volunteers are always needed, phone Mrs Limbrick on on 5857 0463 (Thursdays), leave your details with client services on 5857 0200 or email ALimbrick@kyhealth.org.au