

RAINFALL

THIS WEEK
13 mm
May
22 mm
Year to date
204.75 mm



The Mercury Carisbrook

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David Charlesworth has been volunteering with Carisbrook CFA for sixteen years.



Ian Hoyland has been volunteering with The Carisbrook Lions for three years.



Jean Adamson has been volunteering with The Mercury for sixteen years.

Volunteers make communities vibrant

By R. I. Nagy

If you live in Carisbrook, it's likely that you've come into contact with a volunteer, or benefited from volunteer work, at some stage in your life.

It might have been through being assisted during a fire or flood event, researching your family tree, or even grabbing a sausage in bread from a BBQ fundraiser.

In 2015, the year before the last Census was taken, it was reported that 27.8% of people aged 15 or over in Carisbrook had completed voluntary work through an organisation or group.

This statistic sits within the 'Unpaid Work' section of the Census survey.

Like other forms of unpaid labour that take place out of the public eye – including domestic work, childcare, or providing assistance to people with disabilities – the importance of volunteering is often greatly underestimated by the communities that rely on it.

So what do volunteers do within a community?

Around Carisbrook, they're everywhere – fundraising for charity, keeping the town safe, helping other organisations achieve their goals, undertaking research, preserving history, providing social outlets,

passing on knowledge to others, and keeping the community connected and thriving in a variety of ways.

History has repeatedly shown that a healthy community is more likely to retain businesses and other vital amenities, attract new residents to further enrich the population, and enjoy benefits associated with increased exposure through tourism.

As part of National Volunteer Week in Australia, we took the opportunity to speak to volunteers from three organisations in Carisbrook about the different types of work they do, and how it is important to both themselves and their community.

Jean Adamson - The Carisbrook Mercury
The Mercury is Carisbrook's community newspaper, focusing on local news and stories of interest.

It is published weekly on Thursdays, and is distributed in both print and digital format.

The office is located at the Carisbrook Town Hall, and is fully staffed by volunteers.

Carisbrook local Jean Adamson is now in her 16th year as a volunteer with The Mercury, working as a proof-reader for the newspaper

during its pre-publication phase.

Currently, she is averaging about three hours a week there as a proof-reader and print copy archivist, in addition to some occasional administrative work undertaken at home.

Ms Adamson's main work at The Mercury involves reviewing draft printouts of each page of the paper with a small team of volunteer proof-readers to help eliminate errors in spelling, grammar, photo captioning and general layout.

"I like language," she says when discussing why she chose to volunteer as a proof-reader.

"It is a distinct job that can be done – started, worked on, finished – and it serves a good community purpose."

She also likes the fact that the paper encourages community input, and that the proof-reading work offers a sufficient degree of autonomy to keep it interesting.

In addition to the work itself, Ms Adamson also enjoys the company of the sort of people who are attracted to this kind of work.

"I haven't worked with a group of volunteers of this type, ever," she admits.

"They're all people who are pretty verbal, and who like a range of topics, and are

interested in the world, and you don't always get that."

Ms Adamson says that the most rewarding aspect of the work is the connections she has made.

"It connects me to the community, and also connects people within the community with each other because the information in [the paper] is relevant to them," she says.

She also believed that volunteering could provide roles within the community for those who might otherwise not have one because of their circumstances.

"All sorts of things can come out of it," she says.

"It can be interesting, communal and fun."

As a long-time volunteer, one of the things that concerns Ms Adamson the most is what will happen once the current crop of volunteers in Australia – mostly the "baby boomers" aged 60 and over – stop volunteering.

"We are doing so much unpaid work that we're saving society a lot of money," she says.

"And when we're gone, they're going to have to find the money to pay people to do large amounts of that work."

David Charlesworth - Carisbrook CFA
Carisbrook's CFA unit is

primarily responsible for fire suppression in Carisbrook and around the Central Goldfields area, although they can also assist with other emergencies such as road accidents, search and rescue, and floods (the unit undertook a vital role in assisting with communications, evacuations and pumping water out of the town during Carisbrook's 2011 floods).

They also do a small amount of community work, which includes answering questions from the public.

The Carisbrook CFA is located at the fire station in Urquhart Street, and is staffed by a team of volunteers from Carisbrook and district.

Carisbrook local David Charlesworth has been an operational volunteer with the Carisbrook CFA for 16 years.

Due to the on-call nature of the work, the hours he spends volunteering vary.

"It depends on the year, to be honest," he says.

"This year's been really quiet. The year before was busy."

For context, during a quiet year the number of "turnouts" can be between 15-18, as opposed to 60-70 during a busy one.

Outside of assisting with emergency situations, Mr

Charlesworth's CFA volunteer work focuses on keeping his skills up to date and truck maintenance.

Before fire season the whole brigade runs through a series of drills to ensure that the volunteers' skills are current.

Other types of training relate to tree hazards, structural awareness, drafting (using a pump to take up water) and learning how to hook up the different types of trucks.

Mr Charlesworth became a volunteer with the CFA after being asked to join during a membership drive.

Prior to this, he had been undertaking casual work with them.

For Mr Charlesworth, the main reward of being a volunteer with the CFA relates to being able to provide assistance – and reassurance – to the community during fire season.

"It's always nice to know that you've done something to help someone," he says.

A side benefit of being a CFA volunteer is getting the chance to gain access to areas where the public often can't go, usually through volunteering to travel to other regions to help out other brigades.

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Carisbrook Community Diary

THIS WEEK

Mondays

►Line dancing, 1.30-4pm, Majorca Town Hall. \$2
Contact Aileen Howard 5464 7256

Fridays

►Carisbrook Historical Society. Research meeting, 1.30pm, Carisbrook Town Hall. Contact Judy Healey 5464 2601.

►Carisbrook Football Netball Club fixtures this weekend

►Saturday at Navarre

Men's football—Seniors at 2.35pm, Reserves at 12.45pm, U17.5s at 11.15am, U14.5s at 9.45am, U11.5s at 8.30am
Netball—A Grade 2.35pm, B Grade at 1.15pm, C Grade at 12.05pm, 17&U at 11.10am, 15&U at 10.15am, 13&U at 9.20am

►Sunday at Carisbrook

Women's football—Seniors 11.15am, Under 14s 9.45am

THIS MONTH

►Friday, May 28: Daisy Hill card night 7.30pm start, Daisy Hill Community Centre.

Contact Pat Perry 5461 3561

►Sunday, May 30: Carisbrook Historical Society Market, Carisbrook Town Hall. 9am—2pm

Contact Michael 5464 2251

►Monday, May 24: Carisbrook Lions Club meeting, Carisbrook Lions Hall, 7pm.

Contact Jefferson Hooper 0427 326 166

►Monday, June 7: Carisbrook Senior Citizens lunch, 12.30pm.

Contact Robyn Tracey 5464 2495

►Monday, June 7: The Open Mic Night group, Carisbrook Senior Citizens Hall. 7pm. Performers and audience are all welcome.

Contact Sue 5464 2693 or Edith 5464 7286

►Monday, June 7: Carisbrook Masonic Lodge, Bucknall Street, Carisbrook, 7.30pm.

Contact David Bilton 0437 067 846

►Tuesday, June 1: Central Goldfields Ratepayers & Residents Assn Inc meeting, 7pm, Carisbrook Seniors Citizens.

Contact Wayne 0419 101 144

OPPORTUNITY SHOP

Open Friday-Sunday 10am-3pm. COVID rules apply

RECYCLING WEEK

Sunday, May 16: No recycling for Carisbrook.

TOTAL FIRE BAN AREA

Carisbrook is in the North Central region for total fire bans. Fire restrictions ended on March 29, 2021.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

David Coutts, phone 5464 2481

Robyn Jennings, phone 5461 1018

Organisations wishing to list events in the Carisbrook Community Diary should drop them into the Mercury letterbox at the Town Hall, 19 Bucknall Street, Carisbrook, email thecarisbrookmercury@yahoo.com.au or phone 5464 1952. Listings are free.

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10 years ago in *The Mercury*

From the Carisbrook Mercury, Thursday, May 26, 2011



Part of the huge feast at the school morning tea.

AAMI still no decision

Carisbrook AAMI customers, who are in dispute with the insurance company, are still waiting for an outcome of their grievances.

When contacted by The Carisbrook Mercury on Monday, AAMI corporate affairs manager Reuben Aitchison said there were 21 claims in total and eight people, as of a week ago, had lodged an appeal.

A fancy feast to raise cancer funds

Carisbrook Primary School students held a Biggest Morning Tea for Cancer last week.

The morning tea was held as part of Education Week celebrations at the school.

Tilly Ann Aston doco

Carisbrook's most famous resident Tilly Aston, who achieved many things for the blind of Australia, is featured in a new documentary.

The documentary was made for the Culture Victoria website after funding was obtained by Central Goldfields Shire Council's former Growth and Liveability manager, Fran Silvester Cox.

Flood recovery news

The Carisbrook District Recovery Committee will be meeting this Thursday, May 26, at the Carisbrook Senior Citizens Centre at 7.30pm.

All Carisbrook residents are welcome to attend meetings and to raise relevant issues.

Grants for sports groups

Carisbrook Recreation Reserve was one of 387 sports clubs in flood-affected regions of Victoria granted essential funding to purchase sporting and injury prevention equipment, portable shade and to train volunteers through the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) Active Club Grants round.

In addition to its usual annual grants round for all Victorian sports clubs, VicHealth made extra funding available to lend a hand to the many townships in rural Victoria inundated in the recent floods.

Digital Ready program causes concern

Regional Victoria analogue television broadcasts were completely switched off on Thursday, May 5, leaving digital television channels to be the main form of broadcast.

Digital television began broadcasting in metropolitan areas first in 2001, with all other areas of Australia beginning after that time.

Sherriden in netball squad

One Carisbrook player has been selected in the Maryborough Castlemaine District Football Netball League interleague netball squads.

Sherriden Byrne has been selected in the senior squad, but no Carisbrook players made the 17 and Under or 15 and under squads.

Brook escapes with draw

A nail-biting final five minutes highlighted the game that ended in a draw between Carisbrook and Newstead on Saturday – Carisbrook 13.11 (89) to Newstead 14.4 (89). There were injuries to key players from both sides before the game, with Brook losing Nathan Wright late.

Volunteers make vibrant communities

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"I've been all over the state – seen some beautiful parts of the state," he says.

He mentions a time when he and his eldest son, who is also a CFA volunteer, were doing bulldozer protection in the Grampians, and were able to four-wheel drive through areas that would normally be inaccessible to vehicles.

Mr Charlesworth believes that volunteering with the CFA is a worthwhile cause.

"We're always looking – if someone's interested, come down," he says.

"We're all getting older", he adds, touching on the importance of always having new volunteers joining the organisation.

Ian Hoyland - Carisbrook Lions Club

According to the Lions Australia website, "Lions are friends, family and neighbours who share a core belief: community is

what we make it."

Carisbrook Lions Club undertakes a number of important activities that benefit the local community, including fund-raising and providing services to other clubs and organisations.

Carisbrook Lions' member Ian Hoyland has been with the club for 3 years now, and volunteers about 30-40 hours per month.

Most of his work is done behind the scenes, although he does also assist at some of the more public-facing events.

Behind the scenes, he's responsible for risk management at the club, as well as taking 'Aston' the Lions' train and the clown trailer out to different events for fund-raising purposes.

He also carries out repairs and maintenance on these, and assists with other Lions activities including their fund-raising BBQs and marshalling for the Maryborough Motorcycle Club.

Funding for Maryborough outdoor gym

The Maryborough community has received \$95,000 for an outdoor gym within the Princes Park sport and leisure precinct under the State Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund – Stimulus Round.

Member for Western Victoria, Jaala Pulford, on Friday, May 14, announced funding for the project, which is part of the state government's commitment to build the things that matter to locals and help their towns thrive.

The project is among a suite of successful initiatives as part of this year's Regional Infrastructure Fund – Stimulus Round.

The project involves the purchase and specialist installation of eight pieces of outdoor exercise equipment with at least two pieces designed to be accessible for wheelchair users and people with restricted mobility.

The project will also provide bench seating and a water fountain to fully establish the outdoor gym.

His involvement with the Carisbrook Lions initially came about as a result of his mechanical skills.

"When they had the market, they had trouble with the train, and a friend of mine asked if I'd like to have a look at it and see what's going on, because I can do small engines. And it just started from there," he says.

In addition to his Lions work, Mr Hoyland has also done work for disaster-relief charity BlazeAid, taking specially equipped combat trailers up to NSW after the fires in January 2020.

He admits that one of the most rewarding aspect of his Lions volunteer work is being able to bring smiles to the faces of the children who ride on the Lions' train at different events.

"I just love doing it," he says.

"I get the joy of helping people out."

Helping out around the community is something he

enjoys, whether it's running the train, or assisting elderly citizens with shopping and outings.

The average age of the Carisbrook Lions club's members is approximately 64, so recruiting new members is a priority for the club.

"We try to get the younger ones in – but it's very, very hard," Mr. Hoyland says.

If members of the community are interested in joining the Lions club, all they need to do is ask.

"There's always someone who'll sit down and explain it to you," he says.

Contact details for volunteering:

The Mercury – 5464 1952 or 0427 320 386.

Carisbrook CFA – Check the website: <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteer-careers/volunteers>.

Carisbrook Lions Club – Jefferson Hooper 0427 828 466.

Federal budget a winner for Victorian farmers

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) welcomes the significant commitment to agriculture in this year's Federal Budget that was announced last week.

VFF President Emma Germano said it was mostly good news for farmers with important investments in soil health, trade, biosecurity, infrastructure and farm businesses.

"Agriculture has proven its resilience and it's pleasing to see this support as we continue to play a major role

in our COVID-19 economic fightback.

"Farmers will welcome the \$25 million in funding for the extension of the popular on-farm emergency water scheme, but for farmers to benefit the Victorian Government must match the federal funding.

"We are a major economic contributor and it's long overdue we received our fair-share."

The VFF's full Victorian pre-Budget submission is at <https://bit.ly/3bhZU22>