

### **Kigen Ahe**

Kigen has been volunteering at St David's Neighbourhood Centre since 2018, sharing her sunny smile and caring nature with the clients of Harmony Club aged care program. Kigen is committed to helping others and is a valued community member, who generously shares her experience as a support worker, and her passion for gardening! Under Kigen's tender care, our community garden has blossomed into a lush and colourful space enjoyed by everyone who visits the Neighbourhood Centre. When she isn't volunteering with the Harmony clients, she can be found sharing gardening tips with members of our Conversational English group or watering the flowers with children from our playgroup. Kigen's potted plants have become famous and are a great fundraiser at our Autumn Fest.

### **John Brown**

John is an extraordinary volunteer and has spent a lifetime volunteering for his Church, the Sherwood Community Centre and over the past decade the Oxley Men's Shed. The founding member and inaugural President of the Oxley Men's Shed, John was instrumental in working with Brisbane City Council, St John's Church and the community to find a home, build an executive and establish the Shed in 2011. Under John's leadership, the Shed has thrived, welcoming hundreds of new members over the years and creating a welcoming environment for men to learn new skills, build comradery and support one another's well-being. John is an extraordinary ambassador for the Oxley Men's Shed and is a quiet champion supporting our local community.

### **Jeff Brunne**

Jeff is an active member of the Fairfield/Annerley community who volunteers his time to multiple organisations including the Annerley Junction Fest Committee, the Annerley-Stephens History Group and the Community Connection and Belonging Project. As a member of the Annerley Junction Fest committee, Jeff assisted in organising the 2021 Annerley Junction Fest and navigating the challenges that COVID-19 presented. Jeff's free walking tours of Annerley were a festival highlight, and are just one example of his generosity with his time and knowledge

### **Mimi Chang**

Mimi is the secretary of the Taiwan Women's League of Queensland. As Secretary Mimi has been integral in applying for over 20 Government grants for the new Taiwan Women's League of Queensland building. Mimi has managed to secure \$20 000 in grants. Her efforts are commendable.

Mimi also has responsibilities with the running of the organisation which includes class enrolments, enquiries as well as helping to organize classes and events. Mimi is always looking for new ideas and ways to promote new classes to benefit members. Without Mimi the Taiwan Women's League of Queensland would not be the great community organisation it is today.

### **Benjamin Chen**

Ben has been a volunteer for the Taiwan Women's League of Queensland for the last 12 years. Ben has been nominated for the work he did to oversee the development of the Taiwan Women's League of Queensland premises in Runcorn. This was a very involved process which required extensive meetings between all levels of government and the local community. Ben also contributed to the building design, choice of materials and oversaw the building project while it was in progress. After the Community Centre was opened, he volunteered to be on roster 4 days a week and was responsible for the cleaning and tidying of classrooms, community hall and general maintenance. The Taiwan Women's League is grateful for all Ben's work.

### **Shou Men Chen**

Shou Men Chen has been a committee member of the Australian Cantonese Association for several years. Shou Men helps to organise and run the Association's annual dinner functions. She also helps by organising and conducting the prize draws. Shou Men is also responsible for the singing and dancing classes that are enjoyed by the Association's members.

### **Hei (Hugo) Cheng**

Hugo has volunteered for many years with the Chinese Fraternity Association of Queensland Inc. Hugo assists with aged care Community Day Care Respite – this involves very early starts to drive the elderly people from their home to the centre. Once they arrive at the centre Hugo arranges activities like bingo, exercise and singing.

Hugo makes sure everyone has a great day.

### **Elizabeth Cohen-Rogers**

Elizabeth Cohen-Rogers is an extremely dedicated volunteer who has been on the Executive Committees of Parents and Citizens Associations for local State Schools for the last 20 years. Elizabeth was President for 6 years and Vice President for 2 years at Algester State School, where she was also responsible for fundraising and successfully organised the fete every year with the principal. Elizabeth has also been President at Runcorn State High school for the past 12 years – the last 7 of which she has had no children at the school. Elizabeth has worked well with the school and successfully managed the committee, regular meetings, fundraisers, the Uniform Shop and Canteen. While Elizabeth has been President at Runcorn State High School, a new uniform has been introduced and the P&C has been able to contribute over \$100,000 towards numerous projects for the school and the students. Elizabeth has truly loved volunteering in these roles and being able to make a difference for local children and the schools.

### **Richard Copland**

Richard Copland is a volunteer at Community Plus+ Yeronga and helps on the Community Connection and Belonging project. Richard has a wealth of specific expertise with his prison chaplaincy background. One of the major aims of the project is to support people to get into housing or maintaining their existing housing through community connection and belonging. Richard brings understanding and expertise around transitioning out of prison and has been a major connector for this project. Community Plus+ are so grateful for Richard's tireless effort and understanding of community members.

### **Michael Crosby**

Michael Crosby is the president of the Normanby Hounds Rugby League Football Club, based out of Graceville. In 2021, the club had six senior teams playing in local competitions, making Normanby Hounds the largest senior club in Queensland. With such a large club with various needs, Michael has created a successful leadership structure with volunteers running all aspects of the club. From uniform ordering, game day procedures, running fundraising BBQs, coordinating training and game times, event nights and community events, there is plenty of work to do. The club has seen a lot of achievements thanks to Michael's guidance, creativity and approachability. Michael was responsible in securing grants to have floodlights installed on the main field, that allowed the club to expand their training area and game capacity for night games. This has seen participation from the surrounding community in attending local football games and having an enjoyable time. Michael manages all this as well as working full-time and raising his young family.

### **Leonie Crowe**

Leonie has made a measurable impact for over 10 years as the Brisbane Dog Training Club's president. She is a passionate advocate for positive reinforcement-based Dog Training, encouraging owners to train, support and have fun with their dogs. Not only does Leonie lead and motivate the club committee she also volunteers as an instructor and mentor at the club, leads working bees, looks after much of the administrative tasks, organises Dogs QLD competitive trials multiple times a year and spearheads new initiatives in order for the club to continue to provide up to date and scientifically backed training methods to community members. With Leonie as leader the club membership has grown and the number of Instructors and courses run has increased, better supporting the dog owning members of the local community. Despite her own health challenges and the ongoing issues in keeping the club going during Covid19 restrictions, Leonie exudes an enthusiastic and supportive presence at the club.

### **Larissa Deake**

Larissa is a visual artist and curator and volunteer member of the Annerley Junction Festival organising committee. In 2021, Larissa brainstormed the idea for the inaugural Annerley Art Show as part of the Annerley Junction Festival and used her professional expertise to coordinate and curate an exhibition of local artists. Thanks to Larissa's hard work and creativity, local artists of all ages and abilities were given the opportunity to share their

work with the local community in a pop-up gallery. The event was a huge success, and the Art Show is set to become an annual fixture at Annerley Junction Fest.

### **Jitendra Deo**

Jitendra is a community leader and has helped many people in the community. Jitendra has been instrumental in building a multipurpose Hall at 198 Learoyd Road Willawong named Queensland Vedic Cultural Centre Pty Ltd. The hall is used by many people. Jitendra is President of Arya Samaj Queensland Inc, Religious organisation Chairman Deo Family Charitable Foundation- that organise events including Girmmit Remembrance Day and Fiji Day Celebrations for people of Fijian Diaspora. Jitendra is also a radio host and has a talk show to raise social and health issues amongst the wider community and interviewing politicians, community leaders, health professional and others who make difference in the community. He is also Community Services Director of Rotary Club of Brisbane International- where he works with his members to provide food for homeless and provide help to those in need.

### **Cheryl Desmarais**

For almost a decade Cheryl has been an integral member of the Ekibin Lions Club, volunteering at a wide range of events, BBQs and fundraising activities to help local and international groups in need. Her kindness and caring approach to helping others creates an inclusive and welcoming environment for Lions members and a positive relationship with the local community. Cheryl has served on the Club's executive as Secretary for several years and most recently, as the Ekibin Lions first female President for the past two years.

### **Desley Griffiths**

Desley has a long history of helping local people through tough times. Desley works with the Brisbane Vintage & Collectables Op Shop to provide much needed support to people who are struggling to finding housing or finding it hard to get supplies for school or day to day basics. Desley also assists local domestic violence shelters in getting the items they need. Desley does all these things, and it makes an enormous impact, but she expects nothing in return.

### **Rachna Gupta**

Rachna was instrumental in helping raise funds for domestic violence victims through Rize Up Australia. She has worked as a volunteer to raise funds for Breast Cancer Australia and currently volunteers at events to support women who lack in confidence. Rachna has a passion for writing and through her writing she encourages friends and family to come forth and get involved in her charity work.

### **John Hogan**

John is a social member of the Sherwood RSL Sub-Branch and is always offering his time and support of the Sub-Branch and its members. John also works at the monthly members BBQ by preparing food in the morning, serving food for lunch and then also cleaning up. John also is the Santa at the Christmas party every year and brings fun and laughter to every day. John has been a long-standing social member of Sub-Branch and the members would be lost without his comradery, dad jokes and assistance.

### **Teresa Howkins**

Teresa assists her mother and other members of the War Widows Association –Sherwood Branch to get to their monthly meeting, to do their banking and manage their affairs. Teresa also organizes for them to get to their Christmas functions which brings together ladies from many different branches and for their annual state get together. This assistance provides these War Widows the opportunity to meet similar people who have lived through the anguish of having seen a husband perish serving their country. Teresa's tireless efforts make these special ladies feel they are appreciated for who they are and what they have been through.

### **Geoff Ivett**

Geoff is a volunteer with Sherwood Meals on Wheels. He has been described as the most amazing man that will help anyone with anything. Geoff is someone who can always be relied upon and is the first to respond whenever help is required. Geoff often helps as many times as 3 days per week. Sherwood Meals on Wheel are incredibly grateful for the help.

### **Sophie Julian**

Sophie has served as President of the Sherwood Festival Committee since 2020. During these two years, she has done a fantastic job ensuring the Festival could go ahead despite the hurdles presented by COVID-19. With perseverance and creativity, Sophie and her committee of volunteers have continued the 26-year-old tradition of bringing the community together and supporting local business via the Annual Sherwood Community Festival event.

### **Dave Kent**

Dave has been heavily involved with Oxley Creek Catchment Association in various positions since its inception in 1996. In the early days he chaired a number of sub-committees focusing on water and land management and for the last few years he has been OCCA's President and was re-elected at the recent AGM. Dave has also been heavily involved in organising the Peaks to Points Festival, and prior to P2P, the Oxley Creek Water Festival. He helped to organise the 60 events in the 2021 program (as well as lead or participate in all the activities organised by OCCA – nest box building, open day, BBQ etc) as well as leading a bus tour and attending many of the other events. Dave readily volunteers to assist with all OCCA's activities including events such as Greenheart Fairs, Clean Up Australia Days, World

Environment Day, Logan EcoAction Festival, Moorooka Family Day and many others. Dave has also taken it upon himself to rehabilitate a stretch of the Brisbane River at the end of Blackheath Road, undertaking weeding and rubbish removal. Oxley Creek Catchment Association are so grateful for all Dave's hard work.

### **Phil Kyle**

Phil is an honorary social member of the Sherwood RSL Sub-Branch and is always offering his time and support of the Sub-Branch and its members. Phil also works at the monthly members BBQ by preparing food and being the resident BBQ chef, serving food for lunch and then also cleaning up. Phil is an ever present and avid volunteer to the Veteran Community. Phil is a long-standing member of our Sub-Branch and the members of this Sub Branch would be lost without his comradery, assistance and dedication to duty.

### **Leah Lang**

Leah joined St David's Neighbourhood Centre in 2018 as an administration volunteer. Over the years Leah has become a valued and respected community member. Volunteering three days a week (or more when needed!). Leah is a ray of sunshine as she welcomes people to the Neighbourhood Centre and assists with administration tasks. Nothing is too hard for Leah and she is always willing to pitch in however needed. Her kindness and care for others is evident in all she does. Leah is a great representation of St David's Neighbourhood Centre's commitment to being a place of welcome.

### **Jessie Liu**

Jessie was the founding president and current president of Taiwan Women's League of Queensland Inc. The building of the new premises was a huge task and required a lot of management from members of Taiwan Women's League of Queensland. Jessie had a vision for the centre and so was instrumental in it being built for the whole community to enjoy. The Centre is now open for lessons and other activities. The centre still needs some items but with Jessie as President there is no doubt it will be completed soon.

### **June McNicol**

June is a founding member and valued volunteer of the Yeronga Meals on Wheels. June served as Secretary of the Yeronga Meals on Wheels from its inception in 1971 and remained on-board until it merged with Southside Meals on Wheels in 2021. Over 50 years, June has dedicated her time to the Meals on Wheels mission to support the elderly within our community and reduce the risk of social isolation. While doing so, June has remained forward-thinking and adapted to change as needed to ensure the organisation's ongoing success.

### **Molly Neville**

Molly is an outstanding individual who gives countless hours to Sherwood District Meals on Wheels. Molly is always reliable and happy to help with any task. Molly is also a member of the Oxley Bowls Club and bowls each Tuesday. Along with Molly's community work she

cares for her husband who has a terminal illness. Molly is a selfless person who deserves recognition.

### **Sue Nunn**

Sue started volunteering at St David's Neighbourhood Centre in 2017 and is passionate about her work at the Thrift Shop, (especially the books!). Sue is great at fundraising activities, and she helped with Autumn Fest. Sue puts in an incredible effort to source quality donations not only for the Thrift Shop, but for program activities, raffles and lucky door prizes. She is also a great salesperson (along with her volunteer partner Irene). Sue shares that her motivation is the benefit that her fundraising efforts bring to our community. The St David's Neighbourhood Centre community is blessed by Sue's enthusiasm and support, and she is always ready to assist at events, and attend centre activities. Sue's generosity and care also extends to family, friends, and neighbours.

### **Jim Pascoe**

Jim is one of the founding members and long serving Secretary of the Oxley Men's Shed. For more than a decade Jim has served on the executive of the Shed, supporting the current and past President's Martin and John and organising the shedders events and activities. Jim's contribution to the Shed has been documented through his monthly newsletter to members, a humorous and informative account of the activities and lives of the Sheddies and their families. It's a must read. Jim's humour, warmth and organisational abilities are outstanding and have helped make the Club a welcoming, inclusive and successful place for blokes to enjoy each other's fellowship.

### **Modabera Popal**

This person is truly an exceptional example of a volunteer. Modabera Popal is the founder and principal of the Mashal Irfaan Afghan Language School which is a not-for-profit ethnic school open to anyone wanting to learn the native languages of Afghanistan, Dari and Pashto. Since 2008 when she established the school, she has dedicated unquestionable hours into running this school with the help of her wonderful staff, who have always worked voluntarily and spend out of pocket for school equipment, textbooks, printing and also prizes for students to encourage them to strive. Since the new arrival of the Afghans from Afghanistan, Modabera had been working around the clock to organise English to be taught at the Afghan Language School so that settling in for the new Afghans is made easier as the large majority only speak Dari and do not know English. She has been spending a significant amount of her time working to integrate the curriculum to assist these new Afghans. She is also going out of her way to organise with the education department for some educational assistance for the new Afghans settling in.

### **Lila Pratap**

Damini Women's Association of Qld was founded by Lila in 2006 to empower women and children. The organisation aims to provide advice to women, to be a voice for them to Governments and to assist them to develop skills to help them to participate in society.

Lila Pratap has excelled in community work for 20 years. Her contribution has been in several organisations Hindu Mandir Association of Queensland Inc for 15 years, Indian Senior Citizens Association of Qld for five years and Federation of Indian Communities of Qld for 10 years. Lila was one of the founding members of Fiji Australia Club and served in the committee as a secretary for three years. Lila is a great mentor to others and this community is lucky to have her.

### **Elizabeth Pu and Jack Wei**

Jack and Elizabeth have volunteered with St David's Neighbourhood Centre since 2015. This dynamic duo are familiar faces around the centre as they spend three days a week working hard in the Thrift Shop and the Stay N Play Playgroup. At the Thrift Shop Jack has a special role managing all of the donations of shoes and handbags, and can tell you some funny stories about the things he has found in handbags over the years! Elizabeth assists with managing the book and clothing donations. They are very respected and appreciated by the Thrift Shop team for their dedication and work ethic.

Jack and Elizabeth also volunteer with the Stay N Play playgroup, where they assist the playgroup coordinator with setting up and delivering the program, and most importantly playing with kids! The parents and children look forward to seeing them every week. Through their generosity, kindness and dedication, Jack and Elizabeth contribute so much to St David's Neighbourhood Centre and our community.

### **John Quak**

John is a volunteer with Community Plus+ Yeronga and works on the Community Connection and Belonging project. John has gone above and beyond to be the hands and feet of the project. John used to work as an Engineer and when he retired, realised the importance of working with people and having something to do. John volunteers an average of 30 hours a month to support regular activities as well as providing practical help to people experiencing housing insecurity. John is a very reliable quiet achiever and deserves recognition for his work.

### **Karen Ramsey**

Karen Ramsey and her family have been involved with Sunnybank Rugby Union Club since she was 8 years old. Karen sold raffle tickets for the club and worked in the club's canteen during her childhood, then returned in 2014 when her son began playing rugby union for the club as an under 6 year old. Karen became a Sunnybank Junior Rugby Club committee member in 2017 and has been Treasurer since 2018 and Chairperson since 2019. Karen has been an exceptional leader and has encouraged change. Her capacity to develop relationships, drive improvements and challenge the status quo has been fundamental to the success of Sunnybank Rugby Union Club and the wider Brisbane Rugby Union competition. Karen is extremely passionate about Sunnybank Rugby Union Club and volunteering to the best of her ability in her roles, to improve the club.

### **Bruce Riddell**

Bruce is the (volunteer) treasurer of the Annerley Baptist Church and has forged a partnership with the Annerley Community Plus+ organisation to realise his lifelong dream of making his church a place of sanctuary for people sleeping rough. He has volunteered 22+ hours every week over the last 3 years to the project, Community Connection & Belonging project. Bruce has been described as the glue of the project, providing practical, pragmatic, grounding advice and support for cabin residents as well as business knowledge and church organisational insight. Community Plus + would not be able to run the project without him.

### **Mary Lou Simpson**

Mary Lou is a long-time supporter of the Oxley Creek Catchment Association and has devoted much of her time to improving the environment of the Oxley Creek Common. She is a founding member of the Friends of Oxley Creek Common and has been a committee member since its inception. She has established 2 working groups at the Oxley Creek Common to remove weeds and increase the extent of native vegetation to improve appropriate habitat for native fauna. The Tuesday Common Carers has been operating for over 6 years for 2 hours each Tuesday morning and Mary Lou has gathered a group of about a dozen dedicated volunteers to support her work. In 2021 she established Walk and Weed - a group that meets on the first Saturday of each month to take a gentle stroll round the Common and pull up a few weeds on the way. Mary Lou has also supported the recent establishment of the Bushcare and Beer initiative, a partnership between Oxley Creek Catchment Association and Helios Brewing Company to undertake weeding at the Common once a month. Mary Lou also supports OCCA's Corporate Volunteering program helping volunteers from companies and businesses to increase their knowledge of weeds and native plants whilst weeding or planting at the Common. She is a font of information on weeds and native species and is more than happy to pass on her knowledge to others.

## **Noel Standfast**

Noel has been a dedicated and enthusiastic supporter of Oxley Creek catchment Association since its formation in 1995. He formed and continues as the Coordinator of OCCA's CreekCare program which supports 10 Habitat Brisbane sites in the catchment from Sherwood through Salisbury to Sunnybank. CreekCare team provides additional labour for the bushcare groups. Noel leads the CreekCare volunteers every Thursday morning to one of these 10 sites on rotation. He liaises with each Coordinator to determine the work required to be done at each site and organises his team of a dozen or so enthusiasts of varying ages to undertake whatever is necessary – weeding, mulching, watering, planting etc. Noel also supervises and mentors students and younger volunteers, giving freely of his knowledge and expertise. The CreekCare team continues to expand due to Noel's enthusiasm, energy, experience and gregarious nature which make him a pleasure to work with. Noel was instrumental in the rehabilitation of Benarrawa Park, Corinda (affectionately known as Noel's backyard).

## **Ram Sumer**

In recognition of his outstanding leadership and tireless efforts in addressing and raising Yoga awareness in our community, especially to Yoga group members and Indian Seniors Citizen Association members. Many members have benefited from knee and joint aches, pulled muscles, breathing difficulties to back pains, Osteoporosis. For the last 13 years, he has been taking Weekly Yoga classes at no cost, absolutely free. But what is also staggering is how the efforts of one person, can truly make a difference in addressing this problem.

Ram has been actively involved in all the organised events of Seniors Association by providing support in multiple ways. As Vice President of the Seniors Association, he regularly visits older members and assists if the need arises. Ram strives to utilise every opportunity in his efforts to help anyone, and in any community organised events. He also runs Quiz programs for Seniors Quiz, getting them together and members take part willingly which gets them motivated.

## **Andrew Trail**

Andrew is a volunteer at Community Plus + Yeronga and involved in the Community and Belonging Project. Andrew came to help in June 2021 as a cabin resident and has flourished in volunteering his time on the project. In the last 3 months, he has cooked, cleaned, done ground maintenance and started becoming a community connector at the weekly lunches. Community Plus + Yeronga are so grateful for everything Andrew has done.

**Leigh Windsor**

Leigh has been volunteering at Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre for many years. Leigh has been described as a kind man who goes out of his way to help people. Many years ago, he taught some Sherwood Neighbourhood clients to use the computer. This help was life changing for one person who was able to change their circumstances and is forever grateful.

Leigh deserves recognition for always being ready and willing to help others. He asks for nothing in return.

**Kathy Yuen**

Kathy Yuen is a Committee member of the Australian Cantonese Association and has been since its formation in 2014. Kathy volunteers to organise and run the Association's dinner functions for members each year. She ensures that the dinner menu is appropriately selected and that the prize draws are conducted properly. She was instrumental in the formation of the English learning classes and a photography club for the Association's members.