



<b>Date:</b>	20 May 2022	<b>Embargo:</b>	None
<b>Pages:</b>	2	<b>Publication:</b>	All local media

## Council Volunteers Recognised for Significant Service

Four long-serving Town of Gawler volunteers have been recognised at a National Volunteer Week luncheon held to celebrate council's dedicated team of helpers.

Last year's annual event was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving Council unable to hold its usual annual volunteer end-of-year commemoration.

However, the staff-run celebration returned to the Gawler Civic Centre on Thursday, May 19, where participants from Council's nine different volunteer programs received morning tea and acknowledgment for the tremendous contributions they made to the town in 2021.

Gawler Mayor Karen Redman and Team Leader – Community Support Sanna Brannan made special presentations to long-time volunteers Jan Mudge (Visitor Information Centre team), Barry Patterson (Clock Tower team) and Katrina Bowden (Visitor Information Centre team) for their 10, 15 and 20 years of service, respectively.

Each received a plaque and gift hamper as appreciation for their outstanding efforts.

Angie Barefield (Visitor Information Centre team) was also commended for 25 years of service, but was unable to be present on the day.

### **Quotes attributable to Gawler Mayor Karen Redman:**

"This year, the theme for National Volunteer Week was '*Better Together*'," Mayor Redman said.

"And here in Gawler, I think we can all agree that together, through our volunteer programs, we are helping to change our community for the better.

"It was so disappointing that we were forced to cancel our end of year event last year due to COVID-19, so I feel really fortunate that we have been able to bring our wonderful volunteers together once again, especially during National Volunteer Week, where we get the opportunity to celebrate the power of volunteering."

### **Snapshot of Town of Gawler's amazing volunteer contributions**

Each year, National Volunteer Week provides a chance to recognise the vital work of volunteers and to say 'thank you'.

In 2021, Town of Gawler saw 108 active Council volunteers donate 7425 hours across our nine different volunteer programs, these being:

- Civic Centre
- Cultural Heritage Centre
- Graffiti Removal Program
- Home Assist Program
- Library
- Skating Program Visitor Information Centre
- Youth Program

According to the latest official records regarding the current replacement hourly figure for volunteers, this means our Town of Gawler volunteers make an economic contribution of more than \$330,000 to Council services each year.

### **Our long service recipients**

#### **Jan Mudge – 10 years**

Jan returned to volunteering at the Visitor Information Centre at the beginning of 2011 after having left previously to return to full-time work. She has more recently retired again from her volunteer role, but did achieve another 10 years of service before her resignation. During her time at the VIC, Jan was a dedicated volunteer who enjoyed assisting visitors to enjoy not just our town, but also the region and the state. In addition to her customer service role, Jan also volunteered as one of the Centre's history guides.

### **Barry Patterson – 15 Years**

Barry is one of our Clock Tower Volunteers, which involves him being part of a small team that shares the weekly task of winding Gawler's iconic clock. Barry's ongoing commitment to helping to maintain the clock is shown by his enthusiasm to not only show new volunteers the ropes, but also ensuring they understand the history and significance of the Clock Tower to the Town of Gawler. Barry has also contributed a significant amount of time volunteering with Council's Graffiti Removal Program in the past as well. This is a role that he only retired from in 2019.

### **Katrina Bowden – 20 Years**

Wednesday mornings at the Visitor Information Centre would not be the same without Katrina. For the past 20 years, Katrina has helped people to explore Gawler to its fullest. She loves to help others and this is demonstrated during every shift she does at the Centre. She also likes to share her passion for Gawler with those who come to stay at her Bed and Breakfast that she operates with her husband, Jerry. Katrina is always willing to help fill vacancies in the volunteer roster at the VIC and this is appreciated by all, especially now when volunteering is still recovering from the effects of COVID-19.

### **Angie Barefield – 25 Years**

Angie is another very important member of the volunteer family at the Visitor Information Centre. With 25 years of experience, her passion and expansive knowledge ensures that every visitor who comes across Angie will be guaranteed to maximise their time in Gawler and the wider regional areas, enjoying wonderful experiences ensuring wonderful lasting memories of their travels. Angie is not only dedicated, but also a very capable volunteer who knows the operations of the Centre, inside and out. She can answer just about any question that comes her way, no matter how left-field. When handling a tour or accommodation booking for the VIC, she has also shown she has the unique ability to entice people to stay just a little longer in Gawler.

### **Connect with Gawler:**

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/townofgawler](https://www.facebook.com/townofgawler) Twitter: [www.twitter.com/townofgawler](https://www.twitter.com/townofgawler)  
Instagram: @townofgawler YouTube: [www.youtube.com/townofgawler](https://www.youtube.com/townofgawler)

**ENDS**

The media may make contact with Mayor Karen Redman on 0421 839 359



Pictured L-R is: **Jan Mudge, Barry Patterson, Katrina Bowden and Mayor Karen Redman**