

Deserving of recognition

SHEPPARTON News

Every Australia Day we learn about the selfless volunteers who work tirelessly in the background to make life easier for everyone around them.

Their only motivation is to serve others and they are almost always embarrassed to receive an Order of Australia Medal or Citizen of the Year honour.

And really it is only a small token of recognition for holding the fabric of our society together.

Seymour's Pat Coffey spent more than half her life volunteering, sometimes up to 60 hours a week, and all to help create a support network she felt was needed.

Mrs Coffey set up a vital pregnancy support group in

Shepparton in the 1970s to help young mothers when she saw a hole in the social care system, and without a thought of financial gain spent her time establishing a support group where volunteers had the enormous responsibility of teaching mothers how to care for their children and offering them a shoulder to lean on.

Mothers were grateful for the essential service, made even more special because people were providing it from the goodness of their hearts.

The clear need for such a

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service is evident in its continued existence to this day.

While society might have changed over the decades, there are always quiet achievers behind the scenes willing to put in volunteer

hours for the betterment of our community.

So whatever else Australia Day stands for, the spotlight is shone on some of our society's most important people: these selfless com-

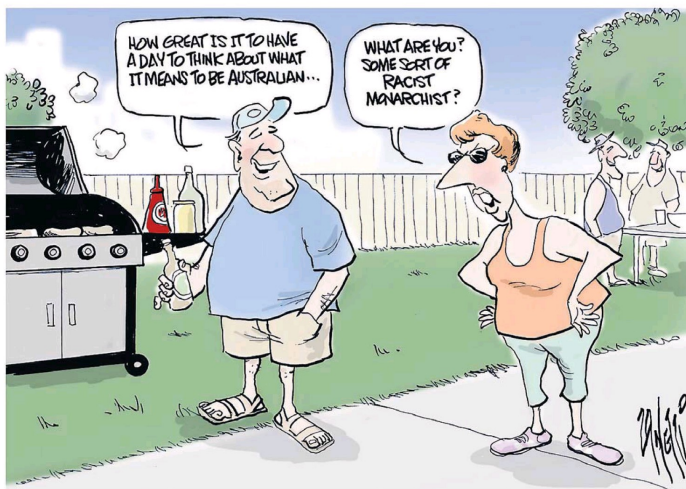
munity members who never ask for recognition.

While they may be mortified to be in the limelight, at least the awarding of these medals and certificates will demonstrate our respect and gratitude to volunteers for their altruistic work.

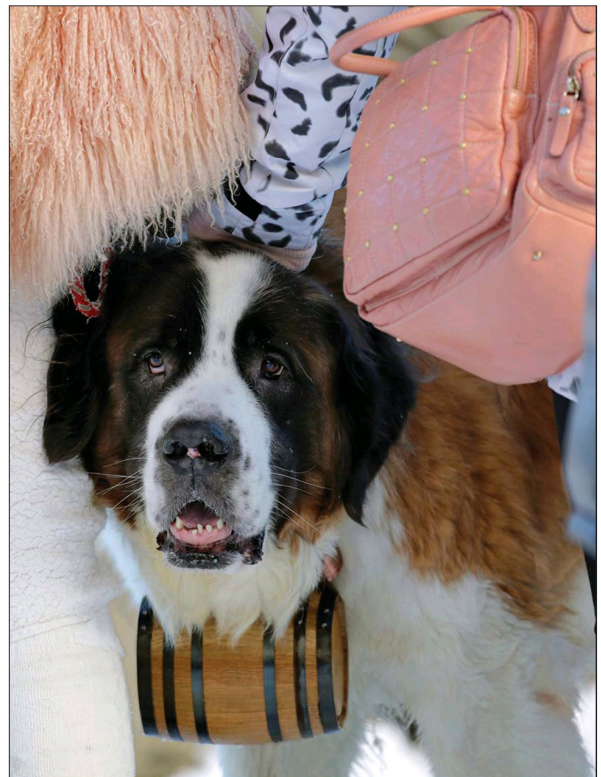
But each and every volunteer is remarkable, so wherever you are today, why not shake the hand of a volunteer and say "thank you".

From all us at *The News*, we thank you for making our community a better place.

ZANETTI'S VIEW



TOP SHOT



Provisions at the ready: Bernie, a nine-year-old rescued Saint Bernard, stands with his owners in Central Park in New York on Sunday. The east coast of the United States is beginning to recover from a major blizzard, Winter Storm Jonas, that dumped near-record amounts of snow in the region. Picture: EPA/Peter Foley

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Join the conversation

The News presents some of the biggest issues our community faces — and we want to know what you think. We love hearing from our readers and there's a few different ways you can get in touch with us to have your say.

The News welcomes letters to the editor that are short and to the point — fewer than 250 words. All letters must have the author's names and a daytime phone number for verification. The News reserves the right to edit letters for legal purposes and space restrictions.

If you would rather throw your thoughts into the Twittersphere instead of putting pen to paper, you can also tweet at us, or if Twitter isn't your thing, you can comment on our Facebook page.



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WIN Fishing Comp

Fancy **\$1000** worth of fishing gear for a big Easter trip?

Send us your best fishing photo for publication on Kev Tyler's weekly fishing page and you go in the running to win \$1000 worth of tackle from Trely's Tackle World, Corio St, Shepparton.

To enter the monthly competition, send us your best fishing photos with your name, details of the catch and a daytime telephone contact number.

The competition winner will be chosen by Shepparton fishing guru Steve Threlfall and announced the week before Easter.

Remember, for publication we need good quality hi-resolution digital photos 1 megabyte or more in file size.



Send your entries to
editor@sheppnews.com.au

Good luck and tight lines!

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Trely's TACKLE WORLD