

## The Bays Hospital Group

# Volunteers

## Community spirit and connections

**“I get more out of coming to volunteer here than the hospital ever gets out of me.”**  
– Joy Kohn

Some people believe that it's the volunteers that make The Bays such a special place. They certainly bring the community into the wards and corridors of our organisation and we are grateful for their commitment to us.

Our volunteers are an impressive group of dynamic people who are driven to contribute something positive – and they all get great satisfaction from giving up their free time to help us.

The Bays currently has a busy team of around 160 volunteers who help with tasks like refreshing flowers and distributing magazines and newspapers. They also work in the Mornington gift shop, assist in administration, help in the garden and are great company for patients who may be isolated, or don't get many visitors.

Vanda Hogan was born in The Bays Mornington when it was a local bush hospital. “The Bays has always been part of Mornington and it's been a big part of my life,” she said. “I remember visiting my mother in the maternity ward here when my baby brothers and sisters were born.”

It's the same story for Janice Danaher who is a volunteer Pink Lady at the The Bays Aged Care in Hastings. “I was born here, in this hospital. My grandmother was a member of the first ladies auxiliary, and my father was involved in the construction of the original hospital. Both my parents were on the hospital committee and as kids we were always fundraising for the organisation. It was just a natural progression for me to join as a volunteer here once I had finished work,” she explained.

Joy Kohn had a career in nursing that spanned 50 years, including as a Director of Nursing in a city hospital. She joined The Bays as a volunteer because she wanted to get back into a hospital environment after retiring. “I just love it,” she told us. “I get more out of coming to volunteer here than the hospital ever gets out of me.”

All of our volunteers share a desire to stay busy, active and engaged. Many come to The Bays through community connections. They all share a strong work ethic and a desire to give back to the community through their contributions.

Janice knows a lot of the elderly residents at Hastings, and she feels sure that having a familiar face around is very comforting for them. “Hastings is a small community and many people were involved

in the local orchard businesses, so it's a bit of a family affair here,” she said.

There are 26 Pink Ladies at The Bays Aged Care in Hastings. Most of them contribute a few hours a week to help at the Nursing Home. “One of our ladies has been an active volunteer for over 44 years,” said Janice.

“I had a friend who encouraged me to come and join as a volunteer,” said Isabelle Turnbull. “And I think many people get involved that way, it's a great social connection.”

“I've realised as I'm getting older that helping people is just so important,” said Vanda Hogan. “I love that I can give something back. And I feel so thanked and appreciated here. It's very uplifting every time I come in to The Bays.”

Trish King, the Volunteer Coordinator, has seen an increase in the number of people offering to help at The Bays in the past 12 months. “We currently have a fantastic team of volunteers,” she said. “Everybody just seems to fit-in together so well.”

Family and community connections, a desire to stay active and engaged and a willingness to contribute to the health and vitality of the community drives our volunteers. They feel a sense of belonging and ownership of the organisation's success. We couldn't be more grateful for their help and the spirit they bring to our organisation.



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