



Media release

For immediate release

Date: Monday 19 August 2013

Meals on Wheels celebrates its volunteer gems

The city will celebrate National Meals on Wheels Day's diamond anniversary on Wednesday 28 August by hosting a luncheon for its volunteers, staff and clients in recognition of their commitment.

This year's theme is 'diamonds are forever', which recognises the organisation's sixtieth anniversary.

Mayor Heather Henderson said the city's Meal on Wheels volunteers provide over 17 000 meals to 160 people each year.

"We have seventy wonderful volunteers who contribute their time to help the city provide this important community service," Mayor Henderson said.

"Not only do the volunteers deliver meals, they establish strong connections with their clients through daily contact and conversations, which is important for their mental and physical health."

Australian Meals on Wheels Association President Mr Ron Welsh said the service had come a long way since its humble beginnings in South Melbourne, where a lady on a tricycle delivered a few meals to local residents.

"National Meals on Wheels Day provides an opportunity to highlight to the Australian people the significant contribution that is made to the community through this valued service," Mr Welsh said.

National Meals on Wheels Day recognises the work of the organisation's 75 000 volunteers who deliver over 14 million meals to more than 80 000 meal recipients Australia wide.

Meals on Wheels could not operate without its fantastic volunteers, who assist in keeping costs down and making the service affordable for clients.

Commemorative placemats will be delivered to all Meals on Wheels clients as part of the celebrations.

For more information on the Meals on Wheels service, or to volunteer, contact the city on 9237 9320.

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Photo opportunity: A photo with Mayor Heather Henderson with Meals on Wheels volunteers and clients can be organised at the lunch on Wednesday 28 August at 12pm at the Subiaco Community Centre, 203 Bagot Road, Subiaco on request.