

Julie Anne Limbach (Pearson) OAM

Royal Park Tennis Club wishes to congratulate Julie Limbach who has been recognised with a Medal of the Order of Australia in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to the community through social welfare initiatives.

After chatting to a number of Club members of Royal Park, and former St Ambrose Tennis Club, who have known Julie for many years, none are surprised with the recognition and Award for her contribution to our community. I asked about Julie amongst her friends and the responses described her as happy, cheerful, super friendly, bubbly and humble.

“Wonderful, caring, giving, selfless person. She is amazing “ - Helen Joyce

“She has a great sense of humour. Would give the shirt off her back and hates being called a ‘Saint’ ” Laurie Pearson

Julie does not look for accolades. She just gets on and does what she does.



Julie (bottom right hand corner)

She has made a significant mark in her local community where she has volunteered with the St Vincent de Paul Society for 35 years, is a member of the St Monica's Moonee Ponds Branch and is the Coordinator and organiser of the Matthew Talbot Soup Van, Footscray, on Sunday nights. Her volunteer work includes spending time with the food van and all the behind the scenes activities such as organizing and collecting donations like food, clothes and blankets.

Established in 1980, the Matthew Talbot Soup Van – Footscray, provides meals six nights a week to people experiencing disadvantage and homelessness in the Footscray, Maidstone, Newport and Williamstown areas. The primary aim of the Soup Van Program is to offer food, compassion, genuine concern and a connection with the outside world to people experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness and disadvantage.

Julie goes above and beyond with her volunteer work for example, her organisation and delivery of 10 dozen scones with jam and cream for Mother's Day and her coordination of the use of a \$10,000 annual donation specifically for school uniforms and school supplies for approximately 40 children in need.

Julie has been involved in referrals for domestic violence, has taken ill people to hospital, organised accommodation for people, and recently in her own generosity, gave a woman the coat off her own back and her shoes on a night of very inclement weather.

Julie has been a member of the Royal Park Tennis community since she joined the St Ambrose Club in 1967 with her brother Laurie. She soon started being a regular on court and also joining the social club where she organised

- Car Rallys
- Annual Dinner Dances
- and Progressive Dinners

Julie became the St Ambrose Club President in the early 1970's.

Julie has a large group of tennis friends whom she has played with for many years and it is this group she inspired into action to create

Christmas Hampers for the homeless around seven years ago. To this day, approximately ten individuals (all past and present members of RPTC) gather together each year bringing with them donations, towels, soap, toothpaste, food and any other gift or product to put together around 200 gift packs for Julie to distribute through the Soup Van.

A huge congratulations to Julie from our Club and members on this wonderful and well deserving Award.

Janice Lacy



Julie (in Yellow) and her tennis friends creating Christmas hampers at RPTC