

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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I have been a volunteer since I was 20 years of age. I am now 84 and still a volunteer. At the age of 9 I was a Cub and belonged to various clubs during my primary and secondary school years. At the age of 20 I joined the Apex club of Kingaroy and was a member for 20 years till I reached the compulsory retirement age of 40. The 3 sides of the Apex triangle represent Citizenship, Fellowship and Service. It gave me great pride to give service to my community. We built a park and a Senior Citizens Centre, both of which are still assets for the community today. The Fellowship side helped build lifelong friendships and was the glue that sustained the club. After returning from Apex the citizenship aspect of my training brought about my involvement with the Historical Society and the subsequent building of a museum in Kingaroy, the formation of the Kingaroy Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc., the formation of the Kingaroy Beautification Group and the building of another park in the centre of town. My wife Sandy and all the other wives supported us and were also involved. Sandy and I subsequently moved to the Bunya Mountains and joined the Rural Fire Brigade, the Natural History Association Inc., the Community Association Inc. and the Local Disaster Management Group. We worked in the Information centre giving out information to visitors. We both have felt that volunteering gave us pride and a feeling of belonging to our communities. There were times when it was hard work but the rewards at the end of the day made it all worthwhile.