



07 DEC, 2023

Murray Bridge volunteer is a true blessing

Murray Valley Standard, Murray Bridge

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RESTHAVEN MURRAY BRIDGE

RESTHAVEN Murray Bridge volunteer Ian Kluge has lived a life supporting his community both as a police officer, and as a volunteer.

Mr Kluge discovered his love of volunteering after taking a leap of faith.

“I had a long career in the police force, and I wanted to try a different path, one that I found meaningful,” Mr Kluge said.

Gaining employment as a disability support worker, Mr Kluge’s interest in working with vulnerable people grew tenfold.

“I was still figuring out what it was that I wanted to do, and one of the biggest things that has always been there is my faith,” he said.

Ian went on to complete his Certificate IV in Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care, focusing on theological studies.

“Whilst still working as a disability support worker, I started off volunteering in an aged care home once a week, when I could,” he said.

“I found myself really enjoying the environment, and decided to do an aged care course to better understand the sector, and how I could contribute to residents’ lives.”

Now, Mr Kluge volunteers as a chaplain’s assistant with Resthaven Murray Bridge, working closely with coordinating chaplain, Dr Nina Corlett.

“I really enjoy having a chat with residents, and sharing our faith together,” Mr Kluge said.

“Something that is particularly special is singing with residents who are living with dementia.

“Nina plays her guitar, and we listen to old time music that residents remember from their youth.

“It’s wonderful to watch them sway and enjoy the music.

“You truly care about the people you meet here, they all have stories to share that we learn from.

“I do it because I want to, and the community is beautiful—they really are appreciative of the time we share together, as am I.”

Dr Corlett said she was appreciative of Mr Kluge’s support.

“We feel truly blessed to have his assistance, particularly with pastoral visits to residents,” Dr Corlett said.

“With Ian’s help, I know each resident has the quality time they need.”

Mr Kluge continues assisting others through volunteering with Resthaven, and providing pastoral support through his local church.



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Ian Kluge with Betty Preece, a resident at Resthaven Murray Bridge.

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