

A passionate filmmaker becomes an indispensable volunteer

Looking twenty years younger than his age of 84, John Millard, has become central to the Doncaster Rehabilitation Services' (DRS) clients and the group sessions he runs on a weekly basis. "He is a valuable member of the DRS team and very reliable. We could not run the class without him," says one staff member.



John started volunteering at [MannaCare](#) after his wife, a resident at Cassia House, passed away a few years ago. He was so impressed with how he and his sons were looked after by the staff during this sad time "that he's been a dedicated volunteer there ever since," states Tanya Warms, Volunteers' Coordinator.

She continues, "On Tuesday mornings he maintains the exercise equipment in rehabilitation services and helps the clients." And "On

Thursday afternoons he runs sessions at Cassia, reading short stories, talking local history and reading the poetry of the greats, such as Lawson and Paterson."

As a passionate filmmaker, John was prominent in establishing a film club based in Ringwood which is actually one of Melbourne's longest-established film clubs – still going strong after 60 years! The club make a variety of features including travelogues, dramas and comedies and these are shown to each other each month on the first and third Friday. They have a 'Night of Nights' competition evening where all the movies are judged independently. "We all bring a plate", says John and in the process have an enjoyable night.

At [MannaCare](#), everyone loves him. "He is a wonderful volunteer. He looks after me whenever I am here" say one DRS client. The staff could not do without him. One particular staff member reveals, "Without him the DRS group would be short a second set of hands and eyes which is very important. It leaves staff free to concentrate on other clients who require more assistance. He gives others his full attention by helping them," say the employee.

But John won't have any of that. "It is the staff here that are always so cheerful and kind and so relaxed when they talk to the residents. It's the staff here who make the difference".

For more information

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