

The joys of tending to a garden

Flowers, plants and colour are enough to put a smile on anyone's face. They alert us to the changing seasons and can transform a landscape.

Horticulturist Paul Crowe's lifelong love of gardening and teaching have been to MannaCare's benefit. Having started at MannaCare when it was originally the Manningham Centre Association, Paul has been with us for a very long time.

With Paul's wife, Margaret at MannaCare, he started tending to the Cassia House courtyard garden. They would often spend time together nestled within the flowers and Paul recalls "Margaret enjoyed sitting in the courtyard and seeing the changing colours."

Although, Margaret passed away in 2012, Paul still tends to the garden with loving care bringing the joy of colour and the beauty of nature to the residents and their families. Their appreciation motivates Paul to continue assisting with the garden to bring enjoyment to others.

When starting out in his career as a teacher, he completed a horticulture course. And as a young teacher he taught in country schools at Cosgrove, Ruffy and Bonegilla Migrant Centre near Lake Hume in the Kiewa Valley, Northern Victoria.

Working as a Supervisor at the Horticultural Department of Education and within his role at the Victorian Schools' Plant Nursery he developed his passion for community work in horticulture. More strings to his bow included Secretary to the Victorian State Schools Horticultural Society in the 1960's and an honorary membership of the Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation.

In 1978 along with ABC gardening personality, Kevin Heinze, they established the Victorian Schools Garden Awards. These Awards are still going, now administered by the Nursery and Garden Industry of Victoria in conjunction with the Victorian Department of Education. Many more numerous awards and recognition followed culminating with an Order of Australia in 2007 for services to education and the Nursery Industry.

When Paul is not tending to his own garden or collecting awards, he spends time with his family of four boys and one girl, 10 grandchildren and one great grandchild.



For More information about MannaCare: <http://mannacare.org.au/>