



MRS PATRICIA BLASHKI OAM

The youngest of eight children, and with six of her own, Patricia Blashki understands the meaning of community.

When her children started school Patricia volunteered in the canteen and the school Mothers' Club. Pat and her husband Albert, who was acknowledged as a Living Treasure in 2000, have a long history of community service. Pat and Albert joined the Springvale Benevolent Society 20 years ago, when Albert was Mayor and Pat was Mayoress.

Pat is warm and accepting and has the perfect nature for home visiting which she conducts as part of her duties. When visiting a home Pat will simply ask how she can help Pat doesn't ask what their problem is and will frequently offer them a cuddle when leaving, believing a lot of these people have had a very lonely life. She also sees a lot of people who have poor life skills, so there is a great need to teach people how to cook and budget and manage their money. Pat puts this down to the changing nature of family life and the loss of home economics teaching in the schools.

Pat has counted donations for the Royal Children's Hospital Easter fundraiser for fifty years, she has organised the World Day of Prayer in Springvale for thirty five years and been on the committee of the Veteran Car Club for thirteen years. She was also on the Board of Management of the Springvale District Community Hospital for seventeen years before it closed in 1988. She helped look after her nearly blind sister for twenty five years and, through this contact with the Association for the Blind (Vision Australia) has been a volunteer driver and craft teacher for thirty one years.

Pat was awarded a 2003 Centenary Medal and an Order of Australia Medal in 1995. Pat's compassion and deep interest in people has guided all her community efforts, although she is modest about her efforts. She believes a volunteer is very fortunate because they choose what they do and are consequently more happy.