

Facility: Junee Correctional Centre
Media: Southern Cross, NSW
Published Date: 12 September 2013

Recognised for serving

FOR the people who use the service, Meals on Wheels provides more than sustenance.

It also offers social contact, help and a friend.

While National Meals on Wheels Day is long over, volunteers for the service, which operates out of Junee Community Centre, were recognised with a hot meal last week.

For Junee's 40 volunteers, donating their time to the program is more than just acting as couriers.

One such volunteer is Barbara Anderson who has clocked up more than 30 years delivering meals.

"They (the clients) really like to see people coming by," she said. "Sometimes we're the only people they see in a day."

Among the reasons Mrs Anderson has

been volunteering for is reward.

But they aren't what you think.

"It's very rewarding," Mrs Anderson said.

"You feel like you're helping people in the community"

Resident June Jackson also has a long history with Meals on Wheels.

When the service originally started, Mrs Jackson was a supervisor at the Junee Hospital.

"We could do up to 50 meals a day, in addition to hospital patients," she said.

It's been 21 years since Mrs Jackson retired but she's been one of the vital volunteers for the service since then.

"I like doing it, and it's needed ... it's a worthwhile non-profit organisation."



STILL SERVING: Meals on Wheels volunteers Barbara Anderson (left) and June Jackson mark 60 years of the vital service.

Many hands make meals

PREPARING meals for the clients who benefit from Meals on Wheels is no easy task and the Junee Community Centre enlists the help of several different organisations.

One of those organisations is the Junee Correctional Centre.

As part of the centre's commercial cooking operations, some of the hot meals are prepared by inmates studying for hospitality qualifications.