

# Bendigo Times

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## Ceremony acknowledges years of service

May 26, 2022

BY Jonathon Magrath (<https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/bendigotimes/author/jonathon/>)



Helping hands: Kangaroo Flat Sports Club's Adam Larkin, Rotary volunteer Ian Doak, City of Greater Bendigo deputy mayor Cr Matthew Evans, and CCV president Greg Roberts. Photo: SUPPLIED

THE lifeblood of clubs in Bendigo are volunteers, and in a special ceremony at the Bendigo Stadium, five people were recognised for their contribution to the region.

Community Clubs Victoria held their first Bendigo Community Connections Forum last Wednesday, coinciding with National Volunteer Week.

CCV chief executive Andrew Lloyd said about 90 people attended the function, celebrating those who've dedicated their time to organisations such as sport clubs, the RSL and Rotary.

"We took the opportunity during National Volunteer Week to recognise some wonderful achievements of volunteers connected to clubs in the Bendigo region," he said.

"In club land, a lot of the people have got huge history in helping people and the community are not recognised.

"It's a great initiative to give them a profile and have a ceremony where people from all different walks of life come together to celebrate that."

Among the certificate of recognition recipients award recipients was Sue DeAruago, who passed away in April.

Ms DeAruago was celebrated for her contributions to the Bendigo Spirit, the Bendigo Health Foundation, the OTIS Foundation and Bendigo Foodshare.

Bendigo RSL's Ian Ray had his work volunteering as the club's funeral officer recognised, particularly his commitment during the COVID-19 restrictions.

Woodbury Bowls Club secretary and treasurer and long-term member of the Bendigo Club, Rob Rossiter, had his years of service celebrated, noted particularly for his hard work ensuring COVID-19 compliance during competition.

Meanwhile, Kangaroo Flat Bowling Club's Ron Murphy was awarded for his 28-year membership of the club, which has included 10 years as chair and president.

The final recipient on the night was Ian Doak, recognised for his contribution to Kangaroo Flat Rotary over 37 years, serving as chairman secretary for 26 of those.

Mr Lloyd said the success of the first forum in Bendigo has motivated CCV to bring the event back next year.