



**Pymont Cares Inc.**  
Recycling furniture and whitegoods to those who need them the most in the inner city  
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## April/May 2024 Newsletter

### **Meet our new president**

**Paul Parker** has recently been installed as the President of Pymont Cares Incorporated. He has been living in Pymont for the last 11 years with his wife Leanne. His working life from seventeen was in construction with the last 27 years running a modular building company as General Manager.

When he retired a couple of years back, he decided he wanted to give something back to the community and subsequently found Pymont Cares on the internet.

From the day he joined the PCI family he knew that was the place that he could give back to the community, either working in the warehouse or driving the truck.

As the new President, Paul says that he does not intend trying to fill Peter's shoes but he is always open to speak with and listen to anyone at just about any time.

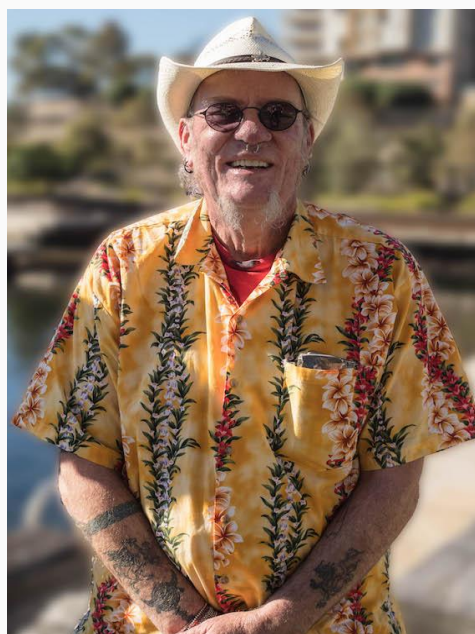


## **Tribute to valued Pymont Cares Team members who have passed away**

Pymont Cares is a community within itself and, as volunteers, we benefit from the strong social connections that we make as well as the sense of purpose we achieve through involvement. When we retire from heavy lifting we don't lose those friendships and these friends and fellow volunteers will be sorely missed. We thank them for their service to Pymont Cares.

### **VALE BILL BURTON**

Glasgow-born Bill Burton came to Australia at 12 years old. Before long he ran away to The Kimberleys to work as an underage jackaroo, joining up with the aborigines to learn how to live on country. He then worked on a prawn fishing boat, bought a motorbike & rode (still underage) around Australia to Sydney where he joined the cast of "Hair". He gravitated to the squatter community in Pymont at the age of 20, undertaking an informal political education through group discussions and cultivating his musical talents in bands such as Beer+Vomit+Regurgitation, Chainsaw Rock and Froghorn Leghorn. He then undertook a 17-year career as a roadie with rock bands.



Returning to Pymont in 1992 he became a community activist.

As a sole parent, he was asked by his 4-year old son to read him a story, to which Bill had to admit to being illiterate. He decided to rectify this, enrolled in TAFE, became highly literate and even worked in The State Library (blending his acquired literary and musical skills to organise the first band performance on the Mitchell Library roof). He became a parent again in 2002, but Angelique required full-time parenting and tragically died at age 13.

He was always an optimist, helping community groups. He helped young (and not-so-young) musicians in the Christmas In Pymont festival, and was a stalwart volunteer with Pymont Cares. Accompanying Bill on the truck would involve entertaining stories about roadies & rock bands, including which particular open space we were now passing in which he had shared recreational substances with musical icons, referring to (insert name of famous Aussie rock star here) being a "dopehead", etc.

Bill was a colourful local character and will be missed.

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## VALE BRIAN DELANEY (14 APRIL 1937 - 13 FEBRUARY 2024)



Brian and his wife Carole Twist, have lived in Pymont for many years. They were both involved in many charitable works throughout inner Sydney and Pymont/Ultimo.

It was Carole that suggested to some of her Jacksons Landing neighbours

that they should start collecting items sent to their rubbish rooms in their high rise buildings. Her idea was that these items could be distributed to those in need.

This challenge was taken up by Peter Devoy, John Hoff and John Marsden. Jon Simpson from the Heritage Fleet was also involved at this time lending out the ute from the Heritage Fleet! Carole and Brian's idea eventually evolved into the hugely successful Pymont Cares.

Brian was well known for helping other people! His ute was used by many people in Pymont to move their belongings around at some stage.

Brian worked on the Pymont Cares truck for many years, only retiring when he became ill. Pymont Cares volunteers will remember him because of his distinctive Bib and Brace overalls when on duty driving the truck. He was always helpful, willing and a hard worker and always with a smile on his face.

The Lord Mayor made a [speech](#) to Council on Monday 8th April in which Brian's life and contribution to society was recognised. A minute's silence was observed in his honour.

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## VALE WADE HUDSON

One of our valued volunteers, Wade Hudson, died on 25th January 2024. He died alone, in a park, from undiagnosed meningitis. His passing and the tragic circumstances have been a huge shock, causing much heartache to many.

Wade was the rarest of volunteers, he actually started as a client. What a wonderful thing! He visited our depot in late 2021 to collect a microwave his caseworker from The Bobby Goldsmith Foundation had organised, and I remember clearly his friendly enthusiasm right from that first visit. He asked all about our service and said he'd like to be involved.



Wade had more challenges in his life than most of us can even imagine, and yet he wanted to help and give back to the community. Wade started helping us in early 2022, he did some pickups, some deliveries but mostly he helped us in the depot. So much younger than most of us and so fit and strong! Tuesdays at Pymont Cares are much heavier and more difficult without Wade there with us. Wade also helped us appreciate the aesthetics of certain furniture choices for our clients!

Wade would shock the operations team in sharing some of his life experiences, yet somehow he remained a positive and compassionate person who was genuinely interested in others.

To quote Wendy, "Many the time he would check in with me, to see how I was, and I am proud to count him as a friend of mine, and a friend of Pymont Cares".

He made us laugh, he made us cry.

Let's hope Wade's story reminds us about the purpose of Pymont Cares – to help people battling against the odds to overcome disadvantage and the indignities of life that often strike so cruelly. We accept them and we value them – even if we don't like the music of Bananarama!

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## Donations and their impact

It has been a busy start to the year for the Pymont Cares team. We would like to acknowledge and thank our donors. As well as the 38 individuals who have donated items so far in 2024 we have had a number of generous corporate donors which include:

- ADGE Hotel & Residences
- Ashdown People
- Altair Apartments
- Ayre Real Estate
- CBRE on behalf of Placemaking NSW
- City West Housing
- Easy TV
- ICC
- Maritime Museum
- Sofitel Wentworth
- St Andrew's College - Sydney University



Every donation supports the independence and dignity of our clients.

Are you aware of just how many items pass through our warehouse and how many people we provide with support and material assistance? In the first 4 months of this year alone we have made 62 deliveries to families in need. Our Operations team have also raised money by selling surplus items on Marketplace. This has enabled us to purchase some items of furniture/whitegoods when we did not have the stock we required.

As Pymont Cares exists to help disadvantaged and often people struggling with mental illness, we do not expect (or receive) a great outpouring of thanks for our help. Sometimes thanks go straight to the delivery crew and sometimes it comes via the case worker. Occasionally we do receive some gems which make our hearts sing:

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From a family in Rozelle -

*"Hi lovely volunteers,*

*I just wanted to say thank you for the giant fridge and toy shelves that were delivered last week.*

*I'm looking forward to no longer playing fridge Tetris, but instead being able to prepare meals for me and my son, freeze teething rings and clocks, and having space for a 2L milk and a 2L juice.*

*Thank you especially for the toy shelves. It seems like it might have been a bit of an afterthought but it made my son so happy.*

*His hands are a blur because he's in the middle of enthusiastically banging on it. It is the perfect size for him, and will, I'm sure, be the site of a lot of imaginative play."*

From Kim in Darlinghurst to her case worker -

*"I want to thank you for organising the 'fridge with Pymont Cares.*

*The new one is better even than I dared to hope for. It fills the space in the cabinetry perfectly... Its a really good stainless steel one, its very quiet and much more up to date than the other one and much more energy efficient and more effective with the chilling.*

*I'm already saving money on food as its much more effective. I had to defrost every 3 days with a hair dryer with the previous one!*

*The whole thing was a happy story from the start. Wendy is so engaging and efficient and she followed through on everything making the delivery stressless and including the mixer and the slow cooker along with the 'fridge. All three items are really good quality, clean and look new. Wow... I can't believe it! its making a difference to me right away.... increasing the variety of the things I can prepare, store and cook. Toby is impressed as well, I can tell! His dining experience has gone up a few notches too.*

*I feel I should mention that the delivery was excellent in every way. The team were respectful and organised and had it out of the truck and up the lift in no time. Bruce and Kim ( my namesake) and a 3rd bloke who's name I didn't get, were so professional and thoughtful. They called me twice to appraise me of the timing etc. All this is appreciated....so nice especially given my challenges and difficulties."*

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*"I felt you would like to be aware of all this in the context of your valuable work around meaningful help to others. As always your endeavours are fruitful."*

### **Let's keep up the good work.....**

Refrigerators are always needed. Not only for food storage but for the many medications that require refrigeration. Of our 62 deliveries so far this year 18 required a refrigerator so if you are upgrading consider donating the old, working fridge to someone in need.

The colder months are tough without adequate heating. Do you, or someone you know, have a working heater that you could donate to satisfy the increased need at this time of year? And, when it is cold we tend to hunker down indoors, many people rely on a television for company and connection. So, when you upgrade please think of them and call us.



Of course, it is not only heaters, refrigerators & televisions that we require right now. We are also looking for:

- Dining chairs
  - Small to medium chests of drawers
  - Kitchen utensils
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## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Last year ended with a very successful Christmas function held at Blue Eye Dragon. We enjoyed a chance to catch up with one another and hear from Peter Devoy on Pymont Cares activities throughout 2023.



**To celebrate our volunteers past and present, in National Volunteers Week we'd like to acknowledge and thank you for your commitment to helping those in need.**

Join us for an informal gathering, a sausage sizzle and a chance to catch up. Paul Limmer will be there to give us all a brief refresher on truck safety procedures. Have a chance to meet our new President Paul Parker and thank our outgoing President Peter Devoy. We are delighted that while Peter has stood down as President he is still actively involved. You'll also get to meet some of the volunteers who you haven't yet had a chance to meet in person.

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We'll be meeting at the big metal balls in Waterfront Park at 11am on Sunday 18th May, 2024.

BYO drinks and a chair if you need it, we'll supply the food.



Don't forget to [RSVP](#) by 10th May!!!!



**A reason to Celebrate!**

Fellow Pymont Cares team member Jeannette and Dave welcomed baby Amelia into the world on 19 February 2024. What joy - all doing well!

Perhaps a future PCI volunteer??

## **SPONSORS SUPPORTING PYRMONT CARES**

To maintain our operation we rely on the generous support of financial donors. Our major sponsors have supported us over a number of years and we are grateful to the local businesses who ensure our financial sustainability:

Raine and Horne, Christmas in Pyrmont, Blue Eye Dragon, Pride Electrical and Main On Construction & Maintenance.

We encourage our members, our community and those following us on social media to support our sponsors on an on-going basis.

**Raine & Horne<sup>®</sup>**  
**Pyrmont**

**Christmas**  
**in Pyrmont** 



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