

Hume Leader
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CAMPBELLFIELD

Drivers of a generous cause

VOLUNTEERS LOVE THEIR JOBS

Natalie Savino

HELPING others has given Laurie Dunn a new lease on life.

The Coburg man has spent the past year generously volunteering his time at LINK Community Transport, helping elderly, frail and disabled clients access social and recreational activities.

But he insists it has been as valuable for him as it is for their many clients.

"My wife died with Alzheimer's (disease) and I was sitting there doing nothing," Mr Dunn said.

"My grandkids said, 'Get off your bum and do something instead of moping around.'"

So that's exactly what he did.

Twelve months on, Mr Dunn is loving every minute of his time with the Campbellfield organisation, which sees him give up each Tuesday and Wednesday to transport those in need.

"It's a fantastic job," he said.

"It's (rewarding) and it's a

benefit for me as well. "I'm enjoying getting out and talking to them."

"You feel like you are doing something for the community."

Mr Dunn has taken people to schools, shopping centres and community organisations, while one client, Ada, visits her late husband at Fawkner Cemetery.

"We sit with her for 15 minutes while she talks to her husband," Mr Dunn said.

"We take her back home and that's her sort of thing for the whole week."

"There's so many people out there that need it."

New LINK volunteer, Coburg woman Naomi Hatch, said she was doing what she loved.

"I think they appreciate it so much and it's good for us to see that we're helping," she said.

"You're giving something back to the community and it can be as little as one day a fortnight."

Details: linkcommunitytransport.org.au



LINK community drivers Laurie Dunn and Naomi Hatch (inset) love helping the elderly and disabled. Pictures: DENNIS MANKTELOW