

# THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

*This coming Tuesday December 5 is International Volunteers Day. Master Builders WA director Michael McLean reports on how volunteers help the building industry in Western Australia.*

**L**IKE most industry associations and unions in Australia, Master Builders is a not-for-profit organisation.

This means our primary purpose is to assist our members and make the building industry more productive, safer and attractive to work in, compared to businesses whose primary motivation is to make a profit for their owners or shareholders.

Being a state-based and membership-based organisation, Master Builders relies on many of its members to provide us with a diverse range of services, such as:

- Serving on our board, councils and committees.
- Representing us at meetings with politicians, bureaucrats and kindred organisations.
- Inspecting and judging new homes and commercial buildings for awards.
- Interviewing nominees for awards such as the Ric New Medal or apprentice awards.
- Travelling to regional areas to meet with local committees, members and others.
- Reviewing documents or draft legislation or submissions.
- Making speeches or presentations at meetings such as an annual general meeting or awards evening.
- Providing editorials for our Master Builders magazine.
- Representing our association at a media interview or on a radio or TV program.
- Encouraging members to donate to a designated charity such as MATES in Construction, or participate in a charitable event such as completing a renovation project for a family affected by mesothelioma.

- Delivering a lecture or training course to tertiary, TAFE or secondary students.
- Attending careers expos to explain the various occupations a student could pursue in the building industry.
- Provide expert evidence in a court or tribunal hearing or parliamentary inquiry.

The list goes on.

All of these tasks are carried out voluntarily and willingly by builders, specialist contractors and suppliers in our industry.

The knowledge and commitment of these volunteers has made the building industry a better and safer place.

Other members of our association are extremely generous in supporting a number of charities such as Telethon, the Variety Bash, Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, Parkerville Children and Youth Care and our annual motor cycle Ride Against Suicide for MATES in Construction.

Each of these ventures and others have raised considerable funds for a range of deserving charities. Several of our members have been building charity homes over many years with the generous support of suppliers, specialist trades and land developers.

International Volunteers Day provides us with a timely opportunity to thank our many volunteers whose dedication and generosity has not only made the building industry a better and safer place, but also helped many good causes along the way.

For more information, visit [www.volunteeringwa.org.au](http://www.volunteeringwa.org.au).



*The 2017 Regional Telethon Home in Busseton's Newport Geographe estate.*