

Volunteers share stories at morning tea

ST ANDREWS Hospital volunteers were recognised for their hard work at a morning tea sponsored by Toowoomba accounting firm McConachie Stedman.

The morning tea featured 50 of the many volunteers who help out at the hospital to celebrate with other volunteers who shared their passion and dedication.

St Andrews chief executive officer Ray Fairweather thanked the volunteers for their endless care and support.

He said without their help, St Andrews would be "very understaffed and if they had to find the dollars to pay for the time given, the sum would be massive".

Some of the volunteers help out following retirement while others work part time and volunteer at the same time.

McConachie Stedman staff members Kelly Lowien and Joanne Ross handed out gifts to all the volunteers.

Many stories of volunteering were told during the morning tea.

One man had been volunteering for 30 years and another said, "time given is very rewarding and it is wonderful to be a part of the St Andrews Community - it truly is a special place."

One story told was about a buggy donated by builders who participated in the hospital's extensions.

They noticed some difficulty in transporting patients from one building to another so the builders chipped in and bought a buggy to help out.

During the morning tea a patient from one of the wards played his button accordion and the volunteers enjoyed home baked goodies and shared many stories and jokes.

McConachie Stedman staff said it was a privilege to participate in the volunteer's morning tea celebration and to be around those who give to others asking nothing in return.



CATCHING UP: St Andrews volunteer Kenneth Christensen (left) and St Andrews CEO Ray Fairweather at the morning tea.



GREAT TIME: St Andrews volunteers Jan and John Saunders at the morning tea held by McConachie Stedman. PICTURES: CONTRIBUTED



HARD WORK: St Andrews volunteer Faye Lowe (left) talks with Louise Cuskelly.



GIFTS: Kelly Lowien hands a present to St Andrews volunteer Bob Dorricott.