

**How many years have you called Alice Springs home?**  
Twenty-seven (27) years. But we were only coming for 3 years.

**What is a moment in your life that profoundly shaped who you are today, and how did it influence the person you've become?**  
I am not sure if there was only one moment in my life that shaped who I am today I think it's a combination of moments and life experiences and the influence of my parents that made me realise that even though I have had some tough times I was lucky and that I wanted to be able to give back. My parents had a tough upbringing, and they gave my brother and me, a great life. I have been lucky to have a wonderful husband, and gorgeous son and have wonderful friends and support and not everyone is that lucky.

**How do you contribute to your community group, activity, or action?**  
I think I was nominated for the work I do at the hospital with Drovers, but I am involved in a lot of different things. With Drovers I have been involved since 2018 – I am currently Deputy chair and I do a fortnightly Sunday shift with the trolley going around the wards. I go around to different businesses in town that donate magazines to us to collect them each week. I also am a drop-off point in my office for people in the community to come and drop magazines off that we hand out at the hospital to patients. In addition to that since 2019 I also have volunteered at Palliative care most Tuesday afternoons. I also volunteer to deliver library books to the elderly in the Community and at Old Timers for the Alice Springs Town Library – one of my ladies is 98 and lives at home. I have been a Community Visitor for Anglicare since 2012 and I have been visiting the same beautiful lady Ishy for the last 10 years she is now 94. I am also a volunteer Board Member of CAWLS. Previously I have been a board member of Alice Springs Women's Shelter. I was a Lifeline Counsellor for 4 years, I was a SARC counsellor for 5 years and a support worker for Standby Support after Suicide for 3 years. This is all in addition to my full-time employment with Territory Loans as a mortgage broker. And I have a new volunteer project that is just about to launch called **Falling Through the Cracks!**

**What significance does your community group, activity, or action hold?**  
Drovers, along with the trolley service, aim to enhance patient comfort and provide companionship. They've also made significant contributions to the hospital through fundraising and equipment donations, led by dedicated volunteers like Nella Willis our Chair and Brenda Willshire. **Andrea Doyle**, involved in various volunteer efforts including **"Falling through the Cracks,"** is among these remarkable individuals. The Books on Wheels service from the library ensures access to reading material for those unable to visit, a personal favourite, for its role in maintaining engagement. The Community Visitors Programme pairs volunteers with elderly individuals lacking regular visitors, fostering meaningful connections. I go at least weekly to see Ishy and she is now like family.

**What motivates you to volunteer?**  
I think it's better to give than to receive – not that I am religious, but I just think you feel better in yourself if you are helping others. I am just in the process with 4 other ladies of setting up a new Charity to help the Alice Springs community called **Falling through the Cracks** – this is a passion project for me that has been an idea that had been on my mind since last year when I was asked to help a lovely lady in our community who had been broken into twice in a couple of months. Whilst she was getting help from Victims of Crime and some other people it wasn't a coordinated response and I was asked to put a message out on Facebook as normal in these instances the Alice Springs Community was fantastic – tradies came together and did a renovation on her bathroom that had not been working for years...

# COMMUNITY BUILDER OF THE WEEK

**CELEBRATING THOSE WHO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY**



Photography by: PHIL WILLIAMS

## ANGELIQUE GLASSON

and we managed to get enough money to put security screens on all of her windows which meant she felt safe enough to stay in her own home. But it was hard as we didn't have a proper bank account, so some people questioned if the fundraising was legitimate. So, I had the idea that she wasn't the only person in Alice Springs who needed this help – it was the break-ins that highlighted she needed help. I have also realised that there are a lot of people in Alice Springs who when they become Victims of Crime become completely overwhelmed and don't know where to start with getting help or assistance, we are hoping that we can help facilitate and advocate for them if they can't do it themselves. Some of the help we want to provide will be practical help – for example, if someone isn't up to cleaning up after a break-in we would like to have people who would say yes we will come and do that and if we get donations and grants then some will be financial if people need assistance to remain in their houses – for example, additional security screens. It won't be just Victims of Crime it will be people in the Community who need additional help but can't access it themselves. There will be an assessment criterion that we will work on as we go as it needs to be people in need without the ability to do it themselves.

**What achievements are you most proud of?**  
I don't do my volunteering for awards but in 2020 I received an NT Volunteer of the Year Award Certificate of Recognition for Central Australia and a Certificate of Merit. In 2022 I received the Alice Springs Town Council Volunteer of the Year award. The other thing that makes me proud and happy is how the Alice Springs Community for all the adversity that we go through pulls together in times of need – it is why after 27 years even though I have moments of thinking do I want to stay here I still love living here.

**Anything else you would like to say?**  
We would love help with **Falling through the Cracks** – if you can donate, volunteer your time, or have skills that might be able to assist us please get in touch. We want to assist people to feel safe to stay in Alice Springs and know that people have their back so if you can help us in any way even if it's one-off help, we would love to hear from you.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE SOMEONE AS THE COMMUNITY BUILDER OF THE WEEK, PLEASE SEND YOUR NOMINATION VIA EMAIL TO: INFO@MASC.F.ORG**



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