



Heroes at the counter

How quiet achievers spread happiness in the community

Lauren Dickson

SEEING her daughter serve as a volunteer reminds Kylie Llewellyn of her childhood.

"The most powerful memory I have is going to Seaside Nursing Home in Narrabeen with my then 7-year-old daughter and watching her sing because I went to the same home at that age to perform with a youth group at church," Mrs Llewellyn said.

"To go back 30-something years later... it hasn't changed, although the people certainly have."

Mrs Llewellyn fell back into volunteering when her daughter, Georgia, 13, joined the Elanora Girl Guides.

"They needed help and I thought that I could give back" she said.

"Especially if I'm dropping her off, I may as well hang around.

"I started in admin and soon became a leader and now I wear three or four different hats.

"It's that typical anecdote. You do it once as a favour, twice and it's your job."

The Elanora Girl Guides are active helpers in the local and wider community. On a monthly basis, the

guides, including Georgia and Kate Rooney, 12, volunteer with Mrs Llewellyn at the Mona Vale Hospital kiosk.

"We serve the customers, make coffees and pack things away," Kate said.

"They need a lot of help at the hospital.

"And doing things in the community like this with guides, you learn things for life and how to solve problems."

Mrs Llewellyn said she and the guides learn patience in their work at the kiosk.

"We do get people who have been there all night who come and get a cup of coffee and they're so happy to talk to someone," she said.

"If they want to spill, we're there to listen."

Over Christmas the guides were again at the Seaside Nursing Home.

"It's a big reality check for the girls as they get to know the people," Mrs Llewellyn said.

"They bring such joy to the oldies.

"And they see the sad side of it when they are no longer there.

"It's nice to see them grow with that compassion."

The Elanora Girl Guides meet on Thursday afternoon during school terms at Elanora Public School.



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elanoragirlguides.com

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Volunteers Georgia Llewellyn, Kate Rooney and Kylie Llewellyn.

Picture: VIRGINIA YOUNG