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SYDNEY/SYDNEY EYE HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER SCOOPS REGIONAL AWARD

Sydney/Sydney Eye Hospital (SSEH) volunteer Fay Skuthorpe has won the Senior Volunteer award for the Sydney City & East region after beating 12 other finalists.

Fay, 78, who has been volunteering at the hospital for 28 years, won the award for her outstanding volunteering efforts.

She said the award came as a complete surprise.

“I am still in a state of shock,” she said. “The award is really for the whole team as we have a great team of volunteers.”

Fay, who lives in Marrickville, is the President of the Friends of Sydney Hospital (FOSH) and has continued to volunteer over the past year despite undergoing treatment for breast cancer. Fay is at the hospital two days a week, taking round the refreshment trolley and manning the Little Shop.

What Fay enjoys most about her role are the people she meets during the course of her activities.

“I really look forward to my days at the hospital. You get to meet such lovely people and you go home feeling like you have achieved something and done a good days’ work being helpful to other people,” she said.

Fay received the award after being nominated by the hospital’s Director of Clinical Services Dr Pauline Rumma, and Dr Justin Playfair, Head of the Eye Department, SSEH.

Dr Rumma said: “Fay has made an outstanding contribution to SSEH through her work for the hospital. She really cares for the experience that people have at the hospital by being warm, compassionate and friendly to all who come here. She is a real inspiration. “

Kevin Gardner, chief executive of the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation, said: “Congratulations to Fay on her dedicated service and support for Sydney/Sydney Eye Hospital and the entire FOSH team. We are very grateful for her continued support.”

Fay will now go on to the New South Wales Volunteer Awards as a region winner. The Final State Award will be announced on 5 December – the UN’s International Volunteer Day.

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