

Hidden Treasure

THERE IS A TREASURE THAT HAS BEEN AT MERCY HOSPICE SHOP PONSONBY SINCE THE DAY IT OPENED ITS DOORS SIX AND A HALF YEARS AGO, **BUT SHE'S NOT FOR SALE.**

Sister Patrice is due to celebrate her Golden Jubilee as a Sister of Mercy in April this year and fifty years of service have not dampened her enthusiasm for hard work and good company. She spends three days a week volunteering at Mercy Hospice Shop Ponsonby and is admired by her co-workers for her stamina and eye for detail.



Sister Patrice Lovell, with volunteers
Barbara Fredric and Jan McCullum

"She spends all day standing up, steaming the clothes, making tea, taking great care with all the donated items" says Group Retail Manager Maria Baird. "We call her "Steamalina", but she's absolutely right, the clothes do fetch more money when they look good. She's always right"

Sister Patrice is fussed over, cajoled and listened to by her co-workers with great affection. She shares her birthday with St. Patrick and so on cue, a home-made birthday cake arrives at work ahead

of a lunch out with shop staff. "They spoil me," smiles Sister Patrice, who loves her job at the Mercy Hospice Shop Ponsonby and is very excited about her upcoming Jubilee celebrations. She will be sharing the day with Sister Agnes who entered the convent with her all those years ago. "I don't like too much focus on me," she explains, noting that her actual Jubilee was in November last year. "I've waited to do it with Agnes. It'll be much nicer."