

Herald Sun

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CHEERFUL BLOOMS

SEVEN flower growers and 15 florists from Victoria have brought joy to hospital patients and aged care home residents across Melbourne with surprise gifts of blooms.

The flower growers, who were about to trash thousands of flowers, got together with 15 florists, who have had to close their shops during the COVID-19 shutdown, and made hundreds of fresh posies to be distributed among the elderly and those in hospital.

Belinda McDermott, from The Road Stall in Monbulk, contacted children's charity Koala Kids and asked for help in finding appropriate recipients for the flowers.

"Had the initiative not gone ahead the flowers were all going to be mulched, not only breaking the banks of all concerned, but it was going to break their hearts too," said Mandy Mandie from Koala Kids.

"I have learned this week florists aren't just people who sell flowers. They have huge hearts."

Melbourne charity queen and former *Herald Sun* columnist Lillian Frank (pictured), who is an Arcare resident, was among those to receive the blooms, which also went to Cabrini, Monash Children's, Peter Mac, and The Alfred hospitals, as well as aged care facilities.

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SPREADING THE LOVE

