Allen Moloney feels very privileged and that was before he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal. The 78-year-old former dentist says he has received so many blessings in his life that giving something back seems natural. Allen was honoured with the OAM for service to the community of Ballarat through social welfare organisations.

In Allen’s case, it was with Apex, Rotary and St Vincent De Paul. “My reaction (to the Queen’s Birthday honour) was ‘why me?’,” Allen says. “I am delighted. It is something I never really dreamed of. In my interaction with service clubs like Apex, Rotary and now the St Vincent de Paul Society, you see so many people who might be more worthy. Allen has received an OAM for his services to Ballarat.

“I’ve been very privileged having living parents, a very satisfying career, being married to Anne for 54-and-a-half years, and five kids and 15 grandchildren I am enormously proud of. I’ve received so many blessings so giving back to people who haven’t had the same blessings seems natural.” Allen was a member of the Apex Club in Nhill for 14 years and was club president, district governor and is now a life member. Upon moving to Ballarat he joined the Rotary Club of Ballarat South, becoming president in 1991-1992, and secretary for three terms. Joining the St Vincent de Paul Society in 1996, he has been president North Western Central Council and State Council, conference president, and Ballarat Regional Council President.

“The St Vincent de Paul work is so gratifying,” Allen said. “I left Rotary so I could devote more time to it.” Work-wise, Allen had a dental practice in Nhill before becoming the chief dental officer at the Ballarat Base Hospital Dental Clinic between 1975 and 1995. Like others recognised on the Queen’s Birthday honours list, Allen will receive his medal in September.

Allen is a member on the editorial board of the Diocesan publication “Our Diocesan Community” which commenced in July 2002. Allen brought to his participation on the editorial board a broad knowledge of justice issues both within the Church and the wider community and was diligent in presenting these through the medium of the Diocesan magazine. Such issues would be the settling of refugees in country areas, the generating of awareness in schools for the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society and the collection of goods for distribution to those in need and the establishment of budget supermarkets to assist the less financial in our midst.

Allen, in the wider context of the Catholic community, has observed his dedicated commitment to the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and his local parish community. We congratulate Allen on this well-deserved award.