

24 Feb 2016 - For immediate release

To celebrate the contribution volunteers make to our community, Volunteering Tasmania has established the Tasmanian Volunteering Awards.

These awards, supported by the State Government, aim to recognise and reward the contribution of those who exhibit excellence in the volunteering sector.

Two of the first volunteers to be nominated were Marcus Holland and Michael Clarke, volunteer fire fighters with the Latrobe Fire Station.

Between them, Marcus and Michael share over 33 years' experience as volunteer firies.

Mr Holland said it was nice to be recognised but the reason he volunteers is to give back to the community.

"I was involved with scouts for a number of years and in 2007 I joined the Latrobe Fire Station," said Mr Holland.

"I simply enjoy helping people and there is a great sense of comradery and a great social aspect to volunteering.

Mr Clarke said the reason he volunteers is simply because he enjoys it.

"Volunteering for the Tasmanian Fire Service has been a big part of my life," said Mr Clarke.

"Both my Dad and my Grandfather were volunteers for the fire service and I spent a lot of time here as a young kid.

"So as soon as I was old enough to join as a volunteer, I did.

"I have had a lot of fun volunteering over the years, made lots of good friends and developed a lot of skills that have helped me in other areas of life as well as helped the community."

Volunteering has a huge impact on the Tasmanian community, contributing \$4.9 billion in benefits to the local economy, according to Volunteering Tasmania's State of Volunteering Report: Tasmania 2014 (SOVR 2014).

The SOVR 2014 states 4 out of 5 Tasmanians volunteer in some form, however CEO of Volunteering Tasmania Adrienne Picone said most people who volunteer, don't identify themselves as a volunteer.

"When we speak to volunteers, a large majority say they are just doing what they love or helping out," said Ms Picone.

"According to the National Definition of Volunteering, if you give time willingly for the common good, and for no financial gain, it's likely you are a volunteer.

"We are hoping that by spreading the message that volunteering comes in many forms, people will recognise and nominate volunteers, and we can celebrate the fantastic work they do.

"We are thrilled to be working with the State Government, our major sponsor MyState, and our category sponsors Lyden Builders, Tasplan Super, Aon, and Hydro Tasmania to be able to host these Awards; and give Tassie's volunteers the recognition they deserve."

Nominations are now open for Volunteering Tasmania's inaugural Tasmanian Volunteering Awards.

ENDS

Additional information

The awards cover 9 categories:

- Lyden Builders Arts & Heritage Award
- Tasplan Super Community Care and Health Award
- Tasplan Super Education, Science and Technology Award
- Lyden Builders Sport and Recreation Award
- Lyden Builders Emergency Services Award
- Aon Environment and Conservation Award
- Tasplan Super Corporate Award (for organisations with outstanding employee volunteering programs)
- Hydro Tasmania Excellence Award (for managers of volunteers)
- The Premier of Tasmania's Volunteer of the Year Award (an overall award for individuals)

Awards and prizes will be presented at the beginning of National Volunteer Week, May 2016 in a ceremony at Government House, hosted by our Patron, Her Excellency Professor Kate Warner, Governor of Tasmania.

Nominations are now open, and close at 5pm Friday 4 March 2016. Find out more and nominate at www.volunteeringtas.org.au/tasvolunteerawards2016