

## Young people share moving stories of kindness through imagery

**Monday 13 April 2015 – For immediate release**

Volunteering Tasmania, in conjunction with the University of Tasmania, is showing all the different ways that young people give back to the community.

Throughout February and March, they ran an Instagram competition, 'Random Snaps of Kindness' in preparation for this year's National Youth Week which runs this week.

Tasmanians between the ages of 13-25 submitted photos on Instagram using the #kindsnaps hashtag, and @volunteeringtas to win prizes, and promote a positive image of youth contribution to local communities.

Among the 60 entries were photos of the emergency services, families, animal welfare and of course, more than a few 'selfies'.

"The judges were incredibly moved by some of the photos and captions. Seeing the range of emotions, including pride, compassion and joy, on the faces of our local young people was a humbling and poignant experience," said Adrienne Picone, CEO of Volunteering Tasmania.

"Young volunteers give an average of 12.5 hours a month to benefit our community. Our goal for this project was to give those hard workers the recognition they deserve, and break down the myth that young people don't demonstrate care for others or give their time," said Ms Picone.

"Through working with University of Tasmania Researcher, Dr Nicholas Hookway, we know that young people show kindness every day in many different ways, including volunteering" she said.

An exhibition and prize giving ceremony will be held in both Hobart and Launceston, and all members of the public are encouraged to attend. For those who can't make the launch or closing events, the images will remain on display from Monday evening until Wednesday evening in Hobart, and from Monday morning until Thursday evening in Launceston.

### **HOBART**

**Exhibition Launch and Prize Giving, Monday 13th April at 5pm**

**University Centre (Stanley Burbury), Churchill Ave**

Light catering provided

Free entry

RSVP via email to [courtneyw@volunteeringtas.org.au](mailto:courtneyw@volunteeringtas.org.au)

### **LAUNCESTON**

**Exhibition Closing Event and Prize Giving, Thursday 16 April at 4:30pm**

**Sir Raymond Ferral Centre, Newnham Campus**

Light catering provided

Free entry

RSVP via email to [courtneyw@volunteeringtas.org.au](mailto:courtneyw@volunteeringtas.org.au)

This event was made possible by a grant from the Department of Premier and Cabinet.



**Background:**

*Dr Nicholas Hookway is a sociologist in the School of Social Sciences at the University of Tasmania. His research is driven by a fascination with how people care and connect in a changing world. The kindness study – completed with UTAS colleagues Associate Professor Daphne Habibis and Dr Anthea Vreugdenhil – is the first in the world to examine the social composition of kindness and how it is changing across generations.*

*As Tasmania's Peak body for volunteering, Volunteering Tasmania (VT) makes a positive impact on volunteerism, and as a result, helps to improve and sustain our wonderful community and the people within it. VT believes that all members of our community equally deserve the right to be included in volunteering, and experience the benefits. Their mission is to create an environment which promotes and sustains effective volunteerism.*

Please see attached Media Alert for photo, moving picture and interview opportunities.

**Words: 345**