



 THE 2017
SOUTHERN CROSS TELEVISION
**TASMANIAN
VOLUNTEERING
AWARDS**

Media Release – For Immediate Release

Our Unsung Heroes – Can We Thank You?

To many, volunteers are the unsung heroes – they are everywhere in our community, offering a helping hand wherever it's needed. They show up, roll their sleeves up and get on with the job - without asking to be paid for the valuable time they are giving up. So who are these unsung heroes?

Volunteers come in all shapes and sizes, they can be any age and they can be found in almost every sector of our community. In fact, it takes a statewide volunteer recognition program to highlight exactly how many different types of volunteers we have in Tasmania. The **2017 Southern Cross Television Tasmanian Volunteering Awards** aims to recognise and reward volunteers who've dedicated time to:

- Community, social justice and aged care support
- Emergency and disaster relief
- Education – schools, tertiary and adult education
- Environmental conservation
- Animal conservation, care and rescue
- Tasmania's tourism and cultural heritage sectors
- The performing arts, festivals and events
- Scientific endeavours and data recording
- Technology – e.g. helping others develop IT skills
- Sporting and recreational activities

Volunteers are everywhere - many of the opportunities, assistance, events, and services Tasmanians have access to would not be possible without millions of unpaid volunteer hours donated every year. Volunteering Tasmania's "State of Volunteering Report", produced in conjunction with the Institute of Project Management", recorded 7.1 million volunteer hours were donated in Tasmania in 2014 alone.

But this type of effort doesn't just happen on its own.

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Most volunteers work within a group or an organisation whose goals align with their own. Co-ordination of volunteer effort is needed, this is why the Tasmanian Volunteering Awards has a category for:

- The Volunteer Coordinator, or, Volunteer Manager of the Year

Additionally, nominations are also open for:

- The Volunteer Team or Volunteer Program of the Year
- The Corporate Volunteering Program of the year

“In an increasingly busy and complex world it’s often the things happening in our local community that have the biggest impact on us. People who volunteer and those who work in the sector are vital to our way of life. These awards recognise all the people who create an environment where volunteering can flourish”.

Quoted Kate Hickey, Stakeholder and Community Coordinator at Hydro Tasmania, one of the 2017 Awards sponsors. Other sponsors of the 2017 Awards include Southern Cross Austero and the Tasmanian Government (principal partners), Anglicare Tasmania, CatholicCare Tasmania, Lifeline Tasmania, MyState, NRM South and Tasplan Super.

The Awards are run by **Volunteering Tasmania**, the state’s peak body for volunteering, whose mission it is to create an environment which promotes and sustains effective volunteerism.

Nominations are through the Volunteering Tasmania website:
www.volunteeringtas.org.au and close on **March 3**.

We urge you to thank an unsung hero today – go onto the website and nominate.

[565 words]



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FOR QUOTES & INTERVIEWS:

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FOR GRAPHICS, LOGOS, PHOTOGRAPHY AND FOOTAGE

Gwen Harper, Communications and Events Officer, Volunteering Tasmania, 0413-811-896

ABOUT VOLUNTEERING TASMANIA:

Volunteering Tasmania is the peak body for volunteering in the State, working closely with Volunteer Involving Organisations to promote and support volunteers; and advocating for the volunteering industry to funders and government. Volunteering Tasmania is a not-for-profit organisation which aims to represent the interests of all Tasmanians involved in volunteering through research, consultation, policy development and community relationships.

ABOUT AWARDS SPONSORS:

For information about each sponsor, quotes and information about their volunteering involvement, please visit the [sponsor section](#) of our website.

Link to [State of Volunteering Report 2014](#)
