



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

EMBARGOED until 4pm Monday, 8 May 2017

## Winners Announced for Tasmanian Volunteering Awards

The winners of the 2017 Southern Cross Television Tasmanian Volunteering Awards will be announced at Government House, Hobart on Monday afternoon, 8 May 2017.

Celebrating and recognising Tasmania's outstanding volunteers, the Awards will be held on the first day of National Volunteer Week, which runs until Sunday, 14 May 2017.

During the awards ceremony Alison Lai, chief executive officer of Volunteering Tasmania will pay tribute to the caliber of the winners and finalists in each category.

"We had a record number of nominations this year and the quality was very strong," Lai said.

"It was a difficult process for the judges to shortlist to three finalists in each category, and equally difficult to select a winner.

"Each finalist demonstrated incredibly high standards of commitment and contribution to their community and we had exceptional representation from all regions of Tasmania.

"It was particularly pleasing to have finalists travel from as far away as Queenstown and King Island.

"The fact that we had winners from the north, north-west and south shows that the spirit of volunteering is alive and well right across Tasmania."

The Premier's Tasmanian Volunteer of the Year, chosen from the winners of the individual award categories, was awarded to Christopher Hine. Christopher is the winner of the Lifeline Emergency Services Award.

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## The 2017 finalists and winners are outlined below:

### Individual Volunteer Awards:

#### Lifeline Emergency Services Award

- David Gleeson – Sheffield Fire Brigade
- **Christopher Hine – State Emergency Service (WINNER)**
- Phillip de Bomford – Lachlan Fire Brigade

#### NRM South Environment, Animal Care and Conservation Award

- Mark Bartlett and Angela Knight – Bridgewater/Gagebrook Clean Up Group
- Nel Smit – Taroon Art Trail
- **Dr Eric Woehler – BirdLife Tasmania (WINNER)**

#### Anglicare Lifestyle Community Care and Health Award

- Kim Dunstan – Zeehan Gem and Mineral Fair
- Mary Gates – Royal Hobart Hospital
- **Joy Searle – Mathers House Hobart (WINNER)**

#### The Arts, Heritage and Tourism Award

- Ruby Doherty – North West theatre community
  - **Chris Palmer – Australian Wooden Boat Festival (WINNER)**
  - Dianne Powell – Queenstown Gallery Museum
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#### The MyState Education, Science and Technology Award

- **Hina and Waqas Durrani – Multicultural Council of Tasmania (WINNER)**
- Amanda McMaster – YMCA Little Listeners Program
- Brother Sean McManus - CatholicCare's Light the Way Study Club

#### The Sport and Recreation Award

- Tracy Badman – Devonport Gymnastics Club
- Tom Bain – Tamar Yacht Club
- **Shaun Donohue – Deloraine Football Club (WINNER)**

#### The Premier's Volunteer of the Year

- Christopher Hine – State Emergency Service

#### **Program Awards:**

#### Hydro Tasmania Excellence Award for Best Practice in Volunteer Management

- **Shelley Haas – Royal Hobart Hospital (WINNER)**
  - Liz Lord – Australian Wooden Boat Festival
  - Melody Towns – Be Hers
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Tasplan Super Corporate Award for an employee volunteering program

- **Hydro Tasmania (WINNER)**
- Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania (RACT)
- University of Tasmania – Young Tassie Scientists

CatholicCare Volunteer Program of the Year

- King Island Meals on Wheels
- **The Launceston Community Legal Centre (WINNER)**
- The LCG: Older Persons Electronic Network Computer Club

**PHOTOGRAPHY:**

Government House has invited the media to attend the ceremony and has requested their arrival by 2.20pm. Photographs of and/or quotes from individual award winners can be provided upon request with prior notice.

**MORE INFORMATION:**

Alison Lai, Volunteering Tasmania CEO, 0450 517 017

Additional information on each category award winner is provided below.

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## Category Award Winner Summaries

### **The MyState Education, Science and Technology Award**

Hina and Waqas Durrani

With a passion for women and youth, Hina and Waqas have spent countless hours organising various events to advocate for people from culturally and linguistically diverse and non-English speaking backgrounds. With a belief in supporting resilience and pushing boundaries, Hina and Waqas were nominated in recognition of their fight to reduce inequalities against displaced people. As members of the Multicultural Council of Tasmania, Hina's and Waqas's work has targeted government policy makers, business people and the broader community to remove stereotypes, build connections and encouraging volunteering opportunities for others.

### **The Anglicare Lifestyle Community Care and Health Award**

Joy Searle

A long-serving volunteer at Mathers House in Hobart, Joy has been nominated for her work leading a team to provide meals and friendship to Hobart's senior citizens. Her nominator highlighted Joy's 'selflessness and compassion' and described her as someone who has had an incredible impact during her 25 years as a volunteer. As a senior citizen herself, Joy understands the difficulties that can be faced by the elderly in regard to cooking, socialising and being mobile. In addition to volunteering throughout the year, Joy was the driving force behind the Mathers House Christmas dinners which provide food and companionship over the Christmas period for those who may otherwise go without.

### **The NRM South Environment, Animal Care and Conservation Award**

Dr Eric Woehler

Described as a dedicated conservationist and educator, Eric's passion has improved the chances of survival of many threatened bird species in Tasmania. Holding an Honorary Associate (voluntary) position at the University of Tasmania, Eric's nominator says he is an inspiration to students considering undertaking research in biological conservation. Contributing hundreds of volunteer hours every year for the past 34 years, Eric has personally attended numerous community events and provided his support to others working in natural resource management across Tasmania. As a founding member of UTAS CARES, which brings academics and students together with environmental care groups, Eric's work was an integral component for the proposal for the hooded plover to be listed as threatened in Tasmania.

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### **Hydro Tasmania Excellence Award for Best Practice in Volunteer Management**

Shelley Haas

As the Volunteer Manager at the Royal Hobart Hospital, Shelley is credited with successfully revamping and rebuilding their volunteer management program. Working with the program previously known as the Cherry Ladies, Shelley renamed it the RHH Volunteer Service and transformed it to include males, while successfully increasing the number of volunteers from 24 to over 110. With volunteers ranging from 18 to 87 years old, Shelley has introduced volunteering programs into the maternity ward, hospice and emergency departments. Described as a 'passionate campaigner for health care services', Shelly encourages volunteers to be involved in hospital decision-making processes to ensure they have not only have an understanding of the services the hospital provides but also insights into the difficulties the hospital faces from time-to-time.

### **The Sport and Recreation Award**

Shaun Donohue

Described as a tireless worker, Shaun is the current President of the Deloraine Football Club and the past President of the Deloraine Basketball Association. Often committing 15-30 voluntary hours per week, Shaun has dedicated himself to raising awareness of depression, anxiety, breast cancer and youth inclusion. During Shaun's tenure, the Club has raised over \$10,000 for charity over the past three years. Working hard to ensure all locals feel valued and welcomed, Shaun's nominator described him as an inspiring individual who has used his personal hurdles to raise awareness in the local community while dedicating a great deal of commitment to the clubs that he is involved with.

### **Lifeline Emergency Services Award**

Christopher Hine

Described as a humble volunteer, Christopher has worked tirelessly for over six years with the State Emergency Service. Taking on a crew leader role to teach and train new and current volunteers, Christopher's role in the SES and Ambulance Tasmania has benefited the broader southern region tremendously. Volunteering for 1,200 hours in both organisations over the past year, Christopher has also helped Tasmania Police on a range of traumatic forensic jobs. Undertaking his volunteer work while maintaining paid work, Christopher's nominator described him as 'demonstrating both courage and leadership' and as someone who values highly the opportunity to give back to the Tasmanian community.

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### **The CatholicCare Volunteer Program of the Year Award**

Launceston Community Legal Centre

The Launceston Community Legal Centre provides legal advice and assistance to the most vulnerable people in our community. Unique to Tasmania, the Legal Literacy Volunteers Program was developed in response to the 2008 Tasmanian Adult Literacy Plan. Involving local non-legally trained volunteers, members of the community are provided help to correctly complete legal documents and forms and write letters. Volunteers assist others to identify legal needs and refer people to legal assistance, as required. In the six years since the program began, Legal Literacy Volunteers have helped over 2,000 people.

### **The Arts, Heritage and Tourism Award**

Chris Palmer

As a volunteer member of the Board of Directors of the Australian Wooden Boat Festival, Chris has assisted with all aspects of the planning for the Festival, which attracts over 220,000 visitors to Tasmania every two years. As well as volunteering on the Board, Chris's nominator acknowledged his role as the voluntary manager of the International Wooden Boat Symposium, which is delivered during the Festival. Described as 'a rare combination of intelligence and strategic thinking with a willingness to get his hands dirty', Chris is attributed with ensuring the success of the Symposium. Receiving no payment or reimbursement for his time, Chris has spent countless hours organising presenters and overseeing the delivery of the Symposium, and creating what is considered a world-class event.

### **The Tasplan Super Corporate Award for an employee volunteering program**

Hydro Tasmania

Commencing in 2011, Hydro Tasmania's employee volunteering program was developed a result of employee feedback. Established as a formal employee benefit, Hydro Tasmania's employees are able to link volunteering to their development plan for both personal and professional growth. With 200 employees working with grassroots organisations across the State, Hydro Tasmania has an established set of employee volunteering policies that includes employee background screening and insurance. With 800 employees, Hydro Tasmania hopes that in the long term community groups will look to corporates to recruit volunteers, and corporate volunteering programs will have a stronger presence in the community.

## **ABOUT VOLUNTEERING TASMANIA:**

Volunteering Tasmania is the peak body for volunteering in Tasmania representing the interests of all Tasmanians involved in volunteering through research, consultation, policy development and community relationships.

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