



 THE 2018
SOUTHERN CROSS TELEVISION
**TASMANIAN
VOLUNTEERING
AWARDS**

MEDIA RELEASE

Nominations open Monday for state-wide volunteering awards program

To celebrate [International Volunteer Managers Day](#), Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AC, Governor of Tasmania is launching the **2018 Southern Cross Television Tasmanian Volunteering Awards** at Blundstone Arena on Monday 6 November.

This awards program is entering its third year, and is an initiative of Volunteering Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government.

These awards aim to recognise and reward the contribution of those who exhibit excellence in volunteering, and are the only state-wide volunteering recognition program.

In an independent study researched by the Institute of Project Management, Tasmanians volunteer 7.1 million hours a year*, with the value of volunteering to the Tasmanian community being \$4.9 billion annually.

“Volunteers are in every community in Tasmania. They represent the third biggest workforce in our State, yet too often their impact goes unseen”, said Alison Lai, CEO of Volunteering Tasmania.

“This Awards program is vitally important for highlighting and officially recognising the amazing variety and number of volunteers we have in Tasmania,” said Lai.

In a true reflection of this, the Awards program has a wide range of voting categories, including: tourism, arts, and heritage; sport and recreation; emergency volunteering; community care; education and science; animal care and conservation; as well as Volunteer Manager of the Year and Corporate Volunteer Program of the Year.

“The most popular category last year was the Volunteer Program of the Year – it was heart-warming to read so many amazing stories of selfless Tasmanians dedicating so much time to giving back to our community, without expecting payment”, said Lai.

Nominations will be accepted online via the Volunteering Tasmania website, and will open on Monday, November 6 and close on 5pm, March 2, 2018.

Awards will be presented at the beginning of National Volunteer Week, 21 May 2018; at a formal ceremony at Government House.

Words: 303

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BACKGROUND:

The Awards are Tasmania’s only state-wide awards program for volunteer recognition. Visit Volunteering Tasmania’s website to read the Awards [background](#) and the captivating stories behind last year’s [winners](#) and [finalists](#).

Volunteering Tasmania is the Peak body for volunteering in the state, working closely with Volunteer Involving Organisations to represent the interests of all Tasmanians involved in volunteering through community engagement programs, advocacy, research and policy development.

[* Economic Value of Volunteering Report, 2014](#)

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