

National Student Volunteer Week 13-19 August 2018

For Immediate Release

Now in its sixth year, *National Student Volunteer Week* (NSVW) celebrates students who volunteer, and challenges more young people to experience the personal and professional benefits of getting involved in their communities through volunteering.

Between 13-19 August 2018, a variety of events and activities promoting student volunteering will be held at higher education campuses and schools state-wide.

Volunteering Tasmania's Acting CEO Venéy Hiller says "Volunteering Tasmania acknowledges and thanks all the student volunteers making positive change in the community, you are at the start of what we hope is a life long journey of volunteering. "Ms Hiller said.

Volunteering Tasmania encourages those students who haven't experienced volunteering yet, to find out more, and get involved.

"Students gain many benefits through volunteering, such as improving potential career pathways, enriched networking opportunities and enhancing their mental and physical wellbeing," said Ms Hiller.

Many higher education institutions have active volunteering cultures that encourage and support students into volunteering and this is welcomed and supported by Volunteering Tasmania.

"Students who are given the opportunity to meaningfully and significantly engage in the community not only reap the many personal rewards of volunteering, they also build the capacity of our sector and contribute significantly to the economy "says Ms Hiller.

This year the Tasmanian Department of Education has for the first time integrated volunteering into the school curriculum.

A Department of Education spokesperson says, "We recognise the important role volunteering plays in a child's life to enable them to be active, informed citizens and contribute to their communities in a positive way. Students are supported by providing learning opportunities in a range of curriculum areas including Work Studies in Years 9 and 10 and Career and Life Planning in Years 11 and 12."

Volunteering Tasmania and its member organisations are working collaboratively to increase opportunities for local and international students to volunteer, many are only too willing to provide opportunities for young people.

Melissa Carlton, CEO of YMCA Hobart says, “Student volunteers have always been a valuable part of our organisation because they have enabled us to have a greater reach and impact in the community.

“Through the skills and expertise that come into an organisation from student volunteers, we have enhanced everything that we do” she said.

Student volunteers themselves understand the many benefits of volunteering.

David Lee, a University of Tasmania Campus Events Officer and leader of their on-campus volunteering group Mumford’s Pride says “The best thing about volunteering is getting involved with everyone, especially if you are an international student and maybe you don’t have your networks yet, it is a really good way of meeting new people.”

Volunteering Tasmania will be involved a range of events during National Student Volunteer Week to promote volunteering and engage with students, including;

Event	Place	Time
UTAS Volunteering Expo	University of Tasmania at Sandy Bay campus	Tuesday 14 th of August 11.45am -2pm
Volunteering Tasmania Pop-up referral desk	TasTafe Hobart campus	Wednesday 15 th of August 11.45am – 2pm
UTAS Vice-Chancellor's Leadership Panel Discussion on 'Ethics and Leadership in Volunteering'	Stanley Burbury Theatre, University Centre, Sandy Bay campus.	Wednesday 15 th of August 3.00pm -4.15pm
<i>Introduction to Volunteering</i> presentations at high schools across the state.		

Contact Volunteering Tasmania for a list of member organisations offering volunteering opportunities to students and young people. Free call 1800 677 895 or email admin@volunteeringtas.org.au

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Veney Hiller, Volunteering Tasmania Acting CEO, 0415 236 934

FOR GRAPHICS, LOGOS, PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO FOOTAGE:

Gwen Harper, Communications Officer, 6231 5550, 0413-811-896

ABOUT VOLUNTEERING TASMANIA:

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.

