

**VOLUNTEERING TASMANIA INC
PRESENTATION OF THE
2022 TASMANIAN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
BLUNDSTONE ARENA, FRIDAY 20 MAY 2022**

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the 2022 Tasmanian Volunteer of the Year Awards. This annual award program is a most important event to acknowledge, recognise and thank volunteers, workers and organisations for their service to our community. Through their efforts, our Tasmanian volunteers help and support many of our most vulnerable community members, in so many ways. We are a better and more caring community for their volunteering efforts.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community. I recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of colonisation upon our Aboriginal People. I stand for a future that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal stories, culture, language and history.

This is the seventh annual Tasmanian Volunteering Awards and is the only state-wide awards program celebrating inspiring stories and recognising excellence in volunteering from individuals, groups and organisations.

This Awards event is a very important opportunity to recognise, to acknowledge, and to thank volunteers for their valuable time and contributions to our community.

We must never take volunteers for granted. It is concerning that research from the State of Volunteering Report 2019 indicates that there are warning signs in the terms of costs to volunteers and the potential negative impacts on volunteers' working lives. By 2030, it has been predicted that there could be a shortfall of 40% in volunteers. As a community, we must value and support our volunteers.

By recognising our volunteers, we promote the importance of, and send a compelling message about, the value of volunteering. Volunteering has a positive impact and value on individuals and communities. For volunteers

themselves, it can bring meaning and purpose to their lives, while increasing their well-being.¹

After another challenging year for many Tasmanians, this is an opportune time to thank, recognise and acknowledge the efforts of all our volunteers, volunteer managers and organisations. You make a difference to many lives; you help build caring and healthier communities.

Today, we acknowledge the winners and sponsors of the 2022 Volunteer of the Year Awards on behalf of Volunteering Tasmania. We also acknowledge around 50,000 volunteers who have given freely of their time, efforts and skills to benefit our community.²

On behalf of a grateful community, I thank all of you: I thank the finalists and winners of the awards across all 10 categories; all those who were nominated; all those who took the time to make the nominations; all the sponsors and supporters of all of our wonderful volunteers. Finally, of course I thank all the volunteers here this afternoon.

May we congratulate all finalists, winners, sponsors and supporters for your very important contributions. Thank you. They all deserve a round of applause.

¹ <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/benefits-of-volunteering> accessed 19 May 22

² <https://www.volunteeringtas.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/State-of-Volunteering-Report-%E2%80%93-Summary.pdf> accessed 16 May 22