

**VOLUNTEERING TASMANIA INC
TASMANIAN VOLUNTEERING AWARDS 2023
REMARKS BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE ALAN BLOW AO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
BALL ROOM, GOVERNMENT HOUSE
2.30 PM FRIDAY 19 MAY 2023**

[VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED]

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon – please be seated.

I pay my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community and recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to the land and the sea.

I will be brief in my remarks, as a wonderful afternoon awaits us with the many categories and their finalists, all of whom I congratulate from the outset.

This is the eighth year of the State volunteering awards and we can all be proud of their significance in the Tasmanian community.

I am sure that this can be attributed in no small measure to the long history of volunteering in Tasmania; together with the enthusiasm that is so much part of the culture of volunteering.

The diversity of the finalists – in age, gender, locality of volunteering, type of volunteering, length of volunteering – is further evidence of how robust this sector is in Tasmania.

It is also the case that, because of the unique nature of the sector, these awards are not in any way intended to demonstrate being “the best” – on the contrary, they celebrate all volunteers, older and younger, experienced and learning.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the numerous sponsors of the awards. Your support is important and especially noteworthy, given the huge in-kind support of volunteering to the Tasmanian economy.

And I also thank the hard-working staff of Volunteering Tasmania, on behalf of Her Excellency the Governor, your Patron.

Thank you. Official Secretary ...

[OS invites Volunteering Tasmania CEO Shirleyanne Varney to the lectern]