

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS, TASMANIA DIVISION
'HANDS UP FOR HUMANITY' EVENT
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
ELIZABETH STREET COURTYARD, UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA,
THURSDAY 12 MAY 2022

Good morning. Thank you for inviting Don and I to the launch of “50 Ways to Do More Good”, at the Hands Up For Humanity event.

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 First People. I stand for a future that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal stories, culture, language and history.

This is a marvellous initiative to celebrate World Red Cross Day. The official day was Sunday 8 May: however, I would like to say that, given what Red Cross does and has achieved for humanity for so long, that every day of the year is Red Cross Day!

As your Patron, I heartily congratulate the Hobart Team of Australian Red Cross in the celebration of this “Hands Up for Humanity” event. You are encouraging people to make a difference in their communities. How? With a huge choice of “50 Ways to Do More Good.” This initiative lists no fewer than 50 ways of how to become involved, grouped into numerous categories.

May I also take this opportunity, on behalf of all Tasmanians, to acknowledge and thank our 700 Red Cross volunteers in the Hobart region. They contribute so much to our Red Cross programs, as part of our 1100 volunteers Statewide.

Some of you may know that I am also Patron of Volunteering Tasmania, and National Volunteer Week is coming up: next Monday the 16th through to Sunday the 22nd. So this doubles my sense of occasion in being part of today’s launch in Hobart.

I should also mention that the Red Cross program, “Our Community Visitors Scheme”, for befriending the elderly to reduce social isolation, is celebrating 30 years in Tasmania this year.

Also “Our MATES” mental health, befriending program to build social inclusion, is celebrating 25 years in Tasmania this year.

So, how can we “put your hands up for humanity” and undertake an action to build kindness and connection and to make a positive difference in our community? The way to do this is to volunteer to do one of the “50 Ways to do More Good.”

You choose which of 50 ways interests you the most, what way would do more good in your community and when you do it.

The 50 actions are grouped into seven themes. The choices are therefore very wide and graded to suit your timeframe. An action could be up to three hours; or from three to six hours; or from six to ten hours.

Here are just a few examples:

- Write a letter to people living in aged care
- Help build your community’s resilience to emergencies
- Be a migration support volunteer
- Embrace multicultural diversity in your school
- Develop your acknowledgement of Country
- Hold a fundraising event
- Share your skills and hobbies
- Be a retail shop volunteer
- Complete first aid training;

The 50 ways aim to suit an individual’s personal motivations, personal know-how, and of course, desire to learn. It aims to be a complete package of community care.

Very well done to those who, through your own experience of how Red Cross operates, put together this comprehensive and flexible package.

I mentioned that there are seven themes underpinning the actions. These are: the corporate area; schools; being prepared; raising awareness; kindness and connection; fundraising and donations; and inclusion.

I now have great pleasure in launching “50 Ways To Do More Good” on behalf of Australian Red Cross Tasmania.

Thank you.