

**2018 SOUTHERN CROSS TELEVISION TASMANIAN VOLUNTEERING AWARDS**  
**SPEECH BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**BLUNDSTONE ARENA, MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2017**

Good morning everyone and welcome to the Official Launch of the 2018 Southern Cross Television Tasmanian Volunteering Awards

May I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land – to pay respect to those that have passed before us and to acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community who are the custodians of this land.

I acknowledge here today: the Honourable Elise Archer MP; Josh Willie MLC; Senator Eric Abetz; Nic Street MP; Senator Nick McKim; Cassie O'Connor MP Leader of the Tasmanian Greens; Alison Lai, CEO Volunteering Tasmania

I am informed that the aim of this event is to launch the 2018 Southern Cross Television Tasmanian Volunteering Awards which will be held at Government House on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018.

My husband Dick and I had the great pleasure to host the 2017 Southern Cross Television Tasmanian Volunteering Awards last May at Government House.

On that occasion I spoke about the huge contribution that volunteering makes in our community and the volunteers we had met on our community visits.

This year as we have continued these visits, which I must say we enjoy enormously, Dick and I have deepened our understanding of the enormity of not only the number of volunteers in Tasmania, but the incredibly positive impact they make every day to the lives of Tasmanians in need.

And I repeat what I said to all of you last year, who are in any way associated with volunteering, congratulations and thank you. Individually and collectively you make an enormously positive contribution to our social and economic well-being.

As you would all know, Tasmania's thousands of volunteers are supported by Volunteering Tasmania, which in turn has its own volunteers to assist in community outreach.

Alison Lai, CEO Volunteering Tasmania has said and I quote her:

“As the Peak body for volunteering in Tasmania we are thrilled that this Awards program exists. In addition to raising the profile of volunteering, it also highlights the incredible number and variety of volunteer roles and volunteer involving organisations across so many sectors and regions of Tasmania.”

I wholeheartedly agree and I am very proud, as Patron of Volunteering Tasmania to be part of this launch.

Thank you.