



volunteering tasmania
do what you love

ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017



ALISON LAI, CEO

It is with great pleasure that we present Volunteering Tasmania's 2016-17 annual report. Following a year of significant change, we are incredibly proud of what the organisation has achieved over the past 12 months.

Ranging from the launch of regional Pop-Up offices to an exponential growth in our state wide training and networking sessions, we have not only strengthened the connections between volunteers and the organisations that involve them, but also increased the awareness and understanding of best-practice volunteer management.



RACHEL
JOHNSON,
CHAIR

There are many highlights shared in this report, successfully delivered through Volunteering Tasmania's wonderful team of paid and volunteer staff. Working passionately and tirelessly, we thank them for their hard work.

This year we welcomed Alison Lai as our new CEO following the departure of Adrienne Picone. At the helm for eight years Adrienne steered the organisation through major change and success. Whilst no longer with the organisation, she remains a part of our volunteering family as the CEO of Volunteering Australia.

A sincere thank you to the members of the Board. A lot of work occurs in the background to keep the wheels of the organisation turning, and we are very grateful for their dedication and commitment to the success of Volunteering Tasmania.

With our family of supporters continuing to grow, we also thank all our members for their valued support, which enables us to continue the important work that we do.

As the community sector continues to navigate through ongoing change and uncertainty, Volunteering Tasmania will need to find innovative approaches to delivering our services. We have already felt the impact of change this year with the closure of the Launceston office, and a significant restructure to the organisation that saw the departure of three valued team members.

These decisions were very difficult for the Board, and looking ahead to the year Volunteering Tasmania will continue to focus on what we do best; helping Tasmanians do what they love through volunteering and supporting the organisations that involve them.

In doing so, we will continue to focus on raising the profile of volunteering, not just to showcase their incredible generosity but to increase awareness of their critical role in supporting our economy and the liveability of communities across our island.

We look forward to sharing that journey with you.

Here's to a wonderful 2017-18.

MESSAGE FROM
THE CEO AND CHAIR

INTRODUCTION TO VOLUNTEERING

Talking about volunteering and encouraging people to volunteer are a couple of the things we do best. Over the past 12 months the team attended almost 40 events state-wide connecting with almost 1,500 Tasmanians interested in volunteering. Supported by our 'Introduction to Volunteering' sessions, the team continued to advocate and promote the benefits of volunteering to a wide range of community member with 20 sessions delivered across the island to 800 potential volunteers.

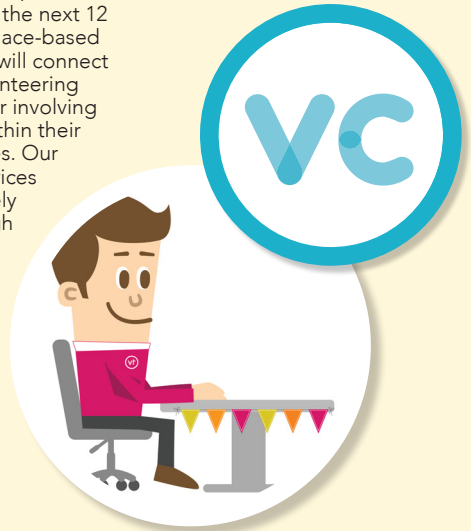


FACE-TO-FACE REFERRALS (POP UP OFFICES)

At Volunteering Tasmania we recognise that sometimes people welcome the opportunity to talk through what volunteering opportunities are available to help find roles that might suit them. Over the past 12 months, almost 300 people were supported through our face-to-face referral services to find suitable volunteering opportunities tailored to their personal interests. This commitment to supporting more Tasmanians into volunteering was enhanced by the launch of Pop-Up Offices in Brighton, Burnie and Sorell. Over the next 12 months, these place-based referral services will connect people into volunteering roles in volunteer involving organisations within their own communities. Our face-to-face services are predominately delivered through our own team of wonderful volunteers, and we thank them for their passion and commitment to helping others into volunteering roles.

VOLUNTEER CONNECT

Our online 'Volunteer Connect' search engine continued to grow from strength-to-strength. With a 19% increase in the number of volunteer involving organisations using Volunteer Connect, more than 2,200 Tasmanians accessed the service to search for volunteering opportunities. With 396 new roles advertised, and almost 5,000 roles updated over the past 12 months, Volunteer Connect continues to a highly popular and effective service helping Tasmanians to do what they love through volunteering.



SUPPORTING
VOLUNTEERS

TASMANIAN VOLUNTEERING AWARDS

In its second year, the 2017 Southern Cross Television Tasmanian Volunteering Awards once again recognised excellence in volunteering across the island.

With the number of nominations increasing by 230%, the judges had a challenging task of shortlisting category finalists from the diverse range of Tasmanians doing incredible things in their communities.

These Awards would not be possible without the support of the Tasmanian Government and our sponsors; Southern Cross News, Anglicare Tasmania, CatholicCare, Hydro Tasmania, Lifeline Tasmania, MyState Financial, NRM South and Tasplan Super.

Thank you also to Volunteering Tasmania's Patron, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC, Governor of Tasmania, who hosted the Awards at Government House.

We congratulate everyone who was nominated, the finalists and award recipients for their generosity and commitment to their communities. Congratulations to Christopher Hine from the State Emergency Service, who was recognised as the Lifeline Emergency Services Volunteer of the Year and as the Premier's Volunteer of the Year.

VOLUNTEERING SYMPOSIUM

A highlight for many was the annual Volunteering Symposium, which was delivered in partnership with the University of Tasmania's Institute for the Study of Social Change.

A truly Tasmanian event, the Symposium showcased an Expert Panel featuring local examples of volunteer best-practice approaches to ensuring the physical, mental and social well-being of volunteers. Thank you to Ian Fullagar from Surf Life Saving Australia, Michael Bruhn from the Sea Shepherd and Lois Berry from the Hospice Care Association of North West Tasmania for sharing their insights.

Attendees were also treated to a passionate tongue-in-cheek debate on the topic of youth volunteering. We thank all the debaters for donating their time and talent, including Peter West, Chris Wisbey, Anneliese Smith, Emily Briffa, Alex McKenzie and Kate Cashman.



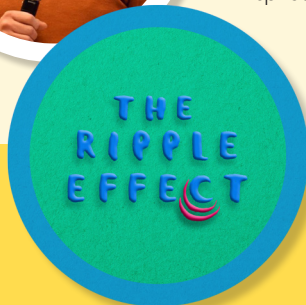
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

'Give Happy Live Happy' was once again the theme for National Volunteer Week, and Volunteering Tasmania embraced the opportunity to promote and celebrate volunteers in every corner of the island. Attending 14 events across the State, ranging from recognition events and celebratory functions, our focus this year was shining light on how volunteering contributes to supporting healthy communities. Combined with the success of the Tasmanian Volunteering Awards, our media coverage during this week was the best it has ever been with editorial pieces in all three regional newspapers, and numerous radio interviews allowing us to spread the good word about the immense kindness of our volunteers who make Tasmania a happier and healthier place to live.

THE RIPPLE EFFECT

We also launched *The Ripple Effect*, a weekly radio show hosted by volunteers and delivered in partnership with EDGE Radio 99.3. Every week we broadcast the stories of amazing Tasmanian volunteers to highlight their inspirations and achievements.

EVENTS



SPORT AND RECREATION

There is no doubt that Tasmanians love sport and our 'Volunteering in Sport' research report provided valuable insights into the health of volunteering across Tasmanian sporting clubs. More than 230 sporting organisations participated in the research project, representing approximately 18,500 sporting volunteers. The research confirmed that the challenges facing sport echo those of other community sectors including the need for more volunteers, people being time poor and an over reliance on a core group of volunteers. With over three quarters identifying a need for more volunteers, the report recommended increasing awareness amongst sporting organisations on changing volunteer and community expectations, promoting volunteer workforce planning resources and encouraging organisations to share examples of best practice volunteer management. The full research report will be released in October 2017.



CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering comes in many different forms and one of the emerging trends is corporate volunteering, which is increasing in popularity both internationally and across Australia. Little has been known about the scope and scale of corporate volunteering in Tasmania and this year our 'Corporate Volunteering in Tasmania' research report unearthed a diverse range of programs operating across the State. With programs ranging from ad-hoc arrangements to formalised programs, those organisations that were delivering or involved in corporate volunteering programs reported a range of benefits including a perceived 'return on investment'. The full research report will be released in September 2017.



VOLUNTOURISM

Officially launched at the 2017 Tasmanian Tourism Conference, our 'Voluntourism in Tasmania' research confirmed our island's popularity as a destination for individuals who want to combine volunteering with a holiday or leisure activity. With an estimated 4,000 visitors coming to Tasmania solely for the purpose of volunteering, our research identified that this cohort of volunteers has grown organically over time, through word-of-mouth and informal networks. With strong alignments with Tasmania's tourism marketing campaigns that promote opportunities to 'Go Behind the Scenery', voluntourism was shown to offer voluntourists unique and meaningful travel experiences. A copy of the report is available on our website.

Also we would like to acknowledge the University of Tasmania who launched their 'Volunteer Motivations' research, which was a partnership between the University, RACT, Hydro Tasmania, the Hobart City Council and Volunteering Tasmania.

RESEARCH

ADVOCACY

Our advocacy efforts ramped up in the last six months of 2016-17, with numerous conversations with policy makers and community leaders highlighting the importance of sustaining Tasmania's vibrant culture of volunteerism.

Ensuring the voices of volunteers were heard was a priority for the organisation, and achieved through our attendance at more than 40 forums and events and through 12 written submissions to Government inquiries and consultations. Highlights include the inclusion of our comments into the "Senate Inquiry into Aged Care" committee recommendations and findings.

Our efforts to lift the profile of volunteers extended beyond our shores, as we actively lobbied alongside Volunteering Australia and our State and Territory counterparts to successfully persuade the Australian Government to overturn its decision to remove a dedicated funding stream for volunteer support services. The 'Tower of Strength' campaign was a success, and we thank our members and supporters who lent their voices to this important issue.

POLICY AND ADVICE

Over the past 12 months a range of resources and advice was provided ranging from position statements and the development and revision of fact-sheets and tip sheets. From busting the myths on young volunteers to providing an overview of volunteer rights and responsibilities, these resources continue to be highly valuable for volunteers and the organisations that involve them.

With almost 1,300 pieces of policy and volunteer management advice provided to volunteer involving organisations state-wide, the coordination of our Budget Priority Statement submission, the value of our support is best summarised through the comments of one of our members: "Our organisation utilises many of the services offered through Vol Tas and for a small organisation such as our own I don't know how we would operate efficiently without their support. Vol Tas is always our first call if we need advice or direction."



ADVOCACY

VOLUNTEER SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Developing the volunteer sector remains a core focus for Volunteering Tasmania, with a number of programs and initiatives aimed at supporting volunteer involving organisations to recruit and retain volunteers.

Over the past 12 months, it is estimated that we provided advice and support to more than 230 individuals dropping into our offices, in response to 400+ telephone call enquiries and more than 3,650 emails. This does not include the additional resources available to our members through the launch of our Members Only page on our website.

Our most successful service continues to be the delivery of Managers of Volunteers Network Meetings. With more than 19 meetings held across the island, the value of these sessions is best explained through the comments of one of the attendees: *"The ongoing provision of regional managers of volunteers meetings enables me to interact with and learn from other people in the same role as me, sharing issues and solutions to improve the experience of volunteering for all our "vollies". I could not have set up such a successful program without assistance from VT."*

EMERGENCY VOLUNTEERING

It was a big year for emergency volunteering, with the Tasmanian Government announcing a four year funding commitment for Volunteering Tasmania's EV CREW (Emergency Volunteering – Community Response to Extreme Weather). We are very grateful for the Government's support of this initiative, which in the case of a natural disaster, will enable us to quickly and safely connect volunteers with organisations coordinating the recovery effort.



SUPPORTING AGED-CARE VOLUNTEERS

A key focus for Volunteering Tasmania is providing services and support to organisations funded to deliver Home and Community Care and Commonwealth Home Support services to our aging Tasmanians. Relying heavily on the support of volunteers, over the past 12 months the team has focused on providing high-quality support and assistance to these organisations. With more than 80 HACC/CHSP attendees at our Network Meetings, the team also delivered tailored Volunteer Connect and "Maximise your Volunteer Program" training to these organisations.



DEVELOPMENT



2,814 ↑
ENEWS
SUBSCRIBERS

2,810 ↑
FACEBOOK

230 ↑
LINKEDIN



154 ↑
VT MEMBERS

518 ↑
INSTAGRAM

1,339 ↑
TWITTER

STATS

