

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 5PM ON 19 MAY 2023**

## **Winners announced for the 2023 Tasmanian Volunteering Awards**

This year's Tasmanian Volunteering Awards culminated with an awards ceremony held at Government House in Hobart on 19 May. The awards acknowledge and honour the incredible contribution and spirit of service of all Tasmanian volunteers and signify the importance of National Volunteer Week (15-21 May).

The Honourable Justice Alan Blow AO, Lieutenant Governor of Tasmania, hosted the 27 finalists, their nominators, industry sponsors and VIPs at the official awards ceremony.

Nic Street, the Minister for Hospitality and Events, Minister for Community Services and Development, Minister for Sport and Recreation, and Minister for Local Government presented the Premier's Tasmanian Volunteer of the Year Award to Julie Porter.

Julie is the driving force behind the award-winning tourism experience onboard the oldest and smallest operating tall ship in Hobart, SV Rhona H. She manages all aspects of the ship's operations, the sailing schedule, bookings, website, social media, and crew roster, while coordinating 34 volunteers from a variety of backgrounds. Julie brings her best to the ship and encourages others to do the same.

Volunteering Tasmania's CEO Shirleyann Varney said the awards programs offers an opportunity to celebrate our power to drive change and ensure volunteering is inclusive of all members of our communities.

"Volunteering has long been a driver of individual and community well-being, supporting people's social connections, sense of purpose as well as physical and mental health. Volunteers turn their passion into a purpose and with that become a force for change.

"The Tasmanian Volunteering Awards celebrate those amazing people contributing in a multitude of ways, and every contribution is significant," Ms Varney said.

The awards are Tasmania's only state-wide program that formally recognises excellence in volunteering and are supported by the Tasmanian Government and valued sponsors.

**The 2023 winners are:**

**Community Care and Health Volunteer Award | supported by Anglicare Tasmania**

Sweta Sharma | Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania – **Lenah Valley**

**Education, Science and Technology Volunteer Award | supported by Spirit Super**

Mavis Sayer | Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania – **Montrose**

**Emergency Services Volunteer Award | supported by Lifeline Tasmania**

Brylyn Craven | Deloraine Ambulance Station – **Meander**

**Sport, Recreation and Service Groups Award | supported by Speak Up! Stay ChatTY**

Melanie Beets | Hobart Sporting Car Club – **Blackmans Bay**

**Arts, Heritage, Tourism and Events Volunteer Award | supported by Edge Atelier**

Julie Porter | Heritage Sailing Tasmania SV Rhona H – **Kettering**

**Environment, Animal Care and Conservation Volunteer Award | supported by AON**

Paul Doherty | Just Cats Tasmania – **Launceston**

**Lifetime Achievement Volunteer Award | supported by Aurora Energy**

Graeme Foale | Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania – **Lindisfarne**

**Youth Volunteer Award | supported by Youth Network of Tasmania**

Lara Emmett | Surf Life Saving Tasmania – **Ulverstone**

**Best Practice in Volunteer Management Award | supported by Hydro Tasmania**

Michelle Howells | Community Transport Services Tasmania – **Old Beach**

**Volunteer Group or Program of the Year Award | supported by CatholicCare Tasmania**

Deloraine House Community Garden – **Deloraine**

**The Premier's Volunteer of the Year Award**

Julie Porter | Heritage Sailing Tasmania SV Rhona H – **Kettering**

**BACKGROUND:**

National Volunteer Week (15 – 21 May) is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering. Recognising there is always more work to be done, Volunteering Australia is inviting all Australians to become a Change Maker by volunteering or simply helping increase awareness of the vital role volunteers play in our lives this National Volunteer Week.

For more information visit [volunteeringaustralia.org](http://volunteeringaustralia.org).

Volunteering Tasmania is the peak body for volunteering in the state, working closely with volunteer-involving organisations to represent the interests of all Tasmanians involved in volunteering. This is achieved through community engagement programs, advocacy, research and policy development.

Find out more about the Tasmanian Volunteering Awards on our website, [HERE](#).

Images can be provided upon request.

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