

Volunteering Tasmania State Conference | The Great Reset

Friday, 4 November 2022

This year's annual Volunteering Tasmania State Conference, on Tues, 8 November, brings together leading national and local experts in a thought-provoking event that will explore how we shape the future of Tasmania's volunteering sector.

The theme for this year is *The Great Reset*. Recent disruptions to our society and the awareness of the vulnerability of the volunteering sector, have caused us to think about how we wish to shape volunteering into the future. At this year's conference, we invite delegates to be part of the vital conversation surrounding the great reset of volunteering in Tasmania.

Keynote speaker Hugh Mackay AO, a social psychologist and researcher, will ask the question: After 50 years of radical social changes which have pushed us toward rampant individualism, will the crises of the past two years restore our sense of ourselves as members of a cooperative species who need each other?

In her talk, author and cultural critic Ruby Hamad will explore how race derails diversity, equity and inclusion. Her best-selling book *White Tears / Brown Scars* traces the role that white womanhood and feminism have played in the development of Western power structures.

As demand for volunteers continues to grow, volunteer participation rates have been declining for over a decade. A fresh approach to supporting the vital role volunteers play is needed, and the National Strategy of Volunteering being published early next year will provide a blueprint for a reimagined future for volunteering. Mark Pearce, CEO of Volunteering Australia, will discuss some of the key themes emerging from the landmark Volunteering in Australia research informing the national strategy, and how we might chart a positive course forward.

Dr Polly McGee, author, speaker and business strategist, will provide a view on how during the past few years, volunteer organisations have been running at pace, supporting everyone and everything in a world of uncertainty, risk and emotional exposure. If we superimpose our autonomic nervous system onto our organisations, we would be mostly running on flight or fight and heading into collapse. Her talk will invite participants to consider the Great Reset as a great co-regulation, bringing our people and our purpose back into homeostasis for optimal flourishing and thriving in the new normal of chaos.

Volunteering Tasmania's CEO Dr Lisa Schimanski said the conference will provide state-wide insights into the volunteering sector, explore key issues, and consider what excellence looks like in best practice volunteer management.

“Throughout this conversation, we need to recognise the immense role that our managers of volunteers play in our communities.

“You need only think about any sporting club in Tasmania, any community organisation, environmental or tourism group, arts or emergency service group to realise that every one of these organisations requires management of volunteers.

“Their role includes managing recruitment and training of new volunteers, working through challenges, and they always ensure their volunteers are welcomed, recognised and thanked. Our collective of talented volunteer managers oversee those incredible individuals who volunteer their time willingly to help our community.

“The state conference brings together managers from across Tasmania to explore how to adapt and change ways of engaging and managing volunteers.”

Find out more:

<https://www.volunteeringtas.org.au/training-events/conference/>

To arrange an interview with a speaker, please contact Dawn Green on the details below.

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