

# Founders and Lifetime Members



**June Hazzlewood**

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As one of the founding members of Volunteering Tasmania June is no stranger to taking on a challenge and creating places for people to thrive. Twenty five years ago June along with a few of her contemporaries saw the need for Tasmania to have a dedicated organisation for volunteers just like the other states. Persistent lobbying to federal government authorities saw the beginning of Volunteering Tasmania emerge out of the establishment of the Tasmanian Volunteering Centre in 1993. Since then June has remained involved in the organisation contributing through Volunteer Tas Workshops attendance and volunteer community committee service. Her lifelong love of volunteering started as a child in Rockhampton when she used to push a wheel burrow up a hill to deliver goods to the folk on the Range. Today she cannot imagine a life without volunteering and given that the word "no" dropped out of her vocabulary years ago there has been no shortage of opportunities for June to share her talents and skills.

Through her volunteering she has also given others the opportunity to grow particularly in the education and training sector and this is reflected in the many prestigious awards she has received including the Prime Minister's Centenary Medal and an OAM and achieving her PhD at the age of 75. Along with her numerous volunteering commitments she is still involved in OPEN - the Launceston Computer Group Club for seniors, which she co-founded with Mollie Campbell-Smith AM MBE in 2001, and is most proud of because it is totally run by senior volunteers. Her advice to others who are thinking about volunteering is to choose your niche and something that you are interested in, do your search to find the best fit for your talents and trust word of mouth recommendations from people you know. But most importantly "Beware of saying yes before over committing". Sage advice from an "over committer"!