

## Our mission: We create an environment which promotes and sustains effective volunteerism.

It is with great pleasure that we present VT's 2015/16 annual report. It has been a year of achievements but also of change and challenge.

VT was proud to be chosen as the project managers to lead the national review of Volunteering Australia's definition of volunteering. Released in July, the new definition states that, 'volunteering is time willingly given for the common good and without financial gain.' It contemporises the way that we view donating time and is more inclusive of the many forms of giving that need to be nurtured, encouraged and measured.

We have made great strides in our policy and advocacy work this year with a number of submissions to Senate Inquiries, consultations and discussion papers. We were delighted to present evidence to the Senate Inquiry into the Impact of the 2014 and 2015 Commonwealth budget decisions on the Arts at the Senate Hearing in Hobart.

There is a level of change and uncertainty right across the not for profit sector right now and at VT we undertook our own change with a significant organisational restructure. We were saddened that two valued members of the team departed VT as a result of the restructure and the Board made the difficult decision to close VT's Burnie office. However, we remain committed to providing relevant and useful services to volunteers and volunteer involving organisations right across our State. We were thrilled to be able to host the inaugural Tasmanian Volunteering Awards this year. Sponsored by MyState, supported by the State Government, and with category sponsorships from Hydro Tasmania, Lyden Builders, Tasplan Super and AON, the Awards proved to be a highlight of the year. There were so many worthy examples of people making a difference by doing what they love. I am pleased to announce that the Premier's Volunteer of the Year Award for 2016 went to Peter Martin of Redwater Creek Steam and Heritage Society.

Internally we have launched a new website and a new customer relationship system so that we can more effectively look after our valued stakeholders. We have also been busy implementing the Emergency Volunteering Community Response to Extreme Weather (EV CREW) system which will enable us to support recovery efforts after disasters.

This year we welcomed Rachel Johnson as the new Chair of the VT Board when Michelle Ewington stepped down from this position at the AGM. During her tenure Michelle provided exceptional leadership to the Board. We are very fortunate to have a Board who provide strategic insight and are dedicated to the advancement of the organisation. We would like to thank every one of them for their contribution to VT. Our heartfelt thanks to the paid and volunteer staff who have weathered some storms this year but have stayed staunch in their dedication to the organisation and to volunteering. Our people are hardworking, dedicated and highly skilled and it has been a real privilege to be able to work alongside them this year.

The coming year brings a new look for VT. We will be honing the ways we support organisations to find volunteers, and helping more individuals to find volunteer roles that they love. We will be setting up a volunteer management helpdesk to answer queries on the best ways to look after volunteers. And we will be out and about listening to your issues and concerns so that our policy and advocacy work can be bold, targeted and reflective of the sector's needs. More than ever we will be focusing on how VT can bring benefits to our valued members and stakeholders. We look forward to working with you in 2016/17.

ADRIENNE PICONE Chief Executive Officer RACHEL JOHNSON Chair of the Board



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