

Founders and Lifetime Members



Sylvia Godman

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As one of the early pioneers of formal volunteering in Tasmania, Sylvia became involved in volunteering through her work with the Statewide HACC Volunteer Managers training service in the early 1990s when she was working as a social worker at Wyndarra in Smithton. Along with Jill Lowrey and Helene Bourke she “got caught up in the movement” to get volunteering valued and recognized in Australia and Tasmania which led her to hold positions on both the National and State Volunteering Boards and was an instrumental force in getting the national conference held in Tasmania in 1996. Sylvia is a proud Honorary Life Member of Volunteering Tasmania and maintains a keen interest in the progress and achievements of the organisation. Across her life she has experienced the great rewards of volunteering especially in relation to the way it can help you to gain a deeper understanding of humankind and the impact it can have on changing and moving society forward.

To Sylvia volunteering is “more than just donating your time, it involves an engagement with life through reciprocity.” She has witnessed this in her many and varied volunteering roles with Brownies, Guides, campaigning for nuclear disarmament, lobbying for improved health conditions in communities and advocating for community sporting groups. More recently she has taken on the voluntary coordination of a social activity group “Share and Care” in her local community, for a small group of over “75”s who mostly live independently. After a time away from volunteering due to family commitments, she is re-engaging with her community and has regained relationships that she felt were in danger of being lost. “I have been re-energized with my agreement and commitment to take on a role that was vacant and needed in order to keep a viable, much enjoyed community group from folding”. For Sylvia volunteering is a Win Win for all.