



**tasmanian  
volunteering  
awards 2026**

# **Awards Presentation**

**18 September 2026**

**The Old Woolstore, Hobart**

Artwork by Caleb Nichols-Mansell  
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**Thank you for joining us for the eleventh annual Tasmanian Volunteering Awards presentation. This is our opportunity to showcase inspiring volunteer stories and recognise excellence in volunteering.**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:**

Volunteering Tasmania acknowledges the Palawa as traditional custodians of the lands, seas, skies, and waterways throughout Lutruwita/Tasmania. We recognise their deep history and continuing connections with Country, culture, and community and pay respect to Elders past and present.

**Artwork by Caleb Nicholas-Mansell 2026**

*Artists Statement: The artwork represents the coming together of communities to build safer and stronger communities that support and uplift each other. The circular motifs represent the nine nations that called Tasmania home prior to invasion and colonisation.*

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# Message from Her Excellency

As Patron of Volunteering Tasmania, I am delighted to acknowledge the 21 outstanding finalists in the 2026 Tasmanian Volunteering Awards. For 11 years now, these annual Awards have recognised excellence in volunteering and celebrated Tasmanians who make a significant contribution to our communities.

We know that community organisations thrive because ordinary people give extraordinary amounts of their time. In Tasmania we are so fortunate to have many humble, hardworking people undertaking vital work across a diverse range of fields.

Since becoming Governor, every day I discover more wonderful things happening right across our State, which often fly under the radar. That is why it is so important for us to shine a light on the remarkable efforts of Tasmanians through initiatives such as these Awards.

This year's finalists have been selected from many worthy nominees from around Tasmania. While only one recipient will take home the award in each category, I congratulate every finalist for their commitment and contribution.

May I also thank every Tasmanian who generously volunteers their time in service to others. Your dedication strengthens our communities and helps make our State a better place for all.

**Her Excellency the Honourable Caroline Wells**  
**Governor of Tasmania**



# Message from the Premier

Volunteers are what keeps our community ticking.

Our volunteers turn up every week to run the canteen, the local hospital auxiliary, driving people to appointments, collecting donations, supporting the local sporting club, caring and giving their time to make their local community a better place.

The time our volunteers give is incredibly valued, and it is something that our Tasmanian Government both celebrates and appreciates.

There are more than 332,000 volunteers across Tasmania, and I want to thank each and every one of you for the work that you do in your community supporting your fellow Tasmanians.

On latest information our volunteers gave 90 million hours and generated more than \$12 billion to the state economy in 2023.

We launched Tasmania's first Volunteering Strategy in 2025 because we recognise that volunteering is changing.

Volunteers are vital, but the face of how we support our community is changing in our modern world.

There is a need to keep up with the times, and our strategy is part of driving this change, for the better.

Through our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, we're continuing to build a caring community that supports every Tasmanian.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the Tasmanian Volunteering Awards.

This is an exciting time for all nominees, and not only do I wish you every success but also take the time for a quiet reflection on just how much you are appreciated and valued by many.

On behalf of all Tasmanians, thank you for everything you do.

**The Honourable Jeremy Rockliff**  
**Premier of Tasmania**

# Awards



## Categories:

- Excellence in Volunteer Leadership and Management Award
- Inclusive Volunteering Award
- Workplace Volunteering Impact Award
- Volunteer Impact Award - Group or Program
- Volunteer Impact Award - Individual
- Tasmanian Youth Volunteer of the Year Award
- Lifetime Commitment Award

# Excellence in Volunteer Leadership and Management Award



## Arron Brooke - State Emergency Service

Arron has provided outstanding volunteer leadership at the Mersey SES Unit over an extended period of time including serving as Unit Manager since 2021. Through his inclusive and supportive leadership, he has built a strong, skilled, and sustainable volunteer workforce and created a culture where volunteers feel valued, supported, and empowered.

A key strength of Arron's leadership is his ability to build strong partnerships across emergency services, government agencies, and community organisations, improving coordination and community resilience. He consistently promotes volunteer wellbeing, safety, recognition, and succession planning in line with best-practice volunteer standards.

Under his guidance, the Mersey SES Unit has maintained a high level of operational readiness, providing vital support during storms, floods, search and rescue operations. Arron has also represented Tasmania nationally and been deployed interstate to assist communities affected by major disasters.

Through his professionalism, mentorship, and commitment to service, Arron has strengthened emergency preparedness, inspired volunteers, and delivered lasting benefits to communities across Northwest Tasmania.

## Adnan Habib - Print Radio Tasmania

Adnan has played a pivotal role in strengthening Print Radio Tasmania, progressing from Volunteer Coordinator to Station Operations Manager, demonstrating his exceptional leadership and commitment. He recruits, trains, mentors and supports around 80 volunteers, coordinating daily live reading broadcasts.

Adnan is passionate about empowering volunteers, creating opportunities for participation, skill development and confidence building. He champions the National Standards for Volunteer Involvement, embedding best practice in recruitment, training, inclusion, recognition and continuous improvement. Through his approachable and supportive leadership, he has created a positive volunteer culture where people feel valued, respected and encouraged to learn.

By building a skilled and committed volunteer workforce, Adnan helps ensure Tasmanians who are blind, vision impaired, have low literacy, or cannot access printed material remain connected to news, information and community life. Adnan exemplifies excellence in volunteer leadership, making a lasting contribution to both Print Radio Tasmania and the broader Tasmanian community.

# Excellence in Volunteer Leadership and Management Award

(Continued)



## Kellie Woolnough - Launceston Volunteers for Community

Kellie is a highly respected leader with more than 15 years' experience in volunteer coordination and community services. At Launceston Volunteers for Community, she manages volunteer programs that provide essential transport and social support services across Northern Tasmania. Committed to volunteer development, she ensures volunteers are well-trained, confident, and equipped to deliver safe, person-centred services.

Kellie is recognised for her strong focus on quality, governance, and continuous improvement, including leading an independent audit against the National Standards for Volunteer Involvement. She mentors emerging staff, supports professional growth, and has positively influenced hundreds of volunteers and clients throughout her career.

A collaborative leader, Kellie builds strong partnerships across the sector and readily shares knowledge to improve outcomes for volunteers and communities. Her leadership has strengthened community connection, reduced social isolation, and increased access to essential services, helping people remain active and engaged in community life.

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# Inclusive Volunteering Award



## Mia Arnott

Mia has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to inclusive volunteering, contributing more than 1,000 volunteer hours annually across community, humanitarian and wellbeing initiatives.

Through the volunteer-run Alternatives to Violence Program, Mia delivers conflict-resolution training that empowers participants, including refugees and people affected by violence, to build confidence, connection and inclusion. Through the Big Issue Community Soccer Program, she has helped create a safe, supportive environment for people with disability, mental illness and homelessness, including developing individualised support plans and helping participants become volunteers themselves.

Mia's leadership in reviving the Student Living University Gardening Society and the Red Cross Tasmanian Youth Advisory Committee has reduced barriers to participation through flexible volunteering, food security initiatives and accessible pathways for young people to contribute to community action.

Drawing on lived experience of migration and disability, Mia champions diversity, recognises individual strengths and empowers people who may otherwise feel excluded.

## Huzaifa Fakhruddin

As Chairperson of the Pakistani Australian Cultural Organisation (PACO), Huzaifa has made a significant contribution to building a more inclusive, connected and welcoming Tasmania. Through his volunteer leadership, he supports migrants including international students and families by providing practical assistance with resumes, job applications, interview preparation and career guidance, helping many gain employment as well as confidence and a sense of belonging.

Under his leadership, PACO has become a bridge between cultures, bringing together 24 communities through festivals, educational programs and events that celebrate diversity and promote social cohesion. These initiatives create opportunities for people of all ages, faiths and cultural backgrounds to participate, connect and develop meaningful relationships.

Huzaifa is a strong advocate for multicultural representation, encouraging migrant communities to engage in volunteering, leadership and civic life. His efforts have strengthened cross-cultural understanding, reduced social isolation and created pathways for participation and opportunity.

# Inclusive Volunteering Award

(Continued)



## Print Radio Tasmania

Print Radio Tasmania is evolving from a traditional radio reading service into an inclusive, disability-led media organisation dedicated to removing barriers to volunteering, leadership and participation. Over the past year, it has embedded inclusion across governance, volunteer development, content creation and community engagement, with a goal that 50% of committee members, staff and volunteers have lived experience of disability or a close connection to disability.

The organisation provides accessible training, mentoring and adapted audio production tools, enabling people with disability to develop broadcasting skills and participate meaningfully. Partnerships with disability, education and community organisations have expanded volunteer placements and training opportunities, particularly for young people with disability and culturally diverse communities.

Last year, one of their major innovations was the launch of Crip Culture, a disability-led podcast which places lived experience at the centre of storytelling and amplifies underrepresented voices.

Reaching around 12,000 listeners weekly and supported by 80 volunteers, the organisation helps build confidence, skills and belonging while demonstrating that people with disability can lead, create, govern and shape community life.

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# Workplace Volunteering Impact Award



## Francesca Jewellery

Francesca Jewellery has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to community impact through its ongoing partnership with Be Hers, empowering employees and embedding workplace volunteering into its culture where giving back is valued and celebrated. Team members have contributed time, skills and expertise to Be Hers programs across administration, graphic design, events, expos and Hub activities.

What makes this partnership particularly noteworthy is the genuine enthusiasm and consistency shown by the entire team. Their volunteer support has increased Be Hers' capacity to deliver high-quality programs and events, allowing more resources to be directed towards community outcomes and opportunities for women. Francesca Jewellery has fostered a culture of collaboration, generosity and community engagement, creating welcoming spaces where women can connect, learn and grow.

By encouraging employee participation and contributing well beyond financial sponsorship, the organisation has helped build a more resilient Tasmanian business community. Their sustained commitment, professionalism and hands-on approach demonstrate the powerful impact workplace volunteering can have creating lasting social change.

## TasNetworks

TasNetworks are a valued partner of Hobart City Mission, making a significant impact through employee volunteering, professional expertise and community support. A standout contribution has been the Power People Project, where TasNetworks staff, alongside Aurora Energy, delivered energy literacy training to more than 50 Hobart City Mission employees, strengthening their ability to support people facing cost-of-living pressures with practical advice.

Staff have contributed to a diverse range of programs through gardening, maintenance, cleaning and community improvement activities, while also supporting sustainability initiatives by sorting and processing over 1.5 tonnes of donated clothing. Additionally, more than 40 employees supported the Joy Drive Giving campaign last year through volunteering and donations, helping bring joy and dignity to Tasmanians at Christmas.

Over the past financial year alone, employees donated more than 280 volunteer hours, valued at approximately \$13,000. Their contributions have improved client safety, strengthened community programs, reduced landfill waste and created meaningful connections with vulnerable Tasmanians, demonstrating the lasting impact of workplace volunteering.

# Workplace Volunteering Impact Award

(Continued)



## The Federal Group

The Federal Group has built a highly impactful partnership with Dress for Success Tasmania through corporate sponsorship, in-kind support and extensive employee volunteering. Their team contributes hundreds of volunteer hours each year, assisting with the planning, setup and delivery of major fundraising events, while also providing venues, transport and equipment that significantly reduce costs and logistical barriers for the charity.

This support has helped deliver three major fundraising events in the past year, generating funds to provide styling, career support and employment preparation services for 50 Tasmanian women seeking to enter or re-enter the workforce. The events also delivered strong environmental benefits, with 5,130 clothing items sold and significant volumes of textile waste diverted from landfill.

Through their people, resources and expertise, The Federal Group has strengthened Dress for Success Tasmania's capacity, empowered women, supported sustainability and demonstrated the lasting value of workplace volunteering and community partnership.

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# Volunteer Impact Award - Group or Program



## Soroptimist International Launceston

Soroptimist International Launceston delivers significant, lasting benefits for women, girls, and families locally and beyond. Their flagship Premmie Pack Project provides specially designed clothing and comfort items for families with premature babies at Launceston General Hospital, supporting an estimated 200 families annually. The Club's 2026 High Tea fundraiser raised a record \$6,236, helping expand this work while attracting new community interest and potential members.

The Club also supports education through annual Dame Marjorie Parker Awards and a pilot program assisting female students facing financial hardship. Other initiatives include Share the Dignity donations, inclusive projects for women with disability, environmental contributions, and ongoing support for local, national, and international causes.

Through advocacy, community engagement, and partnerships, the Club raises awareness of issues affecting women and girls while delivering practical, dignity-centred assistance. Its greatest achievement is sustaining impactful, multi-year projects with a very small volunteer base, transforming community fundraising into meaningful support, stronger connections, and improved wellbeing across Northern Tasmania.

## The Kinsey Scales - Nipaluna's Queer Choir

The Kinsey Scales, Nipaluna's queer community choir, has become a powerful source of connection, inclusion, and belonging in just three years of operation. Open to all LGBTIQ+ people and allies, the choir attracts people ranging from teenagers to people in their 70s, with no auditions, fees, or attendance requirements. Its accessible and welcoming approach has created a diverse, supportive community where people feel safe to be themselves.

The choir's sold-out annual concerts celebrate queer joy and have attracted record audiences, while providing a visible, positive space for the LGBTIQ+ community. Members consistently describe the choir as life-changing, helping them build friendships, gain confidence, express their identities, and find a genuine sense of belonging.

Central to its success are volunteer leaders Freya and Ally, whose commitment, inclusivity, creativity, and enthusiasm have fostered an environment of warmth, fun, and acceptance. In a time when many LGBTIQ+ people continue to face discrimination and isolation, The Kinsey Scales provides a vital community space that promotes wellbeing, celebration, and connection.

# Volunteer Impact Award

## - Group or Program

(Continued)



### Wyndarra Centre Inc

For 44 years, Wyndarra volunteers have made a profound impact across the Circular Head community through practical support, compassion, and community leadership. They provide transport to medical appointments and accompany clients for reassurance and support, an essential service due to the limited public transport options available. They also assist with free tax return support for hundreds of vulnerable community members and distribute more than 200 Christmas hampers annually to families and individuals in need.

Volunteers also played a key role in fundraising for Wyndarra's Specialist Disability Accommodation, helping create the region's first purpose-built homes for people with disability.

Beyond practical assistance, volunteers help people remain independent, connected, and supported during illness, hardship, isolation, and grief. Through advocacy, community engagement, and everyday acts of kindness, they raise awareness of available services and reach those most in need. The genuine care, dedication, and passion of volunteers involved across Wyndarra make a lasting difference throughout Circular Head.

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# Volunteer Impact Award

## - Individual



### Scott Clarke AFSM

Scott makes an exceptional volunteer contribution to Tasmania's emergency services through frontline response, leadership, advocacy, mentoring and specialist rescue activities.

Volunteering alongside multiple family members, Scott has been actively engaged across several roles, responding to emergencies, supporting fellow volunteers and helping protect communities.

Scott provides operational leadership and specialist training across several sectors, including as Second Officer of Burnie Fire Brigade, Leading Fire Fighter with Ridgley Brigade, Northwest President and State Vice President of the Tasmania Volunteer Retained Firefighter Association, Chief Fire Adjudicator for mine rescue, and a leader within Speedway Fire and Rescue.

A passionate mentor, he continues to develop new volunteers, strengthen organisational capability and inspire future emergency service leaders.

Respected as a leader, role model and advocate, Scott's resilience, generosity and unwavering dedication continue to strengthen Tasmania's emergency services and improve community safety. Through his dedicated service, he has positively impacted countless volunteers, emergency responders and Tasmanians in need.

### Georgie Ibbott

Georgie has made an outstanding volunteer contribution to Tasmania through leadership, governance and frontline community service. As President of TasCOSS, Tasmania's peak body for the community services industry, she provides strategic leadership to an organisation representing more than 160 member organisations and advocating for Tasmanians experiencing poverty, disadvantage and inequality.

In this role, she has supported effective governance, mentored fellow volunteer directors, and fostered a collaborative relationship with the CEO and leadership team, helping the organisation advance its strategic priorities and strengthen the community services industry statewide.

Georgie also volunteers as Independent Chair of Wildlife Network Tasmania, supporting wildlife carers across the state. At the same time, she continues her frontline volunteering with Orange Sky laundry, providing practical support and meaningful connection to people experiencing homelessness and hardship.

Georgie is dedicated to helping organisations navigate challenges, build capability and improve long-term sustainability. Her ability to combine strategic leadership with compassion, humility and a genuine commitment to people ensures her contributions continue to benefit communities across Tasmania.

# Volunteer Impact Award - Individual

(Continued)



## Distinguished Professor Gregory Peterson

Gregory Peterson has made an exceptional voluntary contribution to Tasmania's health sector through leadership, governance and community service. As President of Cancer Council Tasmania, he has guided the organisation's continued growth, strengthened support for its 500-plus volunteers and helped expand services for people affected by cancer, including the development of a new North-West supportive care centre.

Greg also serves as Chair of the UTAS Human Research Ethics Committee helping improve healthcare access, service delivery and health outcomes across the state. His volunteer service as a founding and longest-serving member of the Tasmanian Medicines Access and Advisory Committee has shaped safe and effective medication use in Tasmania's public hospitals for more than 25 years.

Through his community pharmacy work, Greg has improved medication safety, supported vaccination programs and worked closely with aged care facilities to improve education, enhance patient care and help prevent hospitalisations. Collectively, his contributions have improved healthcare quality for countless Tasmanians.

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# Tasmanian Youth Volunteer of the Year Award



## Jack Duncan

Jack is an exceptional young volunteer whose leadership, dedication and service have made a lasting impact on St John Ambulance Tasmania and the wider community. Since joining the St John Youth Program in Launceston in 2021, he has progressed through leadership roles to become a Youth Leader and Assistant Divisional Manager. At the age of 15, Jack first gained his First Aid qualifications and began volunteering at community events.

After relocating to Hobart for university, Jack has remained deeply committed to volunteering. A two-time Tasmanian National First Aid Team Leader and recipient of the 2023 Peter Falkland Award, he consistently demonstrates outstanding leadership and service.

Jack's greatest impact is through his dedication to mentoring young people. He teaches first aid, supports leadership development, coaches competition teams and inspires others to pursue community service. Through his example, he has helped develop confident, skilled and community-minded young volunteers.

## Dylan Gangell

Dylan has transformed one of life's greatest challenges into a powerful commitment to serving others. At just 16, he underwent a brain operation for a rare germinoma tumour, followed by treatment and the difficult process of relearning basic life skills. Despite this, he completed Years 11 and 12 and graduated in 2022.

What makes Dylan exceptional is what he chose to do next. Over the past year, he has shared his story at numerous Make-A-Wish fundraising events that collectively raised more than \$123,000. Beyond this, he has undertaken extensive leadership development and is a Youth Ambassador with Canteen and young person advocate. Dylan also supports young people affected by cancer, completed more than 40 volunteer shifts at the Royal Hobart Hospital, and promoted inclusion through blind cricket education programs in schools.

While also working, Dylan continues to give generously of his time. His resilience, humility and compassion inspire hope, break down barriers and create lasting impact across Tasmania.

# Tasmanian Youth Volunteer of the Year Award

(Continued)



## Tyrese Holland

At just 14 years of age, Tyrese is an outstanding young volunteer whose impact far exceeds expectations for his age. Living with disability, he demonstrates remarkable resilience, determination and commitment while contributing hundreds of volunteer hours across sporting clubs, community organisations, emergency services, schools and local fundraising initiatives.

Tyrese consistently shows initiative, identifying needs and acting without being asked.

Tyrese supports football match-day operations and established a Recycle Rewards container collection program to boost sustainability and fundraising. More broadly, he prepares food parcels, assists with welfare support, and contributes to fundraising events, sporting tournaments and community projects.

What sets Tyrese apart is his quiet leadership, reliability and willingness to take responsibility for overlooked tasks. His contributions strengthen community organisations, support people experiencing hardship, assist cancer fundraising initiatives and enhance volunteer capacity across the region. By leading through action, Tyrese has created a ripple effect which inspires greater community participation throughout the Penguin and North-West Tasmania.

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# Lifetime Commitment Award



## Michael Badcock

Michael has dedicated his time, leadership and expertise to strengthening Tasmania's agricultural industry and regional communities, over the past six decades. A fifth-generation Tasmanian farmer, he has held volunteer leadership roles at local, state and national levels, including over 40 years with the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association Vegetable Council and as Chair of AUSVEG, where he helped strengthen industry governance, advocacy, research, development and biosecurity initiatives that continue to benefit growers across Australia.

Michael's commitment extends well beyond agriculture. He has dedicated countless hours to sporting clubs, training organisations, food security projects and regional development initiatives. As a Life Member of the Forth Football Club, he played a key role in delivering new recreation facilities that continue to serve the community.

Widely respected for his collaborative leadership, Michael has consistently brought people together, mentored future leaders and championed practical solutions for stronger regional communities and industries.

## Scott Clarke AFSM

Scott has devoted himself to serving Tasmanian communities through emergency response, rescue operations, volunteer leadership, training and advocacy. His extensive volunteer service over more than 40 years has spanned the Tasmania Fire Service, St John Ambulance, State Emergency Service, Ambulance Tasmania, mine rescue, motorsport rescue organisations and volunteer representative bodies.

Throughout his service, Scott has responded to emergencies, mentored volunteers, developed future leaders and strengthened emergency service capability across Tasmania. He has played a significant role in mine rescue, creating realistic training environments and supporting rescue teams to maintain high standards of preparedness and safety. Through leadership roles within the Tasmania Volunteer Retained Firefighter Association, he has also been a strong advocate for volunteer firefighters and emergency service personnel.

Through his leadership, volunteer advocacy and unwavering commitment to service, he has strengthened emergency services across Tasmania, inspired generations of volunteers and left a legacy of stronger organisations and safer communities.

For more than 40 years, Scott Clarke has provided outstanding volunteer service across Tasmania's emergency services, rescue and community sectors. Through frontline response, leadership, training, mentoring and advocacy, he has supported countless volunteers, strengthened emergency service capability and enhanced community safety statewide. He continues to serve with dedication, helping build safer, stronger and more resilient Tasmanian communities.

# Lifetime Commitment Award

(Continued)



## Robyn Hanson

For over 40 years, Robyn has championed inclusion and opportunity for Tasmanians with disability through outstanding volunteer leadership. In 1986, she founded New Horizons Tasmania after recognising the lack of sporting opportunities for people with disability, creating a welcoming environment where individuals could participate, build confidence and develop skills regardless of ability.

Under her leadership, New Horizons has grown into a statewide organisation, providing pathways into sport, recreation, leadership and competition. As a coach, mentor and leader, Robyn has guided hundreds of athletes, helping many achieve success at state, national and international levels.

Her contribution has been recognised through numerous honours, including the Order of Australia Medal (OAM), Special Olympics Australia Hall of Fame induction and multiple Life Memberships. Beyond sporting success, her greatest achievement has been creating lasting opportunities for people with disability to participate, connect and belong. Robyn has transformed countless lives and helped build a more inclusive and supportive Tasmanian community.

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## Who we are

As the peak body for volunteering in Tasmania, Volunteering Tasmania creates an inclusive, thriving and celebrated culture of community participation.



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