

## Media release

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### Volunteering Victoria State Awards winners

Volunteering Victoria announced the winners of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Volunteering Victoria State Awards at Queen's Hall, Parliament House on Thursday 17 November.

'We know volunteering is critical to the delivery of many of our community, health, sporting, cultural, emergency, environmental, educational and other services and activities. We know volunteering builds community resilience and social cohesion and connectedness. But volunteering doesn't just happen!', said Sue Noble, CEO of Volunteering Victoria.

'The Volunteering Victoria State Awards showcase the significant and enduring impact Victoria's managers of volunteers, volunteering programs and volunteer involving organisations have on building sustainable and resilient volunteering in our State. These Awards complement the many community-based volunteer recognition events across the State, and the Victorian Premier's Volunteer Champions Awards.'

'The Award nominations were of a very high calibre. They represent the diversity and breadth of volunteering across Victoria, and highlight some really remarkable programs and managers of volunteers. We are proud to share and celebrate the outstanding achievements of all the Award nominees, and we congratulate all the winners of our State Awards.'

The Awards cover six categories: Excellence, Impact, Inclusion, Innovation, Thought Leadership, and Employee Volunteering. A panel of judges drawn from the volunteering sector considered nominations and shortlisted the finalists. Seven Awards were presented at the ceremony, the Thought Leadership category was split into two sub-categories of Practitioner and Researcher/Academic for the first time this year.

#### **Excellence Award:**

*Awarded to a volunteer manager, volunteer delivered program or volunteer involving organisation for demonstrating and championing best practice volunteer management. This should include consideration of The National Standards for Volunteer Involvement.*

#### **Winner:**

Ardoch Youth Foundation - Education Volunteers Program (**Melbourne**)

#### **Impact Award:**

*Awarded to a volunteer manager, volunteer delivered program or volunteer involving organisation that has made a positive, measurable and sustainable social, environmental and/or economic impact on the community, individuals or cause supported by the program.*

#### **Winner:**

Foodbank Victoria (**Yarraville**)

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#### **Media enquiries:**

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**Inclusion Award:**

*Awarded to a volunteer manager, volunteer delivered program or volunteer involving organisation that engages with and includes individuals or groups who are often excluded from mainstream or traditional volunteering. This might include any groups that routinely experience social isolation or discrimination, such as CALD community members, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people with a disability, senior Victorians, LGBTI people, and recently arrived migrants and refugees.*

**Winner:**

Country Fire Authority - CFA Pride (**Walhalla**)

**Innovation Award:**

*Awarded to a volunteer manager, volunteer delivered program or volunteer involving organisation for an innovative, unique volunteering program or model that engages volunteers and makes a significant contribution to the work of the organisation; improving its ability to achieve its purpose and objectives, and to deliver positive outcomes for its stakeholders.*

**Winner:**

Ardoch Youth Foundation - Literacy and Numeracy Buddies (**St Kilda**)

**Thought Leadership Award:**

*Awarded to an individual or team who made a significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge and/or research regarding volunteering practice or theory.*

**Winners:**

**Researcher/Academic**

Associate Professor Leonie Lockstone-Binney & Associate Professor Kirsten Holmes - William Angliss Institute & Curtin University (**Melbourne**)

**Practitioner**

Sharon Walsh - Bendigo Health (**Bendigo**)

**Employee Volunteering Award:**

*Awarded to an organisation that delivers a specific, significant and sustained benefit to one or more volunteer-involving organisations through its employee volunteering program. The volunteering contribution may include general (team) or skilled volunteering, including pro bono work.*

Sponsored by SEEK Volunteer.

**Winner:**

ANZ (**Melbourne**)

The Volunteering Victoria State Awards are proudly sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services.

**For more detailed information, please contact Chrissy Paterson on details below.**

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