

Media release

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Volunteering Victoria announces 2017 State Awards Finalists

Volunteering Victoria has announced 23 finalists, shortlisted across six categories, in the Volunteering Victoria 2017 State Awards.

'This is the third year of our State Awards and the response has been amazing. Nominations were of a high calibre, highlighting remarkable leadership and stewardship of volunteering, diverse volunteering programs and innovative volunteer involving organisations across the state. Showcasing excellence in Victoria's volunteering sector, we're proud to share this list of finalists' said Roz Wollmering, Interim CEO of Volunteering Victoria.

The Volunteering Victoria State Awards aim to embrace, and showcase the work of leaders and managers of volunteers, programs and volunteer involving organisations.

The Awards were developed in 2015 in consultation with the volunteering sector, in response to the need for inclusive awards that reflect the ways volunteering is evolving.

Traditional ideas about volunteering continue to be challenged daily as leaders of volunteers strive to meet the diverse motivations of their volunteers whilst achieving their organisation's objectives.

Whilst numerous events exist to recognise the outstanding achievements of individual volunteers, the Volunteering Victoria State Awards aim to showcase the extraordinary infrastructure in our state that makes volunteering possible.

The Awards cover six categories including Innovation, Excellence, Inclusion, Thought Leadership, Employee Volunteering and Lifetime Achievement.

Nominations were considered by a panel of volunteering sector judges with winners to be announced at the State Awards ceremony on Wednesday 22 November 2017 at Parliament House in Melbourne.

Innovation Award:

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

Finalists are:

- Disaster Volunteer Program, Golden Plains Shire
- Farms to Families pop-up markets, Foodbank Victoria
- Human Rights Law Program Fast Track Clinics, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre
- Orange Sky Laundry/Showers Team, Melbourne CBD and South East Melbourne Vans
- Vollie

Excellence Award:

Awarded to an **individual manager or leader of volunteers** or a **Volunteer Involving Organisation** for demonstrating a commitment to going beyond best practice volunteer management.

Finalists are:

- Nicole Armstrong, Workplace Volunteer Coordinator, Ardoch Youth Foundation
- Very Special Kids

Inclusion Award:

Awarded to a **Volunteering Program** that achieves the inclusion of individuals or groups who are often excluded from the mainstream or traditional volunteering. Inclusion can be with respect to any groups within society that characteristically experience disadvantage, isolation or discrimination, including but not restricted to CALD communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people with disability, the aged, gender or sexual identity groups, recent migrants and refugees.

Finalists are:

- Afghan and Tamil volunteers, enliven
- Meals on Wheels, Melba Support Services
- Michael Crane, Into the Limelight
- Volunteer Engagement – Members, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre
- Youth Parliament, YMCA Victoria

Thought Leadership Award:

Awarded to a **researcher and a practitioner** who make significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge or research regarding volunteering, in particular (but not limited to) volunteering leadership and management.

Finalists are:

- Leanne McCormick, PhD, Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) Ltd
- Mohammed Salman, Western Health
- Dr. Pam Kappelides, La Trobe University

Employee Volunteering Award:

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

Kindly sponsored by SEEK Volunteer.

Finalists are:

- Employee Volunteer program, AIA
- Grossi Group
- Mercer Australia

Lifetime Achievement Award:

Awarded to a paid or unpaid leader or manager of volunteers for long-standing, distinguished and meritorious service to the volunteering sector in a leadership role over at least seven years.

Finalists are:

- Gary Mogford, Keep Victoria Beautiful
- Hazel Maynard, Volunteering Victoria
- John Revell, Friends of Warrandyte State Park Nursery Manager
- Louise Augustinus, VincentCare Victoria
- Tehree Gordon, Jirrahlinga Koala and Wildlife Sanctuary

The Volunteering Victoria State Awards are proudly sponsored by the Victorian Government, Parliament of Victoria and SEEK Volunteer.

ENDS

If media would like to attend the Awards ceremony, please contact Emily Flores on details below.

Media enquiries:

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