

MEDIA RELEASE

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Volunteers – we say thank you!

Huon Valley Commissioner Adriana Taylor encourages all residents of the Huon Valley to congratulate volunteers on the vital roles they play in our community as we celebrate National Volunteer Week 8-14 May.

“Volunteers actively contribute to our quality of life in the Valley. It is quite daunting to consider the things we would lose without their valuable contributions to our way of life.

“Volunteering ‘employs’ more people in Tasmania than the agriculture, forestry, fishing and mining industries combined. In fact, volunteers made an effective contribution of \$638.1 million to the Tasmanian economy in 2013*. Statistics don’t really convey the magnitude of the benefits volunteering provides.

“Hopefully you won’t need to call the State Emergency Services (SES) but if you do, you’ll be looked after by volunteers. They are often the first responders to local car accidents, or when your house loses a roof, or during the recent Huonville flood, in the cold, or on a wet night,” Commissioner Taylor said.

“The volunteer firefighters, the mums and dads at your child’s sporting event, those caring for family members at home, the men and women who donate their time to the Southbridge Waste Transfer station, helping our environment, they all donate their time willingly for the good of the community.

“The Taste of the Huon, the Cygnet Folk Festival, the Mid Winter Fest – these are all events that bring thousands of visitors to, and raise the profile of the Valley and they all rely on volunteers to ensure they run smoothly.



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“Council relies on volunteers for community feedback and work on the ground with Community Associations, Landcare and Coastcare, and the communities of the Valley are better places because of groups such as LIONS, Rotary, the Country Women’s Association, the local history groups and school associations or the Men’s Sheds or Meals on Wheels.

“We’d like to invite anyone interested in volunteering in the Valley to come along to Council’s Volunteer Expo this Saturday at the PCYC in Huonville from 10am to 2pm. A large number of organisations that provide services in the Valley will be there to explain what they do and how you can get involved and we’ll also be presenting our Volunteer Service Awards, recognising local volunteers and their contributions, in many cases, over years of service,” she said.

Commissioner Taylor said volunteering helps local residents in all walks of life.

“I would find it very hard to name local events or services that DO NOT have a volunteering component.

“On behalf of the Huon Valley Council I would like to thank everyone who willingly gives up time to help others or to make local events the successes they are.

“Thank you for giving up your valuable time so that we can all enjoy life a little more. I know a lot of volunteers don’t ask for recognition, so National Volunteer Week is a great way to acknowledge them and their civic participation.

“Please take the time during National Volunteer Week to say thank you to your local volunteers, I believe we would literally be lost without them,” Commissioner Taylor said.

* The Economic Value of Volunteering in Tasmania, Volunteering Tasmania 2014

For more information

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