

Award Recipients Announced at Volunteering Victoria 2018 State Awards

Volunteering Victoria announced five recipients at its annual State Awards held at Queen's Hall at State Parliament House on Wednesday 28 November 2018.

The Volunteering Victoria State Awards showcase the remarkable leadership and impact of Victoria's innovative volunteering programs, creative leaders of volunteers and diverse volunteer-involving organisations.

"The Volunteering Victoria State Awards have been running for 4 years. They were developed in close consultation with the sector and act as a compliment to the Victorian Premier's Volunteer Champions Awards. They recognise that volunteering is changing and the extraordinary infrastructure that exists that makes social change possible," stated Scott Miller, Chief Executive, Volunteering Victoria.

As the State Peak body for volunteering, Volunteering Victoria has a strategic commitment to honouring and recognising the outstanding work volunteer managers and volunteer-involving organisations demonstrate to benefit communities and the volunteers themselves.

"Victoria has a strong and proud history of people generously supporting one another, and these awards recognise the often-under-recognised art and skill of organising people's efforts to ensure outcomes and impact are as best as possible" adds Miller.

ENDS

Winners and photos follow on following pages

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Scott Miller, Chief Executive, Volunteering Victoria

03 8327 8500 / info@volunteeringvictoria.org.au

Twitter: @VolunteeringVic #VVStateAwards2018

Facebook: Volunteering Vic



2018 Volunteering Victoria State Award Recipients

Excellence Award

Awarded to volunteer programs that have demonstrated a commitment to going beyond best practice volunteer management.

Winner: **Wyndham City Council**

Program: Volunteering program supporting over 200 volunteers



Photo 1 (right to left): The Hon. Bruce Atkinson MLC, President of the Legislative Council; Walter Villagonzalo, Councillor; Scott Miller, Chief Executive of Volunteering Victoria.

Inclusion Award

Awarded to programs that achieves the inclusion of individuals or groups who are often excluded from mainstream or traditional volunteering.

Winner: **State Library Victoria**

Program: The Greeters Program of 80 volunteers helping the library's annual 2 million visitors.



Photo 2 (right to left): The Hon. Bruce Atkinson MLC, President of the Legislative Council; Angela Seach, Chair of Volunteering Victoria Board; Susan McClaine, Volunteer Co-ordinator; Scott Miller, Chief Executive of Volunteering Victoria.

Innovation Award

Awarded to volunteer involving organisations for an innovative and unique volunteer model that engages volunteers and makes a significant contribution to the volunteer involving organisation.

Winner: **Parks Victoria**

Program: ParkConnect platform which assists with recruitment for many community groups across the state.



Photo 3 (right to left): Rebecca Miller, Head of SEEK Volunteer; Jeff Floyd, Chair of Parks Victoria Board; The Hon. Bruce Atkinson MLC, President of the Legislative Council; Scott Miller, Chief Executive of Volunteering Victoria.

Research Collaboration

Awarded to recognise the partnerships between organisations and a researcher which makes a significant contribution to the evidence base in the volunteering sector.

Winner(s): **Kerry Uren with Interchange Inc. and the University of Melbourne and Ballarat Community Health.**

Program(s): Interchange: Investigating the role that volunteers play in the lives of persons with disability and identifying challenges involved.

Ballarat Community Health: investigating the health impacts volunteering with a health organisation has for people aged 55 or over.



Photo 4 (right to left): Madeline Townsend, Volunteer Co-ordinator at Beyond Zero Emissions; Kaylee Bates, Chief Executive of Ardoch Youth Foundation; The Hon. Bruce Atkinson MLC, President of the Legislative Council; Kerry Uren, Executive Officer at Intercharge Inc.; Michelle Graffeo, Volunteer and Student Co-ordinator at Ballarat Community Health; Scott Miller, Chief Executive at Volunteering Victoria.

ABOUT VOLUNTEERING VICTORIA

Volunteering Victoria is the state peak body for volunteering. Our vision is for resilient communities and empowered and active citizens through volunteering.

Through our dynamic and transformative leadership, we work to promote and build a vibrant, prosperous and strong volunteering community that is inclusive, respected and sustainable.

Volunteering Victoria is a member-based organisation, supported by a dedicated and highly professional team of staff and volunteers. From broad sectors such as social services, health, sport, culture, emergency services and local government, our membership reflects the diversity of people and organisations that work with and support volunteers in our community.