



King Island Council

Media Release

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GIVE HAPPY LIVE HAPPY

Last week was National Volunteers Week; an annual celebration to acknowledge the generous contribution of volunteers across Australia. King Island Council and Phoenix House joined forces this week to thank their many volunteers without whom the Cultural Centre, Community Garden, Men's Shed and Community House would not be able to operate.

Phoenix House Coordinator, Sally Haneveer, organised the event utilising the facilities at the King Island Arts & Cultural Centre. Council's Deputy Director of Corporate and Community Services presented certificates to the Cultural Centre volunteers who were able to attend and those associated with all of Phoenix House's various projects were recognised by Coordinator Sally Haneveer.

Volunteers are vitally important to King Island with all emergency service roles (except the Police) being fulfilled by volunteers. Volunteers also deliver meals on wheels, run sports clubs, take people shopping, operate the community radio, work with the elderly, support young people, maintain our environment and perform a whole host of usually invisible tasks to keep our community going. Incredibly 4 out of 5 Tasmanian's have volunteered in some capacity over the past 12 months.

But it's not all a one-way street with volunteering being proven to have a positive effect on both physical and mental health. Volunteering can also provide a valuable work experience opportunity providing a valuable pathway to employment.

However, with people in our community being time poor the demands on volunteers are increasing. Australia-wide the numbers of volunteers have increased but the number of hours they are able to commit has decreased. Volunteering among young adults (18 – 34) remains lower than for any other age group but there are signs of increased volunteering at the younger end of that age range.

Mayor Duncan McFie recognises how essential volunteers are to our community and encourages everyone to keep up the good work, "My Council colleagues and myself all appreciate how rewarding but also how tiring volunteering can be. We are all extremely grateful for the ongoing efforts of our hardworking volunteers for the benefit of the King Island community."

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