



MEDIA RELEASE

23 May 2018

For immediate release

GLENORCHY CITY COUNCIL VOLUNTEERS RECOGNISED

Glenorchy City Council will recognise efforts of volunteers in the community at its 25th annual volunteer awards, at the Derwent Entertainment Centre on Wednesday 23 May 2018 at 5.30pm.

These awards recognise the valuable contribution volunteers make to the Glenorchy community and the wider Tasmanian community.

The hard work and dedication of 105 volunteers and two groups will be acknowledged, with five local community stalwarts honoured with special awards.

Special Award recipients are Aurora Disability Services' Diane Jordan and Suzanne Johnston, Rotary Club of Claremont's Eric Myers, German Australian Association of Tasmania's Martin Palecek and AYC Netball Club's Peter Brockman.

Mayor Kristie Johnston said our city would be a very different place without the support and contribution of our volunteers, who contribute to the full range of community life.

"Research shows that volunteers live happier and healthier lives, as they feel like they are giving back to our community. Of course the community is also happier as well! It is so appropriate that during National Volunteer Week we recognise the contribution of our wonderful volunteers who make our community such a rich and vibrant place," she said.

"Many of the activities we enjoy so much would simply not happen without volunteers. Without volunteers, there would be no sporting clubs, no parents and friends supporting our schools, no op shops and organisations such as local Neighbourhood Houses would be extremely different places to service the community. We have a community that requires a lot of support and thankfully we have a culture of helping each other out.

The theme for National Volunteer Week this year was "Give a little. Change a lot." This theme represents the millions of volunteers who make a significant impact in their communities and on society, by giving a little of their time.

Special Award recipient bios

Peter Brockman

Peter has been a member of the AYC Netball Club since 2000. During this time he has been coaching for AYC at the Southern Tasmanian Netball Association (STNA) and Tasmanian Netball League (TNL) level. Peter is an avid worker, a very confident and astute coach and a mentor to many within the club. He currently coaches two AYC teams at STNA level and is also Assistant Coach to the Arrows Open team in the State League competition.

In addition to this, Peter is on the STNA Coaching Committee and currently holds the position of Coaching Co-ordinator for AYC Club and AYC Association. As Co-ordinator Peter holds regular coaching clinics and coaches meetings to update and assist coaches. He provides each coach with a good array of training drills and skills and attends club training to give coaches support and



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encouragement. Peter works with both the Junior and Senior Development Officers to plan training programs for each level of competition for Under 11 through to Premier League.

Peter assists the general netball community as a selector and coach for STNA representative teams, and selects for the Dare to Develop a Diamond squads for Netball Tasmania. He is also a selector and coach for the AYC Association representative teams and travels interstate annually for competition at the Combined Australian Netball Association Championships.

Peter has made a very big contribution to netball community, and his efforts have benefited a large number of people in the community.

Suzanne Johnston

Suzanne is a volunteer with Aurora Disability Services. She first began volunteering with Aurora over 12 years ago and has been involved in all aspects of the organisation, including assisting trainees learn new craft skills, catering, and helping with educational trips and excursions. Suzanne also assists with holiday activities, respite programs and has made a significant contribution to the success of the Aurora Annual ANZAC Biscuit Bake as well as many other fundraising events.

A couple of years ago Suzanne supported a group of young travellers on their first holiday outside of Tasmania which was thoroughly enjoyed by all and provided great opportunities for personal growth. Over the years she has also assisted with Thursday night social club meals, karaoke dance nights and been on the Aurora Management Committee. This has seen Suzanne hold positions of Treasurer and Secretary and she is currently Senior Vice President.

Suzanne is a very caring, compassionate, hardworking and committed volunteer with Aurora and they greatly appreciate all that she has done over the years.

Diane Jordan

Dianne volunteers with Aurora Disability Services. She commenced volunteering with them over 12 years ago.

Dianne has assisted with a wide range of activities and programs, learning new skills and then passing these on to the Aurora participants. Dianne's many roles have included Support Assistant, Tutor, Treasurer, fundraising assistant and she is currently President of the organisation's Committee of Management.

Other activities she has been involved with include assisting Father Christmas as one of Santa's Elves, preparing speeches for special occasions, supporting a group of Aurora member's on their first holiday out of Tasmania and most recently she has been given the task of writing on all of the Aurora Beeswax Art greeting cards which is a very big job.

Diane is a committed and caring volunteer with Aurora and her time, effort, hard work, friendship and dedication are appreciated by all at Aurora.



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Erickson Myers

Eric has been nominated by the Rotary Club of Claremont. He has been an active Rotarian for 21 years, having been a member of the Rotary Club of Claremont since 2004.

Over the years Eric has contributed to many community projects and fundraised for numerous special causes. In recent times he has been instrumental in the development and construction of the "Walk of Remembrance" and Seat Shelters for a children's playground at Windermere Bay. The stewardship of both installations has now been handed to Glenorchy City. These are special public assets that record the history and sacrifice of Tasmanians during times of World conflict and will be appreciated by the Tasmanian community for years to come.

The Walk of Remembrance documents the military history of the World War 1 training camp set up in 1914 that encompassed the land now occupied by Cadburys and the Claremont Golf Club. The Rotary Club of Claremont applied for and received funding for the project from the Commonwealth Centenary of ANZAC grants programme and other funds were sourced through club efforts.

Eric has worked tirelessly for the community and his achievements have benefited many.

Martin Palecek

Martin volunteers with the German Australian Association of Tasmania. He has been an active member of the Association for over 20 years. Martin is a long-time member of the committee and was happy to put his hand up to be the licensee when the position became vacant. His role has also evolved into managing the bar, purchasing and picking up stock as well as working behind the bar on the voluntary roster. Martin regularly fills in when someone else is unavailable.

In addition to all these tasks, he assists with rubbish removal when required and is also the chef. Martin organises and prepares everything from the bar snacks to the regular lunches and special functions. His German style Schnitzels are a favourite amongst all of the Association's members.

Nothing is ever too much trouble for Martin to assist with; he is first person people go to when things need doing. He has been a very hard working volunteer with the German Australian Association for many years and his work is very much appreciated by the committee and the members of the German Australian Association of Tasmania.

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