



1 December 2020

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## **Libraries and archives set to celebrate their volunteers**

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Libraries Tasmania will recognise its more than 650 statewide volunteers with a presentation of its Outstanding Volunteer Service Awards on Thursday, 3 December 2020 – coinciding with the celebration of International Volunteer Day on Saturday, 5 December.

“Our volunteers play a vital role in helping us extend our programs and services to our communities,” said Kim Lethbridge, Libraries Tasmania Volunteer Coordinator.

“The generosity, skills and knowledge they share help to make a difference in the lives of many Tasmanians.”

One of Libraries Tasmania’s longest-serving volunteer literacy tutors has been shortlisted in the 2020 Tasmanian Volunteering Awards.

Peter Crosthwaite tutors clients through Libraries Tasmania’s literacy service in Community Corrections, as well as through the Hobart Library, and has been doing so since 2012.

The winner of the 2020 Tasmanian Volunteering Awards will be announced on Monday, 7 December.

It has been a challenging year for library volunteers, with many library programs suspended due to COVID-19. A positive outcome of this situation has been that volunteers have learnt new and innovative ways to be and stay connected. For example, Libraries Tasmania literacy volunteers continued to tutor by moving to online platforms.

In addition, Libraries Tasmania has seen a huge increase in online volunteers using the Digivol platform. Volunteers who use Digivol help transcribe and index information from Libraries Tasmania’s archives and heritage collections.

Caroline Homer, Manager State Library and Archive Services at Libraries Tasmania explained: “The number of volunteers working on our digital projects almost doubled during 2020.

“We’re so grateful for our volunteers who have helped us to complete 26 online projects.

“This means that more than 14 000 records have been indexed and will now be available in the Tasmanian Names Index.”

The Tasmanian Names Index provides access to more than one million records about people who lived in Tasmania.

For more information about volunteering at Libraries Tasmania, visit our website: <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/how-to/Pages/volunteer.aspx>

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