

# Volunteering GEELONG

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24



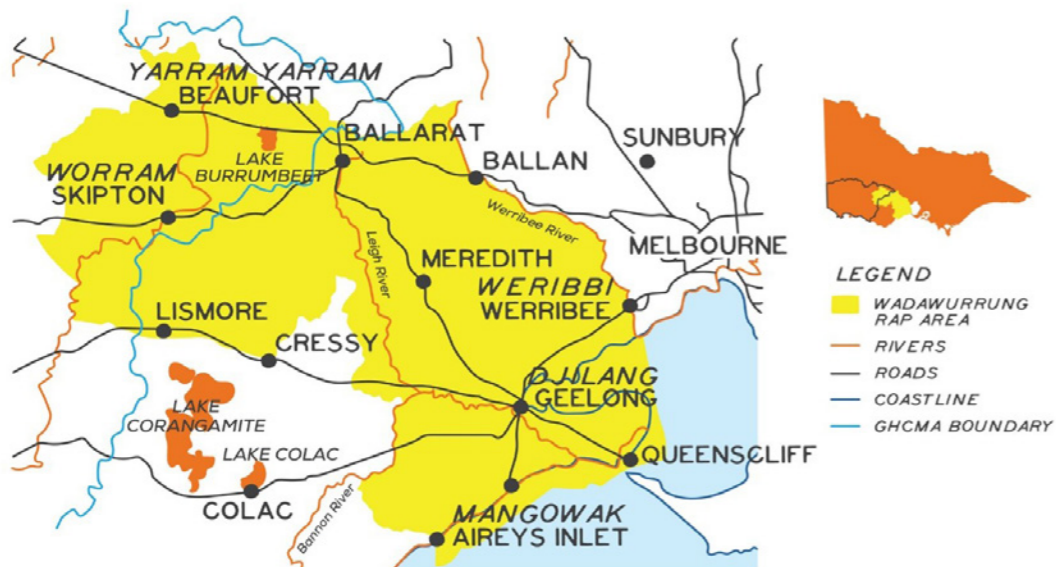
# Volunteering Geelong Annual Report 2023–24



Volunteering Geelong respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands and waters of Australia.

Volunteering Geelong acknowledge the land we live and work on is Wadawurrung country and belongs to the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin Nation.

We respect and acknowledge this land and its ecosystems and all elders: past, present and emerging.



Volunteering Geelong Inc  
ABN 53 611 428 304  
Is registered by Australian Charities and  
Not for Profits Commission

Registration: A0040073C  
Regulator: Consumer Affairs Victoria  
Registration Date: 22/08/2000

Volunteering Geelong Community Foundation Trust  
ABN 43 297 814 948  
Is registered by Australian Charities  
and Not for Profits Commission

Endorsed as a deductible gift recipient  
– DGR Item 1 effective 16 February 2017

Endorsed for charity tax concessions  
Income tax exemption  
GST concessions  
FBT exemption effective 16 February 2018



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Be Involved  
Lend a Hand  
Give Back  
Be Rewarded

# Our Strategic Priorities

- Diversity - Access, Equity & Equality for all participants of our programs
- Impact - social connection, economic impact and wellbeing
- Impacting a Pathway to Employment opportunities - Skills / Training - Jobs
- Rewarding volunteering opportunities
- Breaking down Barriers and Capacity Building of volunteer involving organisations

## Vision

To support a region where individuals feel motivated to volunteer, have the opportunity to contribute their time, skills and knowledge and are supported and encouraged to enjoy a rewarding volunteering experience.

## Mission

As a leading provider of volunteering services, we will coordinate, promote, support & strengthen volunteering in our community to enhance the health & well-being for people and community or charitable organisations within our community.

## Purpose

Our purpose is to see the Barwon South West region thrive through volunteerism. We make this a reality by :

- Promoting and increasing the impact of volunteering in our region.
- Creating a strong and vibrant volunteer community that promotes inclusivity, respect and empowerment
- Being a trail blazer and the leading voice for volunteering in our region, with our advice being sought by government, community based organisations, businesses and individuals.

Our Membership Value Proposition (MVP) is focused on increasing positive impacts for our member organisations through the use of our volunteers.

We do this by providing:

- volunteers matched to your request criteria,
- volunteers who are appropriately canvassed, accredited and aligned to National Standards and best practices,
- timely response turnarounds for volunteer requests,
- valuable education and advice to assist in maximising volunteer outcomes through contemporary sector knowledge,
- an active network to support our volunteer managers



# Income & Sponsorship

## Government

- DSS – Volunteering Victoria | Volunteer Management Activity Funding
- Department of Social Services – Richard Marles
- Department of Social Services (Strong & Resilient Communities – Transition Funding)
- Department of Families, Fairness & Housing (DFFH) Christine Couzens Election Commitment
- City of Greater Geelong – Connected Communities – Impact Report

## Sponsorship



PACE Advertising



Access Your Supports



BBC Digital

## Partnerships

### Cultura

A merged organisation of Diversitat and MultiCultural Aged Care Services supporting our First Nations, New Migrant Settlement Services and Aged Care Support Services.

### Barwon Network of Neighbourhood Houses

Supporting 24 Neighbourhood Houses across the region

## Philanthropic

Aged Persons Welfare Foundation

Matana Foundation

## Foundations

Anthony Costa Foundation

Geelong Community Foundation

## Tax Time Appeal

Lend - a - Hand Appeal

## Memberships

Membership Category	
Individual – Subscribers	550
Volunteer – FULL	0
Volunteer Manager – FULL	4
Board Member – FULL	9
Level 1 – Affiliate	1
Level 2 – Small Agency	52
Level 3 – Medium Agency	33
Level 4 – Large Agency	11
Local Government Authority	2



# Board Members



**Lily Stefanovic (President)**  
**BCom**

Lily has worked for Bunnings for 27 years in operations as a Senior Area Manager. During her time at Bunnings she has enjoyed being an integral part of the local communities that she opened stores in.

After she retired for a short time to renovate homes, she joined GenU as an Investigator/ Senior Business Partner in employee relations.

**Ron Andrews (Vice President)**

Ron is a self-employed business consultant in Transformation Services; specialising in Business Strategy Planning and Execution, Business Creation, Team Building, Deal Project Management, Vendor Selection, Vendor/ Customer negotiation, General Management Project Direction and Consultancy. Ron has represented his work across Europe, Asia-Pacific and North America.

**Mel Pearce (Secretary)**

Following a successful 25 year career in banking and finance, Mel now works in the Advancement Team at Deakin University as a Trusts and Foundations Coordinator. Having held a variety of local board and committee roles, these days Mel gives back to her local community through local sport holding the positions of Junior Coordinator with the Grovedale Cricket Club and Junior Football Coordinator at Modewarre Football Club.

**Christine Heath (Treasurer)**

**BEC Grad Dip Investment and Finance**

Christine worked in management roles in the financial services industry in Melbourne for many years before moving to Geelong around 20 years ago. Christine is passionate about giving back to the community and is currently also on the board of Barwon Child Youth and Family. She has just completed her MBA.

**Lydia Turda**

**MBA MEI**

Lydia is passionate about using her not for profit and business innovation experience to support the growth of Volunteering Geelong.

**Bruce Mellett**

Bruce retired to Geelong in 2022 after a 30 year media career with ABC Radio in South Australia.

He is passionate about youth mentoring, volunteering at a local school and is also President of the Corio Model Railway Club and Men's Shed in Geelong West.

**Adam Herd**

Adam is driven by a deep passion for positively impacting the local community. With eight years of experience as an Ethical Sourcing and Sustainability Specialist, Adam brings a wealth of expertise in responsible business practices and community engagement. Beyond his professional role, Adam has actively contributed to food relief efforts by working with soup kitchens and has shown compassion for animals through volunteering at a dog shelters, assisting with care and rehoming support. Adam has a strong commitment to service and fostering well-being in the community.

**Cameron Murnane**

Cam is a dedicated Community Development Manager at Beyond Bank, bringing a wealth of experience in fostering community engagement and financial inclusion. With strong network of local connections, stakeholder management skills and a deep knowledge of financial literacy, Cam is committed to empowering individuals and organisations through targeted community initiatives. Passionate about making a positive social impact, Cam leverages a robust understanding of community development strategies to drive sustainable change and build meaningful relationships with local partners.

**Kerry Dmytrenko**

With a background as a Healthcare Executive, and experience within community, acute, disability and mental health; Kerry is also a Registered Nurse. Kerry's post graduate qualifications include Masters Health Services Management, her current role is in the Clinical Governance and Quality field.

**Top Row:** Lily Stefanovic, Ron Andrews (Vice President), Mel Pearce (Secretary)

**Middle Row:** Christine Heath (Treasurer), Lydia Turda, Bruce Mellett

**Bottom Row:** Adam Herd, Cameron Murnane, Kerry Dmytrenko

# Programs

Impacting a Pathway to Employment



Made possible with funding from:



2 programs specific to aged care and youth delivered in a series of workshops focussing on participants being job ready and assisted with their job search skills.

10 day volunteer work placement with support & mentoring.

### Learning Outcomes:

- Learn new skills
- Gain relevant work experience
- Improve a resume
- Explore career paths

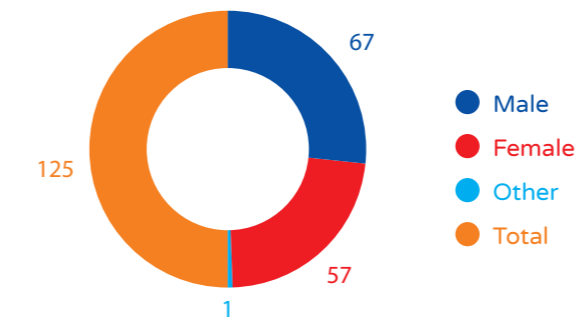
### Participants



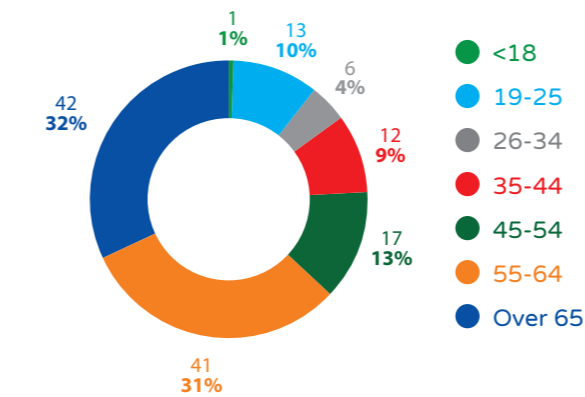
# Service Usage Stats

01 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

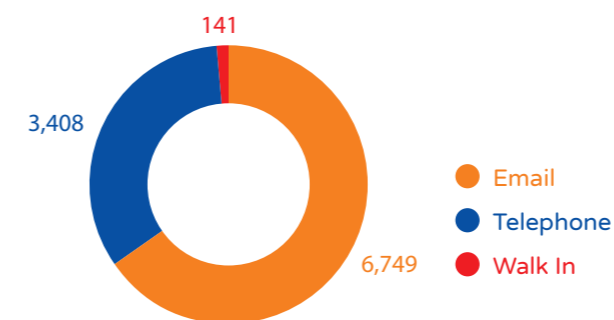
### FACE TO FACE / TELEPHONE INTERVIEWS



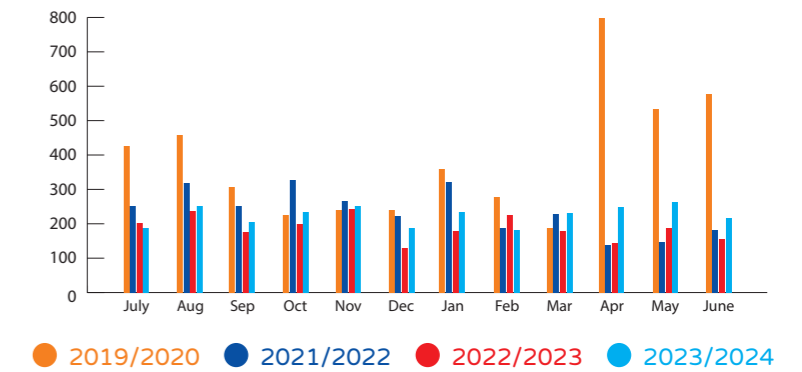
### AGE GROUPS



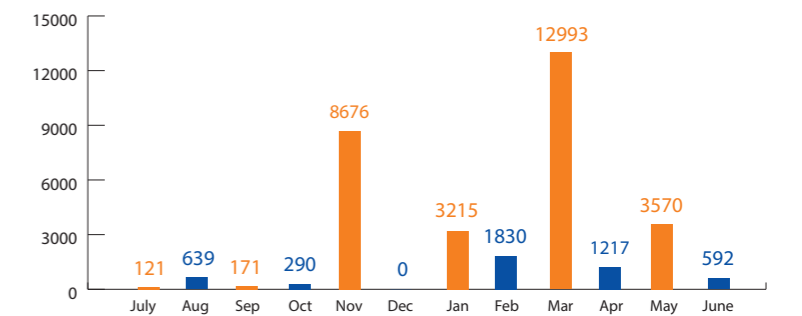
### COMMUNITY INTERFACE / ENGAGEMENT



### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST / ONLINE REGISTRATION



### SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM / EXPOS / EVENTS – ENGAGEMENT 36,969



**1,103** VOLUNTEER HOURS

**363** VG BOARD HOURS

# President's Report



PRESIDENT Lily Stefanovic

Volunteering Geelong (VG) has faced many challenges throughout the year. Primarily, the sale of the St Marys Terrace building and the need to find a new home. The Barwon Health Foundation (as the new owners) have worked with us and supported us throughout this transition, as we desperately searched for the right place to spread our wings. We are extremely grateful for their support and will continue to work with them as they continue their expansion.

We have now successfully relocated to the Geelong Town Hall with the support of the City of Greater Geelong (COGG). The future brings with it a strong partnership with CoGG, as we continue to grow. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to both Christine Couzens M.P. and Councillor Peter Murrhly for their unrelenting support while we searched for the ideal location.

This new site will enable us to commence the new year with confidence, space, strong planning and strategies to ensure we are able to continue supporting local communities, individuals and organisations, while ensuring the flow of finances for the longevity of the organisation. We will continue with training programs, alliances with other organisations such as Cultura, and will form strategies to assist our priority groups.

As a volunteer group and not for profit organisation, we are heavily reliant on donations from local Trusts and Philanthropic partnerships, applying for grants and government support. We give thanks to Volunteering Victoria for their continuing support, the Anthony Costa Foundation, Geelong Community Foundation, Dawn Wade Foundation, Matiana Foundation and the Aged Care Welfare Trust. My sincerest thanks to the team-Helen Hunter CEO and Colin Dempsey who are supported daily by an outstanding support team of volunteers without whom we could not operate.

The 2024 Volunteer of the Year Awards were held with The Rotary Club of Kardinia where many people were recognised for their outstanding contribution to their local communities. We cannot put a dollar amount on the time, support and effort given so selflessly by Volunteers but at these times we realise the value of each and every volunteer.

The role of Volunteering is a two-fold one where we aim, through Volunteering, to give support where its needed but just as importantly we enable our volunteers to realise their self-worth and the difference their contribution makes to others. In the past many retirees have filled these positions and as we move forward, we would welcome and love to see youth taking on some of these important roles. Volunteering provides work experience, contacts, personal satisfaction and some extremely rewarding experiences with the knowledge "you have made a difference!"

My sincere thanks to the Board members who share their experiences and knowledge while volunteering themselves, to support the vision and team at VG.

Lily Stefanovic  
President

# Treasurer's Report

## Volunteering Geelong Inc and Volunteering Geelong Community Foundation Trust

For the year ended 30th June 2024 Volunteering Geelong recorded consolidated revenue of \$447,273 and total expenditure was \$413,695, which resulted in an operating surplus of \$33,578.

Net assets have increased from \$336,706 at 30th June 2023 to \$370,284 at 30th June 2024.

### Revenue for the year was as follows :

Grants	\$428,410
Memberships	\$10,607
Training and Venue Hire	\$6,973
Other income	\$966
<b>Consolidated Revenue</b>	<b>\$447,273</b>

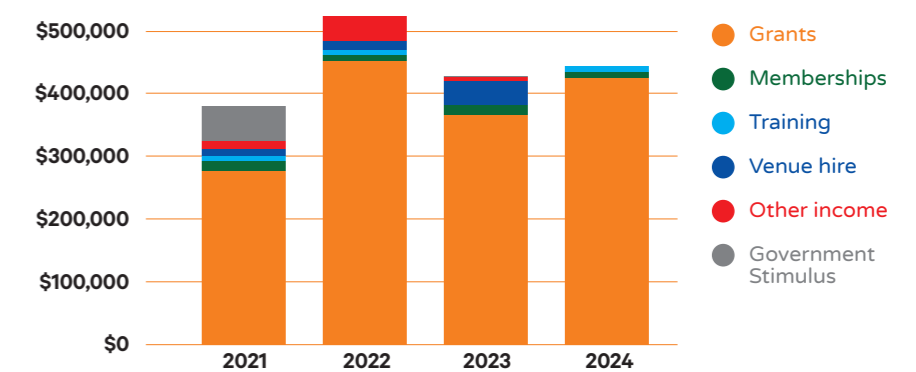
Our main source of funds continues to be from Volunteer Management Activity Funding with other grants coming in from the State Government for their Strong and Resilient program and the Anthony Costa Foundation. Membership dues have remained consistent across the year, but room hire was much lower this year, as our accommodation situation changed.

The Board and Management are currently exploring options in relation to future revenue streams, with a view to us becoming more financially self-reliant.

Armstrong Accounting and Taxation prepared the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2024 and provided an Independent Review Report. Their report concluded that :

Based on our review, which is not an audit, we have not become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the financial report of

## VOLUNTEERING GEELONG CONSOLIDATED REVENUE



KEY RESULTS	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Income</b>	\$179,516	\$256,127	\$365,161	\$524,079	\$420,993	\$447,273
<b>Expenses</b>	\$192,201	\$197,721	\$275,106	\$343,242	\$438,898	\$413,695
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	(\$12,685)	\$58,406	\$90,056	\$180,837	(\$17,905)	\$33,578
<b>% Salaries</b>	79%	69%	76%	70%	68%	62%
<b>Cash at Bank</b>	\$97,054	\$124,383	\$175,713	\$375,953	\$310,537	\$362,125
<b>Net Assets</b>	\$24,704	\$83,110	\$173,196	\$354,611	\$336,706	\$370,284

Volunteering Geelong Inc. is not in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the entity's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

A full set of financial statements is available on request.

I would like to acknowledge Colin's diligent work in creating budgets, managing our day to day finances, providing regular financial reports to the Board, keeping financial records up to date and preparing year-end financial records.

Christine Heath  
Treasurer, Volunteering Geelong

# CEO's Report

# Building Capacity of Volunteer Involving Organisations



CEO Helen Hunter

As I write this year's Report I reflect on a year where we have witnessed significant generosity of spirit and continued growth in the willingness of volunteers to come out and serve our community.

We continue to support 120+ members of Volunteering Geelong who involve volunteers in their day to day operations that we support to build their capacity and maintain an online digital platform to advertise and promote their volunteer opportunities.

For the very small team of staff and volunteers that support the day to day operations of Volunteering Geelong – Colin, Christine, Judy, Jo, Ray and Vaughan – thank you!

We said farewell to Kay, Yvonne, Dossie & Gail and continue to be grateful for their commitment and contribution to Volunteering Geelong.

Thanks to Grant Hawkins and Kerry Dmytrenko, we were able to run 2 programs of the Impacting a Pathway to Employment – 1 with a Youth focus and the other in partnership with Cultura for an aged care focus. Congratulations to those that graduated from that program and have moved onto employment or further study.

We recently celebrated the 2024 Volunteer of the Year Awards in a partnership with the Rotary Club of Kardinia that has spanned 7 consecutive years; each year the nominations get harder to award finalists and I commend the review committee for a job that is one of the hardest to do – each and every nomination so very worthy and difficult to decide who wins the awards.

We continue to be grateful for the sponsorship and grants that keep us operating Anthony Costa Foundation, Geelong Community Foundation, Matiana Foundation and the Aged Care Welfare Trust.

We thank the Barwon Health Foundation who have provided our office accommodation for the past 12 months.

**Helen Hunter**  
CEO, Volunteering Geelong

## Breaking Down Barriers to Volunteering



### Programs, Training & Workshops

- 3R's – Recruitment, Retention & Recognition
- Impacting a Pathway To Employment – delivered 2 x 6 week series
- Financial Literacy
- Information Forums

### Volunteer Roles - Referrals

- 3881 Referrals to VIO's
- 683 Direct Referrals
- 3189 Online Expression of Interest



### Local Network – Geelong Volunteer Leaders Network

- 119 – Active Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIO's)
- 361 – Active positions (online)

### Local Network Support

- Phone Enquiries – 3408
- Email Enquiries – 6749
- EXPO's | Events – 3139
- VIO's assisted with volunteer roles and agency governance – 3275

### Consultations

- Face to Face – 106 Sessions
- Telephone – 2 Sessions
- Online – 2697 Sessions

*“As volunteers, you are contributors. Together, you build the web which holds our often fragile community together. Communities are transformed by volunteering.*

*As volunteers, you are people of action. You turn-up. You do things.*

*And as volunteers, you embody some amazing personal characteristics:*

*Your willingness to give selflessly to help others speaks to both your strength and the quality of your character. You show kindness, sincerity & humility. You are dedicated & reliable, and doesn't the world need reliable people right now?*

*You have generosity of spirit, a willingness to give your time to others. You show compassion, understanding and empathy,*

*the ability to put yourself in someone else's shoes and feel what they must feel. You've shown these qualities and so much more, so thank you for all that you do.*

*What you do matters. You make a difference.*

*Your great generosity of time and skill does have a profound and lasting impact on the people you engage with.”*

- KEITH FAGG

Patron of Volunteering Geelong, Member - Rotary Club of Kardinia

# Geelong Volunteer of the Year Awards 2024

The true volunteering spirit of Geelong 2024 - 13 finalists – 5 awards presented

AWARDS	
Volunteer Nomination	Organisation
Casey Kaminskyj	Wombat's Wish
Robyn Tomlins	Australian Volunteer Coastguard – Queenscliff
Jeff Walker	CoGG – TAC L2P Program
Susan Bolton	Mittagong Girl Guide Campsite Committee Lara Girl Guides
Robert Eagles	94.7 The Pulse

FINALISTS	
Volunteer Nomination	Organisation
Casey Kaminskyj	Wombat's Wish
Nick Uppill	Empower Food Relief
Jeff Walker	L2P Driving Program
Susan Bolton	Mittagong Girl Guides
Robyn Tomlins	Coastguard
Deepak Mallya	The Lounge international Student Centre
Geraldine Eales	Amber Community
Jan McGowan	Christ Church Meals
Robert Eagles	94.7 The Pulse
Shirley Rudge	Gen U Karingal St Laurence
Anthony (Tony) Warren	Coast Guard
Betty Cheah	Uniting Barwon
Sabrina Lunn & Kate O'Brien	Surfside Primary

- Volunteering Geelong, in partnership with Rotary Club of Kardinia
- The awards recognise volunteers across all sectors, and aim to encourage more people to give their time to support their communities.
- Volunteering has dramatically declined throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Volunteering Geelong is challenging organisations and individuals across the region to celebrate and promote volunteerism.

Proudly sponsored by Geelong Connected Communities, Standby Security and Kieser, the 2024 Volunteer of the Year Awards recognise and celebrate the impact volunteers, volunteer leaders and volunteer programs have in building resilient communities, services and connections across our region.

Volunteering Geelong's Chief Executive Officer, Helen Hunter, said the 2024 Volunteer of the Year Awards were an opportunity to celebrate volunteers going above and beyond their calling to give back to their community

Volunteers do not look for reward or recognition – the awards are a very small way of being able to recognise exceptional volunteer engagement.

The awards celebrate the impact of volunteers and volunteering, and they will hopefully encourage more people to put their hand up" she said.

The Geelong Mayor, Councillor Trent Sullivan, hosted the 2024 Volunteer of the Year Awards Ceremony at Wurriki Nyal Civic Precinct on Wednesday 11th September 2024.



Finalists and award winners



Robert Eagles, Mayor Trent Sullivan, Loretta Hart – 947 The Pulse

Deepak Mallya - The Lounge International Student Centre pictured with his parent and Mayor Trent Sullivan

## Sponsors



“We make a living  
by what we get.  
We make a life  
by what we give.”

- WINSTON CHURCHILL

