



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

26 January 2017

---

### **2017 City of Hobart Citizenship and Australia Day Awards**

---

Lord Mayor of Hobart Alderman Sue Hickey says Australia Day is a special day for everyone who lives in our great nation.

“Becoming a citizen and taking out citizenship represents a commitment to Australia and its people. It gives a sense of belonging, because one can fully participate in all aspects of Australian life,” said Alderman Hickey.

“Australia has been built by the combined contributions of Indigenous Australians and generations of migrants and their descendants. While we come from a diverse range of backgrounds, we share a common future as Australians.

“Today as part of the Sandy Bay Regatta, 82 candidates representing 23 different countries signed up to become our newest residents at the special Citizenship ceremony as part of our Australia Day celebrations.

“It is fantastic to see so many new citizens have pledged their commitment to our country, our people, our democratic beliefs, our laws, our rights and our liberties,” said Ald Hickey.

Alderman Hickey said she is proud that the City of Hobart also hosts the annual Australia Day Awards. These awards are co-ordinated through the National Australia Day Council and administered by local councils throughout Australia.

The 2017 City of Hobart Australia Day Awards acknowledge unsung heroes who have made contributions to their community, young people who are deserving of recognition for their community work and for clubs, and organisations who have organised outstanding community events.

#### **The 2017 winners are:**

- Citizen of the Year – Fay Ibbott
- Young Citizen of the Year – Stephanie Eslake
- Community Event of the Year – Australian Antarctic Festival 2016

**END**

**For interview:**

Alderman Sue Hickey, Lord Mayor: 0427 351 987

**Media enquiries:**

Alison Hetherington, City of Hobart: 0437 213 296

---

**Citizen of the Year – Mrs Fay Ibbott**

Fay Ibbott has been a resident of Lenah Valley for many years and is a very active and proud Hobart citizen. Fay is a wonderful example of an outstanding citizen and embodies a selfless person who for her whole life has given back to the community through volunteering. The volunteer hours Fay has given over the years would be immeasurable with her life being devoted to supporting her family and her community.

Fay has been on committees and boards of countless groups and organisations, and always demonstrates exceptional leadership and guidance.

Just a few of the groups that Fay has been instrumental in are: the American Field Scholarships, St John's Anglican Church, St Therese's Tennis Club, Meals on Wheels, Lenah Valley Girl Guides, Glenview Community Services Auxiliary, Lenah Valley Community Association and the Lenah Valley Community Hall Trustees.

Fay is an institution in the Lenah Valley area with her being Treasurer of the Lenah Valley Community Hall Trustees for over 20 years. Fay spends hours each week managing all bookings for this valuable community asset, making sure the facility is highly utilised and easily available for the community to use. Fay also manages all bookings and operational arrangements for the Pat Murnane Memorial Hall on behalf of the City of Hobart.

**Young Citizen of the Year – Stephanie Eslake**

Stephanie is making immense contributions to the local and wider community by creating an online community for young classical musicians Australia-wide, where they are able to have their own achievements showcased on a national platform and where they can be educated about industry skills and ideas beyond their degrees and formal training alone (CutCommon).

This includes a broader mission to rebrand classical music in Australia, and is achieving success in promoting the arts to more than 10,000 visitors a month (at [cutcommonmag.com](http://cutcommonmag.com)).

Stephanie also works to promote Tasmania's literary community as the Marketing and Communications Manager for not-for-profit organisation the Tasmanian Writers' Centre; and enjoys mentoring young Hobart writers through the City of Hobart's *Platform* youth culture magazine. She also tutors young woodwind players at local schools.

Stephanie's commitment to personal development in the arts comes with her constant desire to gain not only theoretical and academic knowledge of writing and music, but to continue to use her background and skills to create stories about the arts that other people can enjoy reading.

She considers every story and interview a part of her personal development in the arts - because the process of meeting someone and hearing about their life and talent never fails to teach her something new, and to inspire her to broaden her own outlook in the arts and in life. Long-term, she hopes to continue building her portfolio in the arts but also to share knowledge with others interested in pursuing a creative career.

### **Community Event of the Year – Australian Antarctic Festival 2016**

The Australian Antarctic Festival 2016 presented the people of Hobart with an exciting, educational and entertaining look at Hobart's role as Australia's Antarctic Port. With extraordinary support from City of Hobart, Events Tasmania and the entire Antarctic community, the event was able to engage around 10,000 members of the Hobart community to learn more about Antarctica.

The event ran from 8 – 11 September 2016 and the response from the Tasmanian community was extraordinary.

900 school children from 16 schools across Tasmania participated in free tours of IMAS and the Aurora Australis. They travelled from as far afield as Dover and Penguin to attend.

1,500 people booked guided tours aboard the Aurora Australis and L'Astrolabe, courtesy of P&O Maritime. Filing through the ships at 15-minute intervals led by volunteer guides, they met ships' crew, scientists and former expeditioners for an inside look at Antarctic science and logistical support.

The Antarctic Expo in Princes Wharf attracted an estimated crowd of 6,000 people over two days. Brilliant displays from Antarctic agencies and industry demonstrated just how important Hobart is as a gateway to Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. The linked Open Days at IMAS were a highly successful look at what kind of science we do and what it means to a changing planet.

The Antarctic Photography Exhibition at TMAG saw some 4,000 visitors, entranced by beautiful and powerful images of the Southern Continent. Local photographer Chris Wilson won First Prize and the People's Choice Award in a remarkable hat-trick and BOM meteorologist Berend Becker took Second Prize.

Tony Worby's lively and utterly convincing Phillip Law Lecture gathered a strong audience at CCAMLR and fuelled a hailstorm of questions and active debate that examined the compelling scientific evidence for anthropogenic climate change.

Hundreds of parents and children filled the lovely Parliament House Gardens to welcome the huskies after an exciting run along the length of Franklin Wharf. The event honoured the return of Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen from the South Pole in 1912.

The Royal Norwegian Embassy presented an unexpected but very welcome contribution in the form of a major exhibition of rare photographic material from the world-famous Fram Museum in Oslo. Her Excellency Unni Klovstad, Ambassador of Norway, personally opened the exhibit at Brooke Street Pier. We were honoured to host the Australian debut of the exhibition, which continues a IMAS.

The State Cinema in North Hobart hosted a wonderful program of premiere-screening Antarctic features, including the first Tasmanian release of a 3-D Antarctic film, Antarctica: On the Edge. The screenings were almost completely sold out and we welcomed guest speakers from several Antarctic agencies including the AAD.

UTAS researcher Dr. Lorne Kriwoken led a series of highly popular historical tours around the Hobart waterfront. Lorne provided fascinating detail and surprising insights, even for the most experienced Antarctic aficionado.

The Mawson's Huts Gala Fundraising Dinner at the Hotel Grand Chancellor saw more than 300 people gather from all sectors of the Antarctic community, as well as descendants of Mawson's original expedition crew from the 1911-1913 Australasian Antarctic Expedition. The dinner raised substantial funds towards the preservation of Australia's most remote heritage property, the huts at Cape Denison in East Antarctica.

The Penguin Project saw delightful 30 cm high painted penguins, created by 5,500 Australian school children at 110 schools in Tasmania and interstate, occupy 'rookeries' in Mawson Place. Twenty life-size penguins were created by notable Tasmanian artists with an amazing range of creativity and flair.

The Derwent Symphony Orchestra presented a terrific concert of popular music from Douglas Mawson's era, which filled the Hobart Town Hall to capacity and had the audience singing along to some surprisingly long-lived tunes.

The entire program of the Australian Antarctic Festival was designed and delivered by a crew of more than 120 volunteers, drawn from the Antarctic sector and from the broader Tasmanian community. Scientists, students, technician and administrators, photographers and Antarctic veterans came forward to make this a genuine celebration of the historical and living links that have bound Hobartians to the open ocean and the Antarctic continent for more than a hundred years.

**END**