



Australian of the Year Awards 2016

**MEDIA RELEASE
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DO NOT CONTACT AWARD RECIPIENTS AS THEY ARE NOT AWARE OF THE OUTCOME
UNTIL NAMES ARE ANNOUNCED ON STAGE

2016 TASMANIAN AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

2016 Tasmanian Australian of the Year - Jane Hutchinson (Hobart)

2016 Tasmanian Senior Australian of the Year - Professor Ian Allison AO AAM (Dynnyrne)

2016 Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year - Zac Lockhart (Launceston)

2016 Tasmania's Local Hero - Raymond Arnold (Queenstown)

The Premier of Tasmania, The Hon Will Hodgman MP, has announced the 2016 Tasmanian Australian of the Year Award recipients at a ceremony at the Henry Jones Art Hotel in Hobart this evening.

Jane Hutchinson has been named **2016 Tasmanian Australian of the Year** for her work as a conservationist.

A committed conservationist, Jane Hutchinson was one of a handful of volunteers who started the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) in 2001. Since then, TLC has grown from a \$50 bank account to a \$30 million organisation which protects 65,000 hectares of habitat for threatened flora and fauna. Jane has steered TLC from a humble not-for-profit to a highly-regarded organisation acknowledged for its important and innovative conservation work. Jane has devoted countless hours to her cause. While practicing law, Jane helped establish TLC's constitutional and financial frameworks in her spare time. She sat on the TLC Board for five years, including three years as President, before stepping into the role of Chief Executive Officer in 2011. Jane's persistence has paid off and she now leads science-driven conservation projects which safeguard the habitat of threatened species, including the Tasmanian devil, wedge-tailed eagle and Clarence Galaxias native fish. Under Jane's watchful eye, TLC now protects more than two per cent of Tasmania's private land.

Glaciologist **Professor Ian Allison AO AAM** has been awarded **2016 Tasmanian Senior Australian of the Year**.

A pioneer of Australia's glaciological research program since the 1960s, 70 year old Professor Ian Allison is acclaimed internationally as a glaciologist, making a significant contribution to climate science. An outstanding contributor to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Reports on Climate Change, Ian has worked tirelessly to synthesise global research results. He spent many years with the Australian Antarctic Division, ultimately leading the Ice, Oceans, Atmosphere and Climate program. As co-chair of the International Polar Year in 2007-08, Ian drove a coordinated, intense period of observational research activity in the Polar Regions. Ian's enduring contribution to Antarctic affairs and the Antarctic community has been recognised with awards and accolades, such as the naming of Allison Glacier on Heard Island. Ian's legacy also includes the work of the many PhD students he has supervised who have, themselves, made significant contributions to science. Ian's community-mindedness and willingness to push ahead with fresh ideas has helped Australia build an internationally-respected scientific community.

The **2016 Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year** is 20 year old Launceston resident **Zac Lockhart**.

At just 16, Zac Lockhart became one of the 26,000 young Australians who are homeless, after circumstances at home forced him into a youth shelter. Determined to promote a positive message and reduce the stigma attached to homelessness, Zac has become an ambassador for homeless youth in Tasmania. With homelessness and mental health often deeply connected, Zac has since stepped up efforts to help people experiencing mental illness. Zac's film, *The Flourish A-B-C of Mental Health*, shares successful strategies that support good mental health, and encourages people to 'act, belong and commit'. Studying full-time, working a casual job, establishing his own video production business while living in supported accommodation, Zac inspires everyone he meets with his passion, bravery and generosity in sharing his own lived experience of mental illness. Zac is shining a light on the mental health challenges faced by one in four Australians, while working hard to achieve his own personal goal of having a home and family of his own.





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Queenstown's **Raymond Arnold** has been awarded **2016 Tasmanian Local Hero** for his work as an artist and entrepreneur.

An outstanding printmaker whose work can be found in the Imperial War Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris and the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra, Raymond Arnold has almost single-handedly transformed the remote mining town of Queenstown into an arts hub. Raymond established Landscape Art Research Queenstown (LARQ) in 2006 with a dream to develop a wilderness art space as a 'nest' for incubation and a supporter of artists' in residence. LARQ has put Queenstown – a place previously defined by a moonscape created from over a century of mining – on the cultural map, attracting visiting artists from Paris, London, New York and Newfoundland. LARQ was also the catalyst for the biennial Queenstown Heritage & Arts Festival, which contributes more than half a million dollars towards the local economy. Raymond's dedication to the region and his craft has taken the community on a journey, sparked change and reshaped the image and future of Queenstown.

The Tasmanian Award recipients will join recipients from the other States and Territories as finalists for the national Awards to be announced on 25 January 2016 in Canberra.

National Australia Day Council CEO, Jeremy Lasek, said the Tasmanian Award recipients are four inspirational Australians.

"The Tasmanian Award recipients are four inspirational Australian's working both locally and on an international level to make positive change through their passions," said Mr Lasek.

For more than 36 years, the Commonwealth Bank has been a proud sponsor of the Australian of the Year Awards. Commonwealth Bank Chief Executive Officer, Ian Narev, congratulated the Tasmanian Award recipients.

"Congratulations to the Tasmanian recipients on being named national finalists in the Australian of the Year Awards. We recognise their inspirational contribution to our community and wish them well for the national Awards," said Mr Narev.

For more information on the Australian of the Year Awards visit australianoftheyear.org.au.

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EMBARGO NOTE: Media attending the Awards event may of course report Award recipients as they are announced on stage OR follow Australian of the Year Awards on Twitter @ausoftheyear or Facebook @australianoftheyear for the Awards announcements as they happen - once each Award is announced, it can be reported.

