

Minutes	
Date and Time	Monday, 7 October 2024, 3.30 – 4.45pm (AEDT)
Venue	Government House, Hobart & via Microsoft Teams
Division Members Present	Melanie Ross (Chair), Georgina Brown, Chris Adams, Janet Hoad, Maria Jakob, Frances Maxwell, Lyndal Moore, Steven Phipps, Rita Richards, Frances Swaidek, Janet Whelan, Nichola Ball, Pip Chapman, Howard Colvin, Mia Arnott
Division Members Apologies	Jan Neilsen, Anna De La Rue, Sonia Hyland, Kelvin Ryder, Gavin Quek, Ellen Diane Casimaty, Alex Nicholson, Matt Killingsworth, Odile Faster, Mary Target, Clare Tedeschi, Jo Common, Robyn Munro, Jan Harding, Melinda Morris
Other Attendees	Julie Groome (Director – Tasmania & Returning Officer), Andrew Colvin (CEO), Penny Harrison (Deputy CEO), Australian Red Cross Executive Team, Volunteers, Staff

1 Opening and Welcome

1.1 Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed Andrew Colvin, CEO, Australian Red Cross, Penny Harrison, Deputy CEO, Australian Red Cross, Australian Red Cross Executive Team Members, fellow Divisional Advisory Board Members, Members, Volunteers, staff and fellow humanitarians.

1.2 Welcome to Country

Elder Dougie Mansell gave the Welcome to Country.

1.3 Apologies and Quorum

The Chair acknowledged apologies were received from Jan Neilsen, Anna De La Rue, Sonia Hyland, Kelvin Ryder, Gavin Quek, Ellen Diane Casimaty, Alex Nicholson, Matt Killingsworth, Odile Faster, Mary Target, Clare Tedeschi, Jo Common, Robyn Munro, Jan Harding, Melinda Morris.

The Chair confirmed a quorum of 10 Governance Members for the meeting was present.

2 Minutes

2.1 Minutes of the 2023 Tasmania Division Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2023 Tasmania Division Annual General Meeting held on 3 October 2023 were approved as a true and correct record.

3 Reports

3.1 Director

The Director – Tasmania, Julie Groome provided a verbal update:

Financial year 2024 has been another significant year for Australian Red Cross in Tasmania. Over the past year, we have continued to support vulnerable Tasmanians through our volunteers and members. We have also been through a period of change, improving how we work so we will be able to grow our impact and support more vulnerable Tasmanians in the future through our priority areas of Emergency Services, Migration Support and aligned Community Programs. Let's reflect on the year that was.

Emergency Services

Our emergency services team have had a busy year supporting communities. The team delivered two Community Disaster Resilience programs, one on the East Coast, the other on Bruny Island in partnership with Kingborough Council. These programs engaged over 1,100 community members, helping build knowledge of local disaster risks and how to prepare for them. The team hosted events and provided opportunities for communities to connect and build resilience together. They also worked collaboratively with other community resilience building initiatives such as the greater Hobart area 'Sparkling Conversations. Igniting Action' project. The ES team built capacity within the local

government sector, providing evacuation centre and other training to over 300 local government staff across the state. In response to the Central Highlands Fires and the recent major flood event in the Derwent Valley, dedicated volunteers provided psychological first aid support at evacuation centres to impacted community members. There has also been a focus on supporting migrant communities to understand and prepare for disaster risks in collaboration with the Migration Support Program. The teams have provided information at events such as the Hobart City Council multi-cultural week fair, at Connected Women sessions and presentations during TAFE English classes.

Migration Support Program

Our Migration Support Program, or MSP for short, continues to support and empower people who have been made vulnerable by migration. The Connected Women program brought together nearly 100 women last year to connect, build friendships and to undertake activities. The program aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing of socially isolated migrant women by building confidence and skills through social connections and participation in the Tasmanian community. It also provides opportunities for participants to learn about health and community services that are available to them. MSP supports migrant communities to understand and access the health system in Tasmania and to understand and prevent potential health issues through both the Bicultural Community Health Program and Health in My Language. Collectively these programs delivered over 160 community sessions to over 3 900 community members in FY24. We also supported Temporary Visa Holders through the Safety Net and Family Violence Programs and Support for Trafficked People Program which supports migrants at risk of or who are being trafficked. In Tasmania these are mainly migrants at risk of forced marriage or experiencing forced labour.

Community Programs

For the last few years, I have provided statistics from our Aged and Community Care programs as part of this update and every year these figures blow me away as I read them out. In the last financial year, volunteers and members delivered over 48,000 meals to nearly 550 vulnerable Tasmanians so they can continue to live independently in their own homes. You drove over 500 vulnerable Tasmanians to nearly 15,000 appointments and provided over 2,400 hours of social support to nearly 200 Tasmanians. What these statistics don't convey is the difference that you make in the lives of vulnerable Tasmanians.

Retail

Our nine retail stores in Tasmania sold over 201,000 items, keeping them out of landfill. These sales generated income of nearly \$700K after expenses for Australian Red Cross ensuring we continue to support vulnerable Australians in time of need. It takes 1,518 volunteer hours per week to run our retail stores. We couldn't undertake this valuable work without your support. In summary, I would like to take a moment to express my deep gratitude to all of you, members, volunteers, staff and partners. Without you none of this would be possible. Thank you.

The Division NOTED the Director report.

3.2 Divisional Advisory Board Chair

The Tasmania Divisional Advisory Board Chair, Melanie Ross provided a verbal update:

I would like to start my Chair report by thanking the wonderful contribution made by Australian Red Cross members, volunteers and staff during 2023–2024. 2024 was a milestone year for Australian Red Cross as we celebrated our 110th Anniversary. Landmarks were lit red across Australia.

2024 was also a year of change for Australian Red Cross. We want to ensure that you feel supported and engaged and acknowledge the challenges that you may have been facing through the recent changes within the organisation. Each State and Territory has a local community mobilisation team to

engage and support you and answer any questions you may have. Here in Tasmania, we are supported by the team of Nathan Brown, Mandy Beven and Michael McLoughlin. We are currently working hard to build solid foundations for future growth and improving our ability to deliver humanitarian activities more effectively. This will ensure we continue to support communities that need us most and to provide the best support to our Member and Volunteer network.

Some of the key areas we are focusing on to enhance Member and Volunteer experiences are:

- **Improving our new systems** enabling recruitment and onboarding of new Members and Volunteers to become an easier process.
- **Developing initiatives** to increase engagement with Volunteers, Members and community, including rolling out our fundraising and donations policy.
- **Creating** more frequent and consistent communications across our network to ensure you have the information you want and need.
- Supporting the roll out of Australian Red Cross **Governance changes**.

We have heard from you and know that focusing on these areas will help us all to increase the positive impact for Members and Volunteers and the communities we work with across Tasmania. Australian Red Cross' Board has approved a revised Fundraising and Donations Policy. It recognises the need for legal compliance as well as for greater flexibility and visibility, for fundraisers and donors to better appreciate our impact at the local level. A guidance note will be developed for Branches and Units outlining the key features of the updated policy, with a primary focus on:

- Ensuring we protect our charitable status as a Public Benevolent Institution and are compliant with applicable Federal and State and Territory laws, codes, standards and policies.
- Clarification of the new \$10,000 clause related to State & Territory based Australian Red Cross activities (as agreed with DAB & the Tasmanian Director) will be available soon.
- Further information relating to local fundraising will also be provided soon.

The Tasmanian Director will meet with the Divisional Advisory Board to agree on the approved local Australian Red Cross activities for Tasmania in the coming weeks. We will be asking that Member Branches work closely with the Tasmanian Director and Divisional Advisory Board to assist with the understanding and implementation of the updated Fundraising and Donations policy amongst Branches and Units.

In 2024 we farewelled the inimitable Rita Richards from the Tasmanian Divisional Advisory Board, a great loss for us. Rita's exceptional dedication to Australian Red Cross, willingness to pitch in at a moment's notice, and generous demeanour has been incredible asset for many, many years. We wish Rita all the best for the future. A new face has joined the DAB with Gavin Quek. Gavin brings much wisdom and depth to Australian Red Cross and we're excited to work with him. In the year ahead we hope to make some new appointments to continue our diverse representation. I have worked with our Divisional Advisory Board to explore new ways of getting involved in Australian Red Cross action. Some of the highlights of the year have been:

- ANZAC Day events and laying of wreaths in Hobart, Richmond, Kingston Beach, Port Sorell, Queenstown, Swansea and Gretna.
- Member and volunteer social gatherings in Hobart, Mowbray and Ulverstone. This led to the forming of new relationships and building connections.
- The annual Australian Red Cross/University of Tasmania Oration Uprooted and unprotected – 110 million displaced lives with speakers Dr Tamara Wood Senior Lecturer in Law, University of Tasmania Sanushka Mudaliar Director, Global Migration Lab, Red Cross and Red Crescent Arad Nik Iranian refugee, human rights activist and business owner.

As Chair of the Tasmanian Divisional Advisory Board, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Julie Groome and Claire Wolczak for supporting me in carrying out the duty of DAB Chair.

I would also like to thank Her Excellency, Professor Chalmers and all the Government House team.

In the year ahead our Divisional Advisory Board will be engaging across the State via networking events in the South, North and North-West. We look forward to supporting our members, volunteers the community and building the Australian Red Cross family across Tasmania.

The Division NOTED the Divisional Advisory Board Chair report.

4 Election of Members to the Divisional Advisory Board

4.1 Announcement of Results

The Returning Officer advised the meeting that there were five (5) vacancies on the Tasmania Divisional Advisory Board, and three (3) nominations were received, with Melanie Ross, Steven Phipps and Gavin Quek deemed elected to the Divisional Advisory Board from the conclusion of the 2024 Annual General Meeting until the conclusion of the 2026 Annual General Meeting.

5 Other Business

5.1 Other Business

The AGM included a showcase of how Australian Red Cross supports the Tasmanian community. Tasmania is the only State that delivers the full suite of Aged and Community Care Programs. The showcase was presented by Alvin Lee, Team Leader, Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme (ACVVS); Denis (ACVVS Client); Silvia (ACVVS Volunteer) and Andrew Peverell, Team Leader, Delivered Meals.

The following awards were presented:

- National Outstanding Service Award:** Douglas Gill
- National Outstanding Service Award:** Sandra Cox
- National Outstanding Service Award:** Lou Cox
- Tasmanian Service Award:** Sarah Matthews
- Tasmanian Service Award:** Rob Thomas

6 Meeting close

6.1 Meeting Close

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 4.45pm (AEDT)

Signed as a true and correct record of the proceedings:

Erin Wilkins, Tasmania Division Council Chair

Date