



Tasmanian Human Rights Week Committee

MEDIA RELEASE Human Rights Week Launch

Today Tasmanians celebrate the start of Human Rights Week with the launch being held at Parliament House, from 12:30-2:00 pm.

Speaking at the launch, Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, Robin Banks, said, 'Every year, Tasmania celebrates International Human Rights Day—10 December—with a week of human rights events. In doing this it is unique in Australia. At today's launch we have, through the human rights awards ceremony, recognised the particular contribution of individuals and organisations to the promotion of human rights awareness through advocacy and activities.'

This year's award winners cover the spectrum of our community. Some have been active for many years taking actions in Tasmania or internationally to improve the human rights protections for others. The Individual Award Winner, Anna Crotty, is recognised for her lifelong commitment to human rights and addressing discrimination and in particular for her leadership and determination in setting up Tents4Peace.

The extraordinary commitment of the late Angus Downie AM (1943-2010) to human rights protection across Australia and internationally has been recognised this year through the awarding for the first time of the Angus Downie Print Journalism Award. This year's winner, Greg Barns, has been recognised for his many years of defending the human rights of all Tasmanians, promoting community debate and giving a voice in the media to those not often heard.

Like Greg, Angus was a passionate advocate for the rights of people with disability in particular and in 2002 received an award from the Australian Human Rights Commission for his work on the development of the Transport Standards for accessible public transport.

Details of all winners are attached

For media comment: Robin Banks on 0459 800 570

Individual Award Winner

Anna Crotty

For her lifelong commitment to human rights and addressing discrimination and in particular for her leadership and determination in setting up Tents4Peace

Youth Award Winner

Amy Fogarty

For the commitment she has shown to educating the Tasmanian community about global poverty and human rights abuses around the world and encouraging others to take action

Organisation Award Winner

Tasmanian Centre for Global Learning

For the Centre's many years of educating young Tasmanians about human rights and the action they can take to make a difference for themselves and others

School Award Winner

Jordan River Learning Federation, Gagebrook Campus

For the whole school's ongoing commitment to learning about and educating the broader school community about a broad range of human rights issues

Angus Downie Print Journalism Award Winner

Greg Barns

For his many years of defending the human rights of all Tasmanians, promoting community debate and giving a voice in the media to those not often heard

CALD Focussed Activity Award Winner

Fayia Isaiah Lahai

For his advocacy and awareness raising of issues facing people from African backgrounds living in Tasmania and his continuing involvement in rights through his volunteering at Amnesty International

Individual Award

High Commendation

Aaron Everett

For his engagement with the Tasmanian community in telling the history and stories of Tasmanian Aboriginals and in particular of the importance of the Kutalayna site

Organisation Award

High Commendation

Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre

For its work to protect the Kutalayna site and in promoting discussion about Tasmanian Aboriginals' rights in the Tasmanian media and community

School Award

High Commendation

Cygnets Primary School

For the great work the students are doing in learning about diversity and acceptance and setting themselves the goal of making a difference

School Award

High Commendation

Riverside Primary School

For its broad range of projects that are educating the whole school about human rights and the inventive ways they share their passion about human rights

Angus Downie Print Journalism
Commendation

Rebecca Fitzgibbon

For her articles in *The Mercury*
promoting and encouraging
social equality and respect in the community

Angus Downie Print Journalism
Commendation

Emma Hope

For her articles in *The Mercury*
drawing attention to the injustice of
racism and conveying to readers
the importance of respect