

Media Release

from the fundraising sector

Saturday, February 26, 2011

Queenslander celebrated as FIA Volunteer of the Year

A Queensland mother has just taken out the prestigious Fundraising Institute Australia's National Volunteer of the Year 2011 Award.

At a gala event at the FIA's 34th International Fundraising Conference in Melbourne on Friday night, February 25, Ada Banks from Jimboomba in south-eastern Queensland was celebrated for her selfless volunteer work for Cancer Council Queensland.

"In this International Year of the Volunteer, the Fundraising Institute Australia (FIA) is delighted to recognise Ada - along with all volunteers in the charity sector," FIA CEO Chris McMillan said.

"Volunteers are the lifeblood of charities. Without volunteers, charities simply could not carry out the extent of work they do.

"The FIA award is one small way we can celebrate our volunteers and their positive impact on the community," Ms McMillan said.

Cancer Council Queensland's fundraising engagement manager Vicki James said Mrs Banks's individual involvement with events equated to more than \$300,000.

"But collectively, Ada's involvement in so many different, various events cannot be expressed in monetary value," Ms James said.

Cancer Council Queensland's Relay For Life state manager Natalie Wust said Mrs Banks had "greatly reduced the impact of cancer in Queensland over the past six years as a direct result of her involvement in Relay For Life".

Mrs Banks has also played instrumental roles for many years in several other Cancer Council Queensland fundraising and awareness raising events including the Jimboomba Daffodil Ball, Challenge for Cancer, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea and the SunSmart cancer prevention outdoor events.

Mrs Banks's passionate commitment to help find a cure for cancer and supporting those affected by cancer followed the tragic death of her own son from the disease 15 years ago.

Volunteering Australia CEO Cary Pedicini said fundraising was an aspect of volunteering that involved a significant number of volunteers.

“Our recently released National Survey of Volunteering Issues highlights that 24.8 per cent of respondents were involved in some way with ‘fundraising and/or retail’ reinforcing the significance of this area of volunteer work,” Mr Pedicini said.

“Volunteering is such an important part of a socially inclusive society, and fundraising is vital work for so many not-for-profit organisations.

“Volunteering Australia is pleased to congratulate Ada Banks as the FIA Volunteer of the Year.”

Mrs Banks was one of 12 recipients of FIA National Awards for Excellence in Fundraising 2011.

Other major award winners on Friday night were:

- Fundraising Campaign of the Year - The Salvation Army (Victoria) for “Christopher’s Letter”.
- Arthur Venn Award – Professional Fundraiser of the Year – Melissa Smith, University of Technology, Sydney.

The full list of award winners appears below.

FIA chairman Leo Orland said the awards recognised the outstanding initiatives and innovative efforts of Australia’s fundraisers, volunteers and organisations.

“The array of projects submitted for the FIA’s National Awards and the positive impact of those projects on our society are testament to the vital role of fundraisers in our community,” Mr Orland said.

For details on the FIA’s award winners, contact Gail Knox on 0400 020 574.

A photo of Ada Banks is attached.

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FIA’s National Awards for Excellence in Fundraising 2011 Award Winners

Organisation Awards

The 2011 Awards comprise the following six Category Awards, each in two divisions:

Division A - Organisations with less than 5 million revenue (excluding bequest revenue); and

Division B - Organisations with more than 5 million revenue (excluding bequest revenue)

Campaign of the Year 2011

‘Christopher’s Letter’, The Salvation Army

Capital/Major Gifts Campaign

Division A category winner

‘ACU Chair in Identity and Curriculum in Catholic Education’, Australian Catholic University.

Division B category winner

'Dr Chau Chak Wing Building : Major Gifts Campaign', University of Technology Sydney.

Acquisition Campaign

Division B category winner

'Christopher's Letter', The Salvation Army

Highly Commended – Division A category

'St Vincent's Hospital Acquisition Telephone Fundraising Campaign', St Vincent's Hospital

Highly Commended – Division B category

'The Gift of Hope', Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation

Renewal Campaign

Division A category winner

'Westmead Medical Research Foundation Tax Appeal 2010', Westmead Medical Research Foundation.

Division B category winner

'Sydney Development Fund – 2010 Tax Campaign', The University of Sydney

Special Events Campaign

Division A category winner

'2010 Vinnies CEO Sleepout', St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) Inc

Division B category winner

'Leukaemia Foundation World's Greatest Shave 2010', Leukaemia Foundation

Highly Commended – Division B category

'Variety Santa Fun Run- Special Event Category', Variety the Children's Charity NSW

'Everest Virtual Challenge', Royal Children's Hospital Foundation

Bequest Campaign

Highly Commended Division B category

Bequest Campaign – "THINK ABOUT IT", Florey Neuroscience Institutes

Fundraising Marketing Campaign

Division A category winner

'Lifeline's Stress Down Day', Lifeline Australia.

Highly Commended – Division A category

'PlayAir Campaign', The Song Room

Division B category winner

'Just Add Water', Australian Conservation Foundation.

Individual Awards

National Volunteer of the Year

Ada Banks, Cancer Council Queensland

Arthur Venn Professional Fundraiser of the Year

Melissa Smith, Development Manger, University of Technology, Sydney

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