



2020 Volunteer of the Year

Thomas (Tom) Burnie

It is characteristic of volunteer organizations that the volunteer base can be both a blessing and a challenge. The variability and regular change of persons in positions of leadership place the need for organizational sustainability front and centre if long term stability is to be maintained. In this regard, an organizational backbone of policy, procedure and guidance is a key requirement. Our strategic commitment to good governance is manifest in the initiative to create this key document embracing everything from the foundational to the helpful all needed to sustain us and guide us now and into the future irrespective of changes in personnel. This has been the work of the governance committee and Tom's contribution has been key to its development and its endorsement by the BOD. The product is extensive, comprehensive and well structured; it is soundly anchored in statutory requirement and bylaw and accommodates the need for periodic amendment, update and strict configuration management. It is a living document which has undergone trial exposure leading to refinements and approval. It reflects Tom's knowledge, energy and investment and is a truly exemplary model of its kind. It is so meritorious that another charitable organization to which several of us belong has brought Tom on board to guide it on a similar path. The chair of the governance committee has made it clear that this essential achievement is principally attributable to Tom; his

is a major accomplishment and we the Friends are grateful for his contribution to sustainability.