Minister for Young Territorians: Excellence in Youth Leadership Award finalists

Young Territorians Minister Matthew Bonson today announced the finalists of the Minister for Young Territorians Excellence in Youth Leadership Award - one of the categories of the NT Young Achiever Awards.

Four finalists were selected for the Excellence in Youth Leadership Award category and the winner will be announced at a gala presentation evening tonight.

“The finalists are an extremely talented group and the judges have had a tough job,” Mr Bonson said.

“Each finalist has achieved a great amount at such a young age and all four are worthy of recognition and accolades. Congratulations to all the finalists.

“In the Territory, National Youth Week has become our biggest youth celebration where young people get involved in their community, participate in activities and have fun.

“The Young Achiever Awards are a great way to recognise the achievements of our young Territorians.”

The four finalists of the Excellence in Youth Leadership category are:

**Sam Creek**, 23, of Leanyer for his tireless involvement and leadership of the Darwin Surf Lifesaving Club. Sam’s passion embodies the values which Surf Lifesaving promotes and influences others in adopting youth leadership values.
Simone Liddy, 21, of Nakara for her diverse leadership and mentoring roles for young Indigenous people. Simone’s goal is to complete her medical degree by 2008 and become a mentor for other Indigenous students completing university whilst assisting the needy in more remote areas in regards to health care and awareness.

Samone Sallik, 24, of Tennant Creek for her inspirational work with young Indigenous mothers in Tennant Creek. Samone gives the youth of Tennant Creek a voice and encourages them to challenge themselves to overcome social and personal barriers.

Donald Young, 26, of Darwin for his 11 year involvement and leadership of the YMCA Youth Parliament. Donald’s passion has helped many young people foster independence and an ability to voice their concerns and opinions.

Youth Week 2008, from 5-13 April, presents an ideal opportunity for community organisations to support young people and promote youth related programs and services.

For more information on National Youth Week 2008 and to find out about what’s happening in your area, visit www.youth.nt.gov.au or contact the Office of Youth Affairs on 1800 652 736.

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