NORTHERN TERRITORY VOLUNTEER AWARDS

16 May 2013

Chief Minister Adam Giles tonight presented awards to the Territory’s top volunteers and organisations as part of the Northern Territory Volunteer of the Year Awards.

Mr Giles said the awards celebrate and reward the valuable work volunteers contribute to our community.

“Each year thousands of Territorians give up their time to help others,” Mr Giles said.

“Volunteers play an important role in the community and are the mainstays of support within many sporting and community organisations.”

“The level of volunteering in the Territory is high, with 38 per cent of people volunteering in a formal capacity.”

“Darwin also has the highest volunteer rates of any capital city in Australia at per cent, which is something we should all be proud of.”

“To recognise the hard work of our Emergency Services, we have introduced the new Medal for Emergency Service category this year.”

The awards continue to grow with 68 nominations received, 14 more than last year.

The award winners are:

- Jimmy Doyle, Chief Minister’s Medal for Volunteering Achievement
- Donald McKinnon, Chief Minister’s Medal for Volunteering Service
- Garry Casey, Chief Minister’s Medal for Emergency Service
- Riding for the Disabled, Alice Springs, Volunteering SA&NT Award for Organisational Excellence (Small Organisation)
- Carers NT, Volunteering SA&NT Award for Organisational Excellence (Small Organisation).

The winners of the Chief Minister’s Medals each received $2500 to donate to a not-for-profit organisation of their choice.

The winner of the small organisation award received $3000 and the winner of the large organisation award received $2000.

Community organisations also nominated 16 volunteers to receive Most Valuable Volunteer Certificates at the awards.

A function will be hosted in Alice Springs on 20 May by the Minister for Central Australia to specifically acknowledge winners, nominees and other volunteers from Central Australia. The awards are an initiative of the Northern Territory Government and Volunteering SA&NT.

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GPO Box 3146, Darwin NT 0801
Winners' bios:

Winner of the Chief Minister's Medal for Volunteering Achievement
Jimmy Doyle has been actively involved in Variety NT for over five years in a leadership, fundraising and volunteer capacity. Jimmy has selflessly devoted his time, expertise, resources and leadership skills to ensure that the community funds generously donated by NT locals to Variety get channelled to where they are most needed - to ensure that sick, disadvantaged and special needs children can live, laugh and learn. During his time with Variety, Jimmy has raised nearly $50,000.

Winner of the Chief Minister's Medal for Volunteering Service
Donald McKinnon has volunteered for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award for 26 years. During this time, he has worked with and mentored over 500 young people in Nhulunbuy, regularly volunteering between 16-18 hours a month. Over the years, Donald has increased participation to record numbers to the Duke’s program and enabled it to be accessed in remote regions by isolated youth in great need of stimulating and constructive activities.

Winner Chief Minister’s Medal for Emergency Service
Garry Casey has been involved in the Palmerston Emergency Services Volunteer Unit, on and off, since 1995. Garry also joined the Howard Springs Volunteer Fire Brigade in 2010 and was deployed to Alice Springs on two occasions to assist with fires in Central Australia. Garry also assists in training activities by assisting permanent staff in conduct courses for Emergency Service volunteers. Garry, as the Unit Officer, is required to coordinate emergency response, unit training, maintenance of unit equipment, the continual recruitment of members and social events.

Volunteering SA&NT Award for Organisational Excellence (Small Organisation)
Riding for the Disabled, Alice Springs is a busy and personalised Centre providing horse riding and horse husbandry for riders with disability, disadvantaged and able-bodied riders. For many people with disabilities from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous backgrounds, its activities can go a long way in not only developing their skills, but also their self-esteem and the pride of their family, friends and community. Our kids and adults, get the chance to not only be free and have a lot of fun and enjoyment, but to improve their quality of life now and for the future.

Volunteering SA&NT Award for Organisational Excellence (Large Organisation)
Carers NT’s vision is to have a community in which carers are recognised and valued as a significant asset in which they have access to, timely and appropriate services. Carers NT’s primary volunteer service is an NT Government sponsored volunteer social support program. These volunteers provide friendship support to those who are most vulnerable in our community. They do this in a variety of ways including but not limited to: taking people out for coffee, sharing experiences, being part of social events and just being a friend to those they visit.

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