Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

Recognising our Territory spirit

5 November 2014

Chief Minister Adam Giles has officially announced Rosalie Kunoth-Monks OAM as the 2015 Northern Territory Australian of the Year.

“It was an honour to present Rosalie Kunoth-Monks with this important award in recognition of her work as a humanitarian and a passionate advocate on Indigenous issues,” Mr Giles said.

“Rosalie is a proud Anmatjere woman who grew up in Utopia before moving to Alice Springs and making her name in the classic Australian film *Jedda* in 1953.

“But it’s her enormous contribution to indigenous affairs, social work and community organisations that is being recognised with this award.

“I’m sure all Territorians will join me in congratulating Rosalie on this great achievement and wishing her the best of luck in the national announcement ahead of Australia Day.”

Respected Yuendumu elder and community leader Eddie Robertson has been named 2015 Northern Territory Senior Australian of the Year.

“65 year old Eddie Jampijinpa Robertson has helped bring peace to his community of Yuendumu and has played an important role in stamping out petrol sniffing in the area,” Mr Giles said.

“He should be congratulated for his wise leadership and commitment to guiding the next generation of Warlpiri people into a brighter future. He has done a great service to his community and deserves our heartfelt congratulations.”

The 2015 Northern Territory Young Australian of the Year is 24 year old Katherine resident Chantal Ober.

“Chantal is a leading light in the Katherine community, devoting her time and energy to helping local young people reach their full potential,” Mr Giles said.

“She is a great example to other young Indigenous women in the community and has thoroughly earned this recognition.”
And finally Ray Palmer has been named as the 2015 Northern Territory Local Hero for his work as a veterans’ champion.

“Ray served in the Royal Australian Air Force for 22 years and was very proud to see his son Scott follow in his military footsteps, becoming a Commando with the Australian Army,” Mr Giles said.

“Sadly Scott was killed in a helicopter crash while he was serving in Afghanistan in 2010 and Ray has since devoted his life to helping the families of other fallen and injured servicemen and women.

“Ray has drawn on his own grief to mentor others and raise money for the Commando Trust Fund which supports defence families. He’s a great Dad and it is fitting that he is being recognised for his efforts.

“I’d like to congratulate all of the Territory finalists who were shortlisted for this year’s awards. The high calibre of the entries and the winners is a testament to the great community spirit of the Northern Territory.

“It’s particularly great to see so many Territorians from our regions being recognised for their contributions.”

For more information on the Australian of the Year Awards visit australianoftheyear.org.au.

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