Media Release
3 November, 2016

Territorians of the year

Last night’s NT Australian of the Year winners showcase the generosity of spirit and willingness to help others that is a feature of the Northern Territory, says Opposition Leader Gary Higgins.

“Congratulations to all four category winners and the finalists for their dedication and commitment to improving people’s lives,” Mr Higgins said.

“They all deserve the enormous honour they have received and the work they have done, and continue to do, will leave a lasting legacy in their communities and across the Northern Territory.

“It was a pleasure for Rhonda and I to attend last night’s awards and hear the stories behind their nominations.”

• Andrea Mason: As Chief Executive of the Ngaanyatarr, Pitjantatjara and Yankuntjatjara Women’s Council, Andrea beat an extremely strong field to be named NT Australian of the Year for her work helping Indigenous women raise strong, healthy children, creating jobs and tackling social challenges including domestic violence.
• Sister Anne Gardiner: In the 62 years since moving to Bathurst Island as a member of the Little Sisters of the Order of the Sacred Heart, the NT Senior Australian of the Year has worked tirelessly to document and preserve Tiwi language and culture and to raise funds to support the local community.
• Bridie Duggan: As well as raising $27,000 for the Livin Foundation to tackle mental illness, the NT Young Australian of the Year is also a life coach and personal trainer who has helped members of the Katherine community lose weight and gain self-esteem.
• Tejinder Pal Singh: NT Australia’s Local Hero dedicates the last Sunday of each month to preparing 80 kilograms of vegetarian curry and rice for distribution to the poor and needy in Darwin’s northern suburbs. A strong anti-racism campaigner, he has campaigned to break-down negative prejudice associated with turbans.

NT recipients will join their counterparts from the other states and territories for the national awards in Canberra on 25 January, 2017.

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