SPECIAL THANKS FOR KATHERINE SPORT VOLUNTEERS

Recipients of the Office of Sport and Recreation’s ‘For the Love of It’ awards will be announced today in Katherine by the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Delia Lawrie.

The awards, which aim to recognise those that give their time and energy to make sport happen in the Territory, will be presented at a ceremony at Low Level Park in Katherine with more than 100 people expected to attend.

Ms Lawrie said the awards are aptly entitled ‘For the Love of It’ because so many people give their valuable time in the name of sport.

“Sport volunteers - be it coaching, umpiring, maintaining grounds or uniforms or working on committees – are invaluable and we all should recognise such efforts,” said Ms Lawrie.

“I’d like to say ‘thanks’ to all volunteers for their dedication which ensures that sport continues to be such an integral part of our great Territory lifestyle.

“Sport could not happen without volunteers!”

Ms Lawrie said there has been a decline in volunteers and officials in recent years so recognition and thanks is more important than ever.

“There are many behind-the-scenes roles to be filled in order to continue to deliver opportunities for everyone to participate in sport right across the Territory, and it is inspiring that so many people give up their free time to make sure sport happens in their community,” said Ms Lawrie.

More than 500 nominations were received for the ‘For the Love of It’ awards from throughout the Territory – including more than 50 from Katherine – and all nominees were presented with a souvenir sports bag and certificate of appreciation by the Minister.

Thanks presentations have already been held in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Darwin, and a presentation is planned for Gove in October 2005.

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