An act of pure selflessness and courage has proven a winner with Territory race car driver Simon Bulasch being awarded one of the most prestigious motor racing awards in Australia.

The CAMS Board has presented Simon with a Donald Thomson Award – only the 10th ever person to gain the honour.

After a four car collision at the start of a race at the Hidden Valley V8 Supercars round last year Simon, in the third car, got out of his extensively damaged car which had caught on fire. He noticed fellow driver Alan Langworthy, in the fourth car, struggling to exit his vehicle.

“Simon raced over to help Alan and when Alan was freed, he went over to check if the driver of the first car Tim Playford needed help – all at his own personal risk. It was an incredible act by Simon and the mark of a courageous young man,” Sport and Recreation Minister Nathan Barrett said.

“I'm extra proud because I remember teaching Simon at Kormilda - he is a quality young man.”

Simon received the Award last night at a gala event in Melbourne. CAMS Chief Executive Officer Eugene Arocca said praised Simon’s actions.

"In the 35 years since this award was created by CAMS, Simon Bulasch is only the 10th person to be recognized - that alone speaks to the significance of the award and the achievements of those who receive it,” Mr Arocca said.

"Having been involved in an incident himself, his immediate thoughts were to rush to the aid of his fellow competitors and he did this in the face of significant risks to himself. His actions truly embody the spirit of sportsmanship but more importantly, also displayed incredible courage in assisting others".

"CAMS is very proud to have people like Simon in our sport and the Northern Territory should celebrate and recognise Simon for his actions."

Motorsports NT president Grant Hamon also praised Simon’s actions.

“We all know that motorsport has crashes, it’s part of racing, some are worse than others and safety has improved significantly over the years but there are instances when time is critical and this was one of those,” Mr Hamon said. “Simon could have rightfully got out of his car and headed for safety
and left it to the Fire Crews but he chose instead to ensure his race mates were able to get away as well.

“All of us have moments in our lives that test our courage and this was definitely that moment for Simon and he acquitted himself admirably and selflessly. He is a worthy winner of the CAMS Donald Thompson Award and all of us involved in motor sport congratulate Simon.”

The North Australian Motor Sport Club assisted with Simon’s travel to the Award presentation night.

NAMSC chair Rodney Jessup said the Committee was very pleased CAMS had recognised Simon’s heroic and selfless act.

“Simon’s selfless actions highlight the typical comradery and sportsmanship of many members in the North Australian Motor Sports Club, where feelings of intense competition are put aside to ensure the safety of fellow competitors,” Mr Jessup said.

“The Committee congratulates Simon on his award and are proud to have been able to assist in facilitating Simons travel to receive this prestigious award.”

ABOUT THE DONALD THOMSON AWARD

The Donald Thomson Award, named after the formative Secretary General of CAMS, recognises individuals who have brought credit to the sport by way of a spontaneous act of selflessness and consideration for others – an attitude of service and courage which was always upheld by Donald Thomson. To qualify nominees must have performed an act of courage and selflessness under unique circumstances, which is above and beyond what would normally be expected.

To view Simon’s deed - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfbgEYkiENM

Simon is in car 80, in a black race suit.

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