MEDIA RELEASE

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AWARD WINNING VOLUNTEERS

A well respected and much admired member of St John, Northern Territory was named the inaugural overall NT Volunteer of the Year winner.

Lesley King has made a valued contribution to the Northern Territory community as a committed and long term volunteer of St John Ambulance Australia (NT) for over 40 years.

Lesley’s role in the Operations Branch has been outstanding with a St John Ambulance NT representative saying that she epitomises what a St John member should be and is a wonderful example to other members.

One of the judges cited that Lesley has not only been an amazing leader within the community and the sector but that “every state needs a Lesley!”

New to the successful awards program, the overall NT Volunteer of the Year Award saw Lesley selected from all the winners in the individual award categories.

St John Ambulance NT were also successful in winning three other awards and a highly commended.

Joining them in more than one category were Bushfires NT – with three wins and two highly commended.

The annual NT Volunteer of the Year Awards recognise the amazing contribution that volunteers, volunteer-involving organisations, corporate volunteering programs and volunteer managers have on their community.

Evelyn O’Loughlin, CEO Volunteering SA&NT said that the judges had a massive task in sorting through the 102 nominations received.

“The applications were of a very high standard and we not only congratulate the winners, but recognise and thank everyone for their passion in making a difference to other people’s lives and for giving back to the community”, said Evelyn.

The winners were announced at prestigious award ceremonies held this week in Alice Springs (1 November) and Darwin (2 November).

The Central Australia Awards, held at the Alice Springs Convention Centre were attended by 100 guests and welcomed by recent Telstra Business Woman of the Year recipient and MC, Nicole Walsh. Hon Dale Wakefield presented the Chief Minister’s Awards and Certificates of Appreciation.

In Darwin, over 200 people filled the Darwin Convention Centre with MC Richard Margeston, ABC radio welcoming guests including recently named Northern Territory Administrator, Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O’Halloran AM and Chief Minister, Hon Michael Gunner who presented.

The Awards are an initiative of Volunteering NT, with the Northern Territory Government a major sponsor.

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## 2017 Award Winners

### Northern Territory wide

**Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering Award**  
Winner: Lesley King, St John Ambulance NT  
Highly commended: Michael Farrelly, Bushfires NT Alice Springs

**Excellence in Volunteer Management Award**  
Winner: Mandy Paradise, St John Ambulance NT  
Highly commended: Amanda Houston, Bushfires NT Alice Springs

**Northern Territory Corporate Volunteer Team of the Year**  
Bushfires NT Volunteer Consultative Committee

### Central Australia  

#### Community Volunteer Organisation of the Year  
Winner: National Pioneer Women’s Hall of Fame  
Highly commended: Country Women’s Association, Tennant Creek

#### Emergency Service Volunteer Award  
Winner: Ben Balmer, Bushfires NT Alice Springs  
Highly commended: Gerrard Lessels, NTES Ntaria

#### Chief Minister’s Volunteer of the Year Award  
Winner: Laurel May, Alice Springs Theatre Group  
Highly commended: Fiona Reid, St John Ambulance NT

### Top End

#### Community Volunteer Organisation of the Year  
Winner: Acacia Hills Volunteer Bushfire Brigade  
Highly commended: Dundee Volunteer Bushfires Brigade  
Highly commended: Carers NT

#### Emergency Service Volunteer Award  
Winner: Tom McIntyre, Bushfires NT Darwin River

#### Chief Minister’s Volunteer of the Year Award  
Winner: Anna Kerwin, Katherine & District Show Society  
Highly Commended: Brian Ch’ng, St John Ambulance NT  
Highly Commended: Lynda Stanwix, Darwin Netball Association

#### Chief Minister’s Youth Volunteer of the Year Award  
Winner: Leanne Eltagonde, St John Ambulance NT

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A Division of Volunteering SA&NT