



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### SINGING THE PRAISES FOR 42 YEARS OF VOLUNTEERING

A devoted volunteer for 42 years, Beverley Shuker has been selected from five other contenders as the 2019 Volunteer of the Year in the Northern Territory Volunteer of the Year Awards for 2019.

Beverley was one of the first members on the Bushfires NT committee at Adelaide River. Volunteer brigades, managed by the committee, were first established across the Top End in 1978, and through a lengthy advocacy campaign, Beverley was instrumental in having them officially gazetted in 1984.

Continuing to show a commitment in supporting the community, Beverley has played an integral part in the development of Bushfires NT, volunteer brigades, and regional bushfire committees.

Beverley assists with training and leads the way with fundraising for the Darwin River Volunteer Bushfire Brigade and Berry Springs Reserve.

With a kind soul and love of animals, Beverley is also a wildlife carer, making sure that any wildlife injured or harmed through a bushfire is taken care of.

Beverley impressed the judges with her commitment to volunteering and her obvious passion for fire management. She was selected from the winners of three other award categories (Chief Minister's Volunteer of the Year, INPEX Lifetime Volunteer and Emergency Services Volunteer).

In Central Australia, Purple House received two wins, for organisation of the year and excellence in volunteer management. Purple House, based in Alice Springs is an innovative Indigenous-owned and run health service; operating 18 remote clinics and a mobile dialysis unit their aim is to get patients back to their homes so that families and culture remain strong.

With competition so tight in Darwin, the Chief Minister's Volunteer of the Year Award has been split over two deserving winners, Sudeep Shrestha, Nepalese Association of Northern Territory Inc. and Craig Lambert, Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct.

Sudeep played a pivotal role, along with other associations, in raising over \$105,000 for people affected by the devastating 2015 earthquake in Nepal.

As chairperson of the Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct since it was formed in 2011, Craig has shown impressive leadership and his tireless advocacy has been a significant factor in finding the organisation's identity.

Nominees, sponsors and special guests joined Volunteering NT in announcing the winners at gala presentations in Alice Springs on 6 November and Darwin on 7 November 2019.

#### Media enquiries and interviews

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### 2019 Award winner - NT wide

<b>Volunteer of the Year Award</b>	<b>Beverley Shuker, Darwin River Volunteer Bushfire Brigade</b>
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### 2019 Award winners – Central Australia and Top End

Central Australia		Top End	
Chief Minister's Volunteer of the Year Award	Gary Bastin, Royal Flying Doctor Service Auxiliary  <i>Highly commended:</i> <i>Joanne Watkins,</i> <i>Australian Red Cross</i>	Chief Minister's Volunteer of the Year Award	Sudeep Shrestha, Nepalese Association of Northern Territory Inc.  Craig Lambert, Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct  <i>Highly commended:</i> <i>Robert Shewring, Darwin Military Museum</i>
Chief Minister's Youth Volunteer of the Year Award	Sean Xiao, Office of Youth Affairs, Headspace, Alice Springs Town Council, Alice Springs Youth Accommodation and Supported Services	Chief Minister's Youth Volunteer of the Year Award	Lucy Frost, Australian Red Cross  Maddison Clonan, Australian Red Cross
Jacana Energy Community Volunteer Organisation of the Year	Purple House	Jacana Energy Community Volunteer Organisation of the Year	Palmerston and Litchfield Seniors Organisation  <i>Highly commended: Life Education NT</i>
Yeperenye Shopping Centre Emergency Service Volunteer of the Year Award	Karl Herzog, NT Emergency Service (NTSES)	INPEX Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering Award	Beverley Shuker, Darwin River Volunteer Bushfire Brigade
INPEX Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering	Bruce Simmons, Alice Springs Community Garden  <i>Highly commended:</i> <i>Victoria Gibson,</i> <i>Australian Red Cross</i>	Emergency Service Volunteer of the Year	Dean McManamny, Livingstone Volunteer Bushfire Brigade  Delma Swan, Australian Red Cross
Alice Springs Town Council Excellence in Volunteer Management Award	Gemma Dalby, Purple House	Excellence in Volunteer Management Award	George Low, Bushfires NT