

MEDIA RELEASE

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TWICE THE RECOGNITION FOR OUR NT VOLUNTEERS

The top prize in the annual NT Volunteer of the Year Awards has broken tradition with the announcement of two equal winners in the Volunteer of the Year Award.

After lengthy deliberations, the judging panel found it impossible to select one winner, instead awarding two winners from the other Central Australia and Top End categories.

This deserved recognition goes to Frank Dunstan, St John Ambulance (NT) and Neil Westbury from MJD (Machado-Joseph Disease) Foundation.

Frank, who also took out the Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering Award became a resident of the Northern Territory in 1974 and started volunteering two years after, working for several organisations including CWA and Bushfires NT.

In 2001, Frank joined St John Ambulance as a volunteer and found his calling in a job that he still carries out today - editor for the Territory-wide Vollie News. As a passionate historian, he has published a history book on St John Ambulance volunteers and is due to release two more publications over the next couple of months.

Frank's integrity, compassion and a deep respect for those around him, helped the judges make their final decision.

Neil, who works with the MJD Foundation was also recognised as the Top End winner of the Chief Minister's Volunteer of the Year Award and has been a volunteer Director/Board member since 2008 and appointed Chairperson in 2010.

Neil's deep knowledge of Aboriginal culture and traditional values in Aboriginal communities has been built upon to enable the delivery of programs and services. Neil guides board members, leading strategic planning to continually monitor, evaluate and improve programs.

The MJD Foundation works on partnerships with Aboriginal Australians, their families and communities living with the hereditary neuro degenerative condition.

The judges commended Neil for his commitment in growing the MJD Foundation and for his advocacy in improving Indigenous health and disability policies.





Other winners represent Friends of the Botanic Gardens, Australian Red Cross, Barkly Regional School Sports, Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, NT Emergency Service as well as St John Ambulance (NT) and St John Ambulance (Alice Springs).

Recipients were presented with their Awards at gala presentation evenings in Alice Springs on 7 November and Darwin on 8 November 2018.

Media enquiries and interviews

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2018 Award winners - NT wide

Volunteer/s of the Year Award	Neil Westbury, MJD Foundation Frank Dunstan, St John Ambulance (NT) Inc.
INPEX operated Ichthys LNG Project Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering Award	Frank Dunstan, St John Ambulance (NT) Inc.
Excellence in Volunteer Management Award	Brian Ch’ng, St John Ambulance (NT) Inc.
NT Corporate Volunteer Team of the Year	St Johns Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc. Palmerston Cadet Division

2018 Award winners - NT wide

Top End		Central Australia	
Chief Minister’s Volunteer of the Year Award	Neil Westbury, MJD (Machado-Joseph Disease) Foundation Ltd	Chief Minister’s Volunteer of the Year Award	Amanda Kimpton, Barkly Region School Sports
Chief Minister’s Youth Volunteer of the Year Award	Maddison Carrier, St John Ambulance (NT) Inc.	Chief Minister’s Youth Volunteer of the Year Award	Emma Gaskon, St John Ambulance (Alice Springs)
Jacana Energy’s Community Volunteer Organisation of the Year	Friends of the Botanic Gardens,	Jacana Energy’s Community Volunteer Organisation of the Year Award	Alice Springs Volunteer Bushfire Brigade
Emergency Services Volunteer Award	Natalie Reimer, Australian Red Cross	Emergency Services Volunteer Award	Kathryn Cooper, NT Emergency Service (NTES)

