



MEDIA RELEASE 11 NOVEMBER 2021 DOUBLE ACCOLADES FOR NT VOLUNTEERS

In a first, an individual and a volunteer-run organisation have been named joint winners as **NT Volunteer of the Year**. Sharing the spotlight is Di Tynan, Bushfires NT and the Nepalese Association of the Northern Territory (NANT).

As a Bushfires NT stalwart, Di has been involved with the Volunteer Bushfire Brigade for the past 40 years, and an unbroken 31 years of service as Captain of the Elizabeth Valley Brigade. Each year Di contributes hundreds of hours to brigade activities, locally, in the broader community, and on the national stage. One of her roles is leading advocacy work for volunteer firefighters and brigades.

Volunteers form the backbone of the Nepalese Association of Northern Territory (NANT), formed in 2009. NANT organises a range of cultural events and capacity-building projects that bring a positive change to many peoples' lives. Over 130 volunteers have supported 12 events over the past year, and NANT continues to work hard, using a 'volunteer first' strategy to keep them connected, engaged and motivated, including with the new generation of youth.

These Top End winners joined with their Central Australia peers who were online for the announcement of the winners at the Awards presentation in Darwin on Thursday afternoon.

Kym Cairns, Sector Services Manager NT said that it was unfortunate that the face-to-face Award presentations in Alice Springs had to be cancelled on Tuesday 9 November due to COVID-19 restrictions.

"However it would take more than that to dampen the enthusiasm from the volunteers on the announcement of the winners.

"We had such a high standard of nominations this year, the stories of people going 'above and beyond' are truly inspiring.

"And to continue their story we will be coming together at a replacement event in Alice Springs later in the year," said Ms Cairns.

Other Top End award recipients include Dan Tellam, RSL Darwin Sub-branch, Billeroy House; Leroy Gazey, NTES, Katherine Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, Australian Airforce Cadets (AAFC); Garry Casey, NTFS, NTE and Sarah Moses, Darwin Community Legal Service.

The recipient of the new *StudyNT* International Student Volunteer of the Year Award is Zitan (Sunny) Liu who volunteers for StudyNT, Office of Youth Affairs, Kindness Shake and Multicultural Council of NT.

For Central Australia, the Australian Red Cross took out two awards with Erica Stanley being named the Chief Minister's Volunteer of the Year, and Sabina Wakerman, the Chief Minister's Emergency Services Volunteer of the Year. They join winners from Purple House, Jurnkkurakurr Volunteers and Alice Springs Baseball.

Media enquiries and interviews

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2021 WINNERS

Northern Territory Volunteer of the Year Award 2021 (overall winners)

- Dianne Tynan, Bushfires NT
- Nepalese Association of the Northern Territory

Top End

Chief Minister's Volunteer of the Year Award
Dan Tellam, RSL Darwin Sub-branch, Billeroy House

Chief Minister's Youth Volunteer of the Year Award
Leroy Gazey, NTES, Katherine Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, Australian Airforce Cadets (AAFC)

Chief Minister's Emergency Services Volunteer of the Year Award
Dianne Tynan, Bushfires NT

StudyNT International Student Volunteer of the Year Award
Zitan (Sunny) Liu, StudyNT, Office of Youth Affairs, Kindness Shake, Multicultural Council of NT

Community Volunteer Organisation/Team of the Year Award
Nepalese Association of the Northern Territory

INPEX Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering Award
Dianne Tynan, Bushfires NT
Garry Casey, NTFS, NTES

Excellence in Volunteer Management Award
Sarah Moses, Darwin Community Legal Service

Central Australia

Chief Minister's Volunteer of the Year Award
Erica Stanley, Australian Red Cross

Chief Minister's Youth Volunteer of the Year Award
Evie Rose, Purple House

Chief Minister's Emergency Services Volunteer of the Year Award
Sabina Wakerman, Australian Red Cross

Alice Springs Town Council Community Volunteer Organisation/Team of the Year Award
Jurnkkurakurr Volunteers

INPEX Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering Award
Brian Vidler, Alice Springs Baseball, Baseball NT

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