

2024 NORTHERN TERRITORY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Central Australia

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Alice Springs

7 October 2024



Volunteering NT acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we live and work. We recognise the importance of their connection to place and community on these lands and pay our respects to Elders, past and present.





A message from the NT Administrator

It is a great pleasure to take part in the Northern Territory Volunteer of the Year Awards and I am proud to be Patron of Volunteering NT.

What would the world – and the Northern Territory – be without volunteers?

It would be a place with less kindness, more self-centred and a lot less would get done! Today more than ever, we need the spirit of volunteers: those who act in service for good causes, for organisations that are doing crucial work to make the world a better place and for other community members.

This program profiles some very special volunteers and teams who are the finalists for this year's awards. There is also a list of the names of all the nominees for the awards and those who are receiving certificates of appreciation for volunteering activity and commitment. I think all of you are amazing.

I thank you on behalf of the Northern Territory for your wonderful contributions to our community. I also commend the organisers and judges of the awards for such a significant achievement, to be able to honour some tremendous individuals and organisations, as well as celebrate volunteering itself.

**His Honour Professor the Honourable
Hugh Heggie AO PSM
Administrator of the Northern Territory**



A message from the Chief Minister

Volunteers make a phenomenal contribution to our community.

Our Government is proud to work alongside Volunteering NT to both support and strengthen our volunteer sector.

Volunteering is broad and impactful, and can include volunteering on a committee to washing your child's team uniforms each weekend. The Territory is better because of the countless hours given by selfless individuals who continue to put others above themselves.

Tonight is an opportunity to recognise exemplary Territorians who have made an outstanding contribution to our community. We also thank them for their tireless efforts, some who have dedicated decades of their life to different causes for no personal gain.

We know many events and organisations would not exist without countless individuals coming together in their own time. We also know volunteering is a way to connect with others, find a sense of belonging in our communities and develop and use new and existing skills.

Volunteering has a wide impact on the physical, social and mental wellbeing of our communities.

I congratulate all finalists and winners tonight and thank you for making the Territory a better place.

The Hon Lia Finocchiaro

Chief Minister

Minister for Police

Minister for Fire and Emergency Service

Minister for Defence

Minister for Territory Coordinator



About the awards

The Northern Territory Volunteer of the Year Awards recognise the outstanding contribution of the many Northern Territory volunteers, volunteer involving organisations, corporate volunteering programs and volunteer managers at work in our community.

Volunteering is time willingly given for the common good and without financial gain. These prestigious Awards promote the important contribution of volunteering to the social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being of the Northern Territory, paying tribute to those who inspire and promote the spirit of volunteerism through exemplary endeavours.

The Awards, established in 2014, are an initiative of Volunteering NT, supported by the Northern Territory Government. Nominations are assessed by an independent Judging Panel chaired by Volunteering NT.

Share your pictures using #NTVolunteerAwards.

Program

Monday 7th October 2024

Double Tree Hilton

Barratt Drive

Alice Springs

5:30pm Guest arrive, canapes and drinks

6:00pm Formalities commence

7:30pm Formalities conclude

Awards

- Certificates of Appreciation
- NTSESVA Youth Emergency Services Volunteer of the Year
- Excellence in Volunteer Management
- INPEX Emergency Services Volunteer of the Year
- Chief Minister's Community Volunteer Organisation/Team of the Year Award
- Chief Minister's Youth Volunteer of the Year Award
- Chief Minister's Volunteer of the Year Award

NTSEVA Emergency Services Youth Volunteer of the Year Award



Presented in celebration of an individual aged 14–27 years who has made an outstanding voluntary commitment through an Emergency Service and who through their volunteering has positively impacted on the lives of others.

Finalists

Caleb Woolford

Caleb joined St John as a cadet about six years ago, bringing with him immense enthusiasm. Since then, he has completed his leadership training and actively mentors younger members, assisting with their training. Our junior cadets admire Caleb and frequently seek his guidance. He approaches every situation with maturity and is not hesitant to ask for help when needed. Being calm and friendly, Caleb excels in patient care and embodies the spirit of teamwork.

Leah Driver

Leah started as a Junior with St John Ambulance 9 years ago. Leah's enthusiasm and willingness to learn has been exceptional. Leah has had the most event hours for cadets in Alice Springs for the past 2 years, and has also been awarded this in previous years. Leah completed leadership training and is now a cadet sergeant. Leah is also a volunteer at Speedway and Finke. Her commitment goes above and beyond in whatever she does.

Excellence in Volunteer Management Award



Presented in acknowledgment of a salaried or non-salaried individual, group or volunteer management program that has demonstrated good practice in the management of volunteers and the delivery of volunteer programs by those volunteers.

Finalists

Bridget Shelton

Bridget joined the Red Cross as a volunteer in 2022. Her greatest achievements include managing over 140 volunteers across Central Australia, Darwin, and Katherine, and playing a key role in volunteer recruitment and capacity building. Bridget's role in stakeholder coordination, volunteer recruitment, capacity building, and mobilisation has been crucial, especially during high-stakes situations in the Northern Territory.

Bridget actively supported the Incident Management Team during multiple emergency activations and post-Cyclone Outreach, as well as assisting in the creation of the Sentiment report submitted to Government.

Katie Thompson

Katie Thompson has shown unwavering commitment and dedication to the West Macs Monster event over several years, wearing multiple hats as a volunteer, participant, and volunteer coordinator on the committee.

She coordinates around 100 volunteers each year for this multi-day race in Central Australia, overseeing logistics, manages aid stations, assigns trail sweepers, and ensures the safety and success of hundreds of runners, crew members, and spectators. Katie also provides safety training for volunteers and her energy, reliability, and heartfelt dedication make her an indispensable part of the West Macs Monster and a vital member of the community she serves.

Renecia Maneveldt

Renecia manages the library volunteers in the Read Write Chat and Books on Wheels programs. During Renecia's time working with the volunteers, the programs have tripled in numbers of volunteers. This has allowed more participants throughout the community, many from diverse backgrounds, to have their lives improved.

INPEX Emergency Services Volunteer of the Year Award



Presented in recognition of exceptional volunteer achievement, which may include considerable contributions over an extended period of time within Emergency Services.

Finalists

John Wright

John has been a very active and valued member of the NTES Tennant Creek Volunteer Unit since 2013 where he currently is the appointed Unit Officer. In this role, John ensures that the Volunteer unit's operational readiness and resources are maintained. He manages a small but very enthusiastic volunteer base and as John often puts in the extra hours undertaking this role, this has meant that the unit's main capabilities have been maintained for community effectiveness to a high standard. John is also an active member of the Tennant Creek Local Emergency Committee.

Kathryn Cooper

Kathryn has been a volunteer with St John Ambulance for almost 10 years. Her contribution has been invaluable. During COVID Kathryn gave just over 199 voluntary hours to ambulance crew with the decontamination of ambulances and assisting crews where needed. Kathryn puts in a substantial amount of volunteer hours each year and assists regularly at a number of events in town. Kathryn will always do what she can to help her community.

Katherine Lyons-Dawson

Kate joined the Australian Red Cross as an Emergency Services volunteer in 2022 and has since excelled in leading teams to create safe and supportive environments for individuals and families displaced by emergencies. Her ability to manage complex situations and lead by example has had a profound impact on both her colleagues and the communities she serves. As an evacuation centre Manager, Kate has been instrumental in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency response operations.

Chief Minister's Community Volunteer Organisation/ Team of the Year Award



Presented in celebration of a volunteer involving community organisation that provides innovative leadership, and through good practice in volunteering brings about positive and enduring change to their community.

Finalists

The Alice Springs Volunteer Bushfire Brigades

The Alice Springs Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (ASVBB) work with landowners and the wider community to protect lives, property and the environment from the threat of wildfire in and around our end of the Northern Territory (NT). The brigade also participates in many Central Australian events including the provision of fire support and volunteer services to many of our local events.

West Macs Monster Event

The West Macs Monster volunteers are a cast of hundreds of ordinary people who donate hours, sometimes days and weeks of their time to the organisation and running of this iconic trail running event. The event has been running for 6 years, gaining in popularity and numbers each year.

Women's Museum of Australia

Our Volunteer team at WMoA have shown long-term dedication to serving the community. Our Volunteer team play a crucial role in preserving and showcasing the place of women in Australia's history. This has led to a tangible increase in the documentation and recognition of women's achievements, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of women's roles in society. They help with different initiatives aimed at preserving and promoting both the WMoA and Old Gaol and have been instrumental in gaining the Museum in 2019 the title of National Museum of Significance by the National Library of Australia.

Chief Minister's Youth Volunteer of the Year Award



Presented in celebration of an individual aged 14–27 years who has made an outstanding voluntary commitment and who through their volunteering has positively impacted on the lives of others.

Finalists

Maggie Johnson

Maggie has made a remarkable impact as a volunteer at Rovers Football Club. She coaches the female under-17 team, plays for the senior women's side, and serves as a general committee member. Maggie holds a pivotal role as a general committee member of Rovers Football Club and spearheads initiatives as the lead of the Rovers Football Club Social Committee. Maggie drives initiatives that enhance both the sporting and social aspects of the club. Her efforts have boosted team performance and strengthened the club's community atmosphere, making her a respected and well-liked figure.

Chief Minister's Volunteer of the Year Award



Presented in celebration of an individual who has made an outstanding voluntary commitment and who through their volunteering has positively impacted on the lives of others.

Finalists

Januma (Mona) Ulak

Over the past 15 years in Alice Springs, Mona has volunteered in various roles as the Chairperson of Multicultural Community Services Central Australia since 2021 and helped shape the migrant settlement policy. She also served as a Multicultural Community Representative on the Ministerial Advisory Council for Multicultural Affairs (2019-2022). Mona has chaired BDOIH for the past 3 years, overseeing its growth as a major cultural event with over 2,000 attendees annually.

Since 2015, Mona has been the founder and Chairperson of Nepalese Community Alice Springs NCAS, a community hub with over 1,000 members, organising cultural and community events. Her contributions are leaving a lasting mark on Central Australia's multicultural landscape.

Jennifer Hamilton

Jen has been a volunteer Deputy Captain with the Alice Springs Volunteer Bushfire Brigade for the past 4 years, a Fundraiser for Legacy Australia since 2014, a Board Member at the Central Australian Women's Legal Service (Human Rights), a Foster Parent with Foster and Kinship Carers Association NT, and an Ambassador with White Ribbon Australia since 2012. Her most valuable contributions include fostering strong relationships with landholders, Traditional Custodians, and conservation stakeholders like Flora and Fauna, and Parks. Known for her leadership and mentorship. Jen's former Captain described her as an "incredible leader" who genuinely loves helping others and is a significant asset to the Alice Springs community.

Norelle Clark

Norelle has shown a long-standing commitment and leadership across various organisations: 15 years with Girl Guides Australia fostering youth development, 7 years with the Australian Red Cross running community and hospital programs, 3 years as Junior Coach and Team Manager for Northern Territory Tenpin Bowling, and 2 years with the American Red Cross supporting school programs and disaster relief. Since returning to Alice Springs in 2022, her most notable achievement is introducing Pickleball to the community, investing \$2,000 of her own funds and over 20 volunteer hours per week to establish and grow the sport, making her the face of Pickleball in the region.

Certificate of Appreciation

In recognition of their volunteering activity and commitment over the last year.

Tanya Rose Constantino	Australian Red Cross
Tristan Webster	Bushfires NT
Justin Hankinson	Bushfires NT
Martha Bevan	Alice Springs Public Library / Read Write Chat
Russell North	Alice Springs Public Library/ Books on Wheels
Jennie Mears	Alice Springs Public Library
Jim Sgarbossa	Alice Springs Town Council
Manish Kansakar	Nepalese Community Alice Springs
Peter Crook	NT Emergency Service

Award Nominees

A heartfelt congratulations to all individuals and organisations nominated for this year's awards, your invaluable contributions make a real difference to the NT community.

NTSESVA Youth Emergency Service Volunteer of the Year

Caleb Woolford - St John Ambulance Cadet
Leah Driver - St John Ambulance Cadet

Excellence in Volunteer Management

Bridget Shelton - Australian Red Cross
Garth Thompson - West Macs Monster Committee
Katie Thompson - West Macs Monster Event
Renecia Maneveldt - Alice Springs Public Library

Award Nominees - continued

A heartfelt congratulations to all individuals and organisations nominated for this year's awards, your invaluable contributions make a real difference to the NT community.

INPEX Emergency Service Volunteer of the Year

John Wright - NT Emergency Service

Kate Lyons-Dawson - Australian Red Cross

Kathryn Cooper - St John Ambulance Volunteers

Chief Ministers Community Organisation/Team

Alice Springs Volunteer Bushfire Brigade

West Macs Monster Event

Women's Museum of Australia

Chief Ministers Youth Volunteer of the Year

Maggie Johnson - Rovers Football Club

Chief Minister's Volunteer of the Year

Amelia Allan - Australian Red Cross

Angelique Glasson

Catherine Driver - St John Ambulance Cadets

Jamuna Ulak - Multicultural Community Service of Central Australia

Jennie Mears - Alice Springs Public Library

Jennifer Hamilton - Legacy Club of the Northern Territory

Katie Thompson - West Macs Monster Event

Lester Hamilton - The Alice Springs Henley on Todd

Norelle Clark - Pickleball

Reg Hatch - Alice Springs Cycling Club



The **2024 NT Volunteer of the Year Awards** are presented by



Volunteering SA&NT is a not for profit organisation and the peak body for volunteering in South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Learn more at vsant.org.au

Proudly supported by the



The Northern Territory Government supports the volunteer sector through volunteer recognition, policy advice and a cooperative partnership with the volunteer sector.

Learn more at nt.gov.au/community/grants-and-volunteers/volunteering

Thank you to our award sponsors



INPEX is committed to contributing to the sustainability of the communities in which it operates by providing members of the community with opportunities to come together, connect and collaborate.



The NT SES Volunteers Association works closely with NT Emergency Service to provide the best support and opportunities for volunteers through out the NT.

Thank you to our event sponsors

Thank you to our event partners

