MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 5 December 2011

NSW HONOURS OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

A volunteer from the tiny town of Balladoran, 15km south of Gilgandra in the state’s west, has been named the NSW Volunteer of Year for 2011, Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello MP announced today.

Minister Dominello, who is the Minister responsible for Volunteering, presented the award to Ralph Naden on International Volunteer Day (5 December) at NSW Parliament House.

“I am delighted to celebrate the outstanding contribution of volunteers like Ralph Naden, who has worked tirelessly to help young Aboriginal people connect with their cultural identity and find a positive path in life,” Mr Dominello said.

“Ralph has invested countless hours and his own money into creating a successful ‘camp’ for Aboriginal youth at Balladoran, and has gone out of his way to work with schools and mentor troubled youth in the region.”

The 2011 Award winners are:

- Youth Volunteer of the Year: Loki Ball of Broadway
- Senior Volunteer of the Year: Margaret Hardy of Saratoga
- Volunteer Team of the Year: Samaritans Friendship House of Broadmeadow
- Corporate Volunteer of the Year: Richard High of St Ives Chase (One - Path ANZ Wealth)
- Not-for-profit Excellence in Volunteer Management: Bathurst Information & Neighbourhood Centre
- NSW Volunteer of the Year: Ralph Naden of Balladoran

Highly commended awards were also presented to:

- Highly Commended Youth Volunteer of the Year: Mohit Tolani
- Highly Senior Volunteer of the Year: Margaret Jones

“The annual NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards, run by the Centre for Volunteering, are an integral vehicle to recognise the thousands of people who volunteer each year and to promote the value and importance of volunteering to our community,” Mr Dominello said.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government provided $27,000 for the 2011 Awards, which included a one-off boost of $12,000 for a special award for Excellence in Volunteer Management to mark the 10th anniversary of United Nation's International Year of the Volunteer.

“On behalf of the NSW Government I sincerely thank and congratulate all the award winners and nominees for their outstanding and generous efforts.
The Hon Victor Dominello MP
Minister for Citizenship and Communities
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

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“Our community is richer – socially and economically – because of them,” Mr Dominello said.

For more information on the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards, please visit the website at www.nswvolunteerawards.com.

For more information on volunteering and how to get involved, please visit the NSW Centre for Volunteering website at www.volunteering.com.au.

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