Media Release

Thursday, 15 October 2015

Janette Savage of Orange wins 2015 Volunteer of the Year

Janette Savage of Orange received the State’s top volunteering award when she was named 2015 Central West Volunteer of the Year at a special ceremony at Bathurst RSL today.

A volunteer with Cancer Care Western NSW, Janette was joined on the winner’s podium by Liam Bosma of Forbes, Peter Endacott of Mudgee and the Camp Quality Central West volunteers, who also won awards in their category.

Chief Executive Officer of The Centre for Volunteering Gemma Rygate, who runs the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards - said volunteers improve people’s lives by helping out, keeping people connected and creating a sense of belonging.

“New research on volunteering in Australia shows that people give more than 743 million hours of their time each year – they’re the backbone of our community,” Ms Rygate said.

“This year The Centre for Volunteering received more than 500 nominations covering almost 7,000 volunteers – including teams - which shows how much communities value volunteers.”

Ms Rygate said Janette Savage won the Central West 2015 Volunteer of the Year Award for her tireless efforts to raise awareness and funds to meet the needs of regional people with cancer.

“Janette almost single-handedly raised $5 million to build Western Care Lodge in Orange, which accommodates cancer patients who travel to Orange for treatment,” Ms Rygate said.

“It is also thanks to Janette’s lobbying that cancer patients can now receive radio therapy and chemotherapy at Orange Base Hospital rather than travel to Sydney, which lifts a huge burden.”

The Winners of the 2015 Central West Volunteer of the Year Awards are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall Winner Volunteer of the Year</td>
<td>Janette Savage of Orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cancer Care Western NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Volunteer of the Year (24 years and under)</td>
<td>Liam Bosma of Forbes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Forbes Shire Council and Forbes Youth and Community Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Volunteer of the Year (25 – 64 years)</td>
<td>Peter Endacott of Mudgee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mudgee District Junior Cricket Association, Cricket NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Volunteer of the Year (65+ years)</td>
<td>Janette Savage of Orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cancer Care Western NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Team of the Year</td>
<td>Camp Quality Central West Volunteers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ClubsNSW CEO Anthony Ball said the industry was proud to sponsor the Awards Program in order to help recognise volunteers across the state.

“With almost 50,000 volunteers engaged in our industry, clubs across NSW know how vital and valuable volunteers are to their activities and operations,” he said.

“We appreciate the inspirational role volunteers play in our communities to help others.

“These Awards are an opportunity to put a spotlight on our volunteers and say thank you.”

NSW Minister for Multiculturalism Mr John Ajaka, who is responsible for volunteering, said the awards were an opportunity to uncover and celebrate the great achievements of volunteers across NSW.

“The NSW Government is proud to sponsor these awards because we understand the profound social and economic value of volunteering. Volunteers are remarkable people who deserve our recognition,” Mr Ajaka said.

Twenty regional Volunteer of the Year Awards ceremonies are being held around the state.

All regional winners will be in the running for the overall NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards, which are announced at a gala event in Sydney on Friday 4 December 2015 to coincide with International Volunteer Day.

The Volunteer of the Year Awards are generously supported by principal partners the NSW Department of Family and Community Services, and ClubsNSW, the industry body which represents the state’s 1400 not-for-profit clubs, as well as Bupa Aged Care.

For information visit www.volunteering.com.au

Media inquiries: Kylie Yates 0418 607 575

BACKGROUND

The NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards is an annual program run by The Centre for Volunteering – the State’s peak body for volunteering - to recognise the outstanding work of volunteers in every region across NSW. Twenty one award ceremonies are held across NSW in September and October where nominees are recognised with certificates and winners announced.

Regional winners will be entered into the overall State 2015 Volunteer of the Year

For more information about more about the 2015 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards and last year’s winners, go to www.volunteering.com.au