

Media Release:

7.4.08

Environment the Winner for this Young Achiever

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts (NRETA) Water Conservation Officer Michelle Walker will be heading home to Alice Springs with the 2008 Northern Territory Young Achiever Environment Award tucked under her arm.

Ms Walker who received the award at the 2008 Young Achiever Awards in Darwin on Saturday 5 April said she was honoured to be amongst such an inspirational group of young people.

“The Awards make you realise there are a lot of young people out there doing great things and it is refreshing to see young people being recognised for their positive achievements,” Ms Walker said.

“Winning the Award is also a great indicator that the environment and in particular water conservation is becoming a key issue in the Northern Territory.

“Water is a precious resource and the Territorians are at a great advantage to make decisions now to develop good water saving habits for the future.”

Ms Walker has been instrumental in implementing the *GreenPlumbers*® training initiative in Central Australia, along with her collaborative project to develop a water education school program in remote communities.

“*GreenPlumbers*® has now trained 24 plumbers in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek in the latest technology for water and energy saving; and *GreenPlumbers*® can offer plumbing rebates for installing greywater diversion devices and plumbing-in rainwater tanks,” Ms Walker said.

“The water education schools program is focussed on the students understanding of where water comes from, how it comes into their home as well as important ways to save water.”

Ms Walker has also been involved in volunteer work throughout her career and this week will see her hosting a new ‘youth hour’ program on local Alice Springs community radio station 8CCC.

“The youth focussed program will feature interviews to showcase the excellent work young people are doing around Central Australia and nationally, including those working with the environment,” Ms Walker said.

Along with the handcrafted glass trophy Ms Walker also received a \$2,000 Build-Up Saver Account from TIO which she plans to put away for future travel plans.

“One of my long-term goals is to work in an underdeveloped Asian country and help people living in poverty to improve their lives in ways that work in harmony with the environment,” Ms Walker said.

“My aim in Central Australia is to encourage water education in schools and continue to convey to all community members why we need to conserve water and how it can be done.”

Also nominated for the Young Achiever Environment Award was fellow NRETA staff member Renate Johnny from the Alice Springs Desert Park.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Michelle Walker on 0418 876 331

Issued: 2.45pm Monday, 7 April 2008