

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

New South Wales

Mr Marcus Gilbert BAKER, Lilli Pilli NSW 2229

Mr Baker has served the community and the NSW Fire Brigades with distinction for over 20 years, reaching the rank of Chief Superintendent, and is the current Area Commander Metropolitan East. His progress through the NSW Fire Brigades has seen him serve in a wide range of operational areas, including the specialised function of human resource management for uniformed staff. He is now recognised by his peers, as well as leaders in other emergency services, for his professionalism and commitment to firefighter welfare initiatives. Mr Baker has demonstrated exemplary leadership and commitment to the people in metropolitan Sydney. His professional approach has contributed significantly to the level of fire protection currently provided. Mr Baker is widely respected within and outside the NSW Fire Brigades for his distinguished service.

Mr Angelo John BALDO, 28 Harrisons Lane, Glenorie NSW 2157

Mr Baldo joined the Glenorie Rural Fire Brigade as a volunteer firefighter in 1978. He was quickly recognised as someone heavily involved with the Brigade, its training, operations and many out-of-area commitments and was elected Captain of the Brigade in 1993. Mr Baldo's career as a salaried staff member began when he was appointed as the Deputy Fire Control Officer and later as the Fire Control Officer at Campbelltown. Among many significant career achievements was when he led in the successful development of the Mutual Aid Agreement between the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) and the NSW Fire Brigades in the Campbelltown area. He was also appointed as the Olympics Operations Commander for the RFS and was responsible for leading a team in the provision of fire protection to spectators and participants at the Olympic venues and surrounding areas. He then went on to take up the position of Chief Superintendent Operational Communications at the Headquarters in November 2001 and in 2002 he was appointed as Fire Control Officer at Hornsby. Mr Baldo was a key member of the Executive of the Rural Fire Employees' Association which was established during the District staff employment project in 2000. As such, he represented the industrial interests of District staff during negotiations with the RFS focusing on working conditions and entitlements. Mr Baldo's dedication, passion and distinguished leadership over many years as both a volunteer and staff member make him a most valuable member of the RFS. He has served the community of New South Wales with distinction.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Colin Edward DOWLING, Cooreena Road, Dubbo NSW 2830

Mr Dowling joined the Bunglegumbie Brigade in 1963 and was elected Captain in the same year. His leadership and the esteem with which he is held by his peers are demonstrated by having been elected to being either Captain, Senior Deputy Captain, Deputy Captain, Secretary, President or Vice-President every year since. He is currently the Vice-President, Deputy Captain and Training Officer of the Burrabadine Rural Fire Brigade, which was amalgamated with the Bunglegumbie Rural Fire Brigade in 1985. Mr Dowling was President during the planning and fundraising years prior to the opening of the Burrabadine Fire Station and was a major contributor. He was also responsible for fundraising activities to assist the family of Brigade members whose son was diagnosed with leukaemia. It was also as a result of his initiative that led to the formation of a Junior Brigade at Burrabadine, the first such brigade established in the Dubbo area. Following the tragic fires of 1984 he became involved as a trainer at the Dubbo Fire Control Centre, a role he approached with enthusiasm. He used his creativity in his training, continually developing better ways of demonstrating the topics he was introducing. Mr Dowling continues to be an active member of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) and his selfless devotion to duty, quiet contribution and dedication shown throughout his distinguished years has made him a valuable of the RFS and of the community.

Mr Gregory John GREEN, 189 Great Southern Road, Bargo NSW 2574

Mr Green joined the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) in 1977 and has served in a majority of positions within the Bargo Rural Fire Brigade. He is currently the Brigade Captain, a position he has held since 1992. Mr Green was a Founding Member of the Wollondilly Remote Area Fire Team whose many goal-setting abilities include a 1.2 kilometre hand-tool trail constructed by members in just one day during a fire outbreak. He is committed to furthering the knowledge of community members concerning fire safety, having recently attended the local nursing home to advise residents on this issue. He is also dedicated to mentoring younger members and supporting their development through his involvement in District training. Mr Green has given outstanding service and leadership to the Wollondilly district and to the RFS.

Mr Robert John HAWKINS, 148 Alagalah Street, Narromine NSW 2821

Mr Hawkins has served the community of New South Wales, particularly the community of Narromine, and the NSW Fire Brigades with distinction for over 40 years, culminating in his current appointment as Captain. Throughout his firefighting career, Mr Hawkins has clearly demonstrated exemplary leadership and a proactive commitment to fire safety and community involvement. He has been directly responsible for influencing improvements to fire service delivery in Narromine by embracing, facilitating and leading complementary and coordinated multi-agency emergency management principles. Mr Hawkins' service has seen him serve and achieve a standard of proficiency second to none. He is widely respected both within and outside the NSW Fire Brigades and his distinguished service has been of the highest order.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Lance Edward HOWLEY, 'Woodmount', Kyalite NSW 2734

Mr Howley joined the Weimby Rural Fire Brigade in the Balranald Shire in 1967. In 1975 he was elected Deputy Captain, a position he held for 14 years. Such were his leadership qualities that in 1989 he was elected Group Captain for the Group of Balranald Brigades, a position he still actively holds. Mr Howley has also been actively involved as an invaluable member of the Lower Western Zone Senior Management Team, the Service Level Agreement Committee and the Bush Fire Management Committee since their inception. He consults widely with his Brigade members and holds their safety and welfare as being paramount at all times. During his distinguished service as Group Captain, Mr Howley has continued to provide excellent leadership to the Balranald Brigades and continually strived to ensure better conditions and equipment for his members. Mr Howley has served the NSW Rural Fire Service and the communities of western New South Wales with distinction for many years, and he is held in very high regard.

Mr Richard James PARISH, Bringelly NSW 2556

Mr Parish joined the Bringelly Rural Fire Brigade in 1981. He was appointed Deputy Captain and Training Officer of the Brigade in 1991. In 1993 he transferred to the Luddenham Brigade as Training Officer, and he trained that brigade to be one of the first "village" brigades in the outer metropolitan area. He returned to the Bringelly Brigade in 1997 as Brigade Captain, a position in which he continues to serve. In 2004 Mr Parish suggested the building of a 'Firewise' trailer and, with his continued support and assistance, a trailer and other equipment were either manufactured or purchased. He and his dedicated support crew now travel to other zones within New South Wales educating the public on fire awareness. In 2007 Mr Parish coordinated the first community-based 10 weeks' Rural Fire Brigade Cadet Course conducted in the zone. As Captain of the Brigade he also provided assistance in the conduct of the inaugural National Cadet Championships held in Penrith in 2007. Mr Parish's distinguished service to the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) over a lengthy period has been significant. He has served the RFS and his local community with distinction.

Mr Steven Jon PEARCE, 23 Chippendale Place, Helensburgh NSW 2508

Mr Pearce was appointed to the NSW Fire Brigades in 1985 and has provided distinguished service to the community and the NSW Fire Brigades. He currently holds the rank of Chief Superintendent and is the Assistant Director of Community Risk. Mr Pearce's service through the NSW Fire Brigades has seen him serve and achieve a high standard of proficiency. Under his outstanding leadership, his team has made many advances to the NSW Fire Brigades' community information landscape that will not only contribute to the advancement of the NSW Fire Brigades but should also contribute greatly to the safety of the NSW wider community. Mr Pearce is widely respected both within and outside the NSW Fire Brigades and his distinguished service to the community of NSW has been exceptional.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Neville David ROBERTS, 'Ilgar', Narromine NSW 2821

Mr Roberts has been a member of the Euromedah Rural Fire Brigade for about 40 years and served as the Brigade's Captain for 7 years. He was appointed Group Captain in 1995 and has been a very active in this role ever since. Mr Roberts was elected as a volunteer representative on the Narromine Liaison Committee of the Narromine Council from its inception, and has also represented the volunteers on the Orana Bush Fire Management Committee and, previously, on the Narromine Bush Fire Management Committee. He has been a strong voice for the volunteers of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) within the Narromine Shire. When appointed Group Captain, Mr Roberts perceived the need for the brigades of the Narromine Rural Fire District to modernise their equipment, training, firefighting, communications, hazard reduction and volunteer input, and drove all parties to achieve this aim. Mr Roberts is also a leader within the Narromine community. He seeks no personal credit or accolades and merely seeks what is best for the community. The RFS owes much to Mr Roberts for his passionate, dedicated service and for his strong and fair leadership.

Mr Ian Alexander SMITH, Yerrinbool NSW 2575

Mr Smith joined the Yerrinbool Brigade in 1965 and achieved the position of Senior Deputy Captain. In 1992 he was appointed Group Captain, a position he is still active in today. During his distinguished service with NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) he held the position of President and Vice-President of the Yerrinbool Brigade for 15 years. He is a Life Member of the Brigade and is a trainer for the Wingecarribee District. He was an active leader in the development of training within the District and he was also an inaugural member of the Wingecarribee Remote Area Fire Fighting Team. He has attended out-of-area incidents including the Grafton fires in 1994, Baulkham Hills bushfire in 2002 and the Canberra bushfires in 2003. He has been a Divisional Commander during major incidents in the Wingecarribee District including the South Beloon, Burke River, Joadja, Nattai and Willow Vale bushfires. Mr Smith has been tireless in his dedication to the RFS and he continues to give an outstanding commitment to the RFS, to his fellow volunteers and to the community of New South Wales.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Victoria

Mr David Robert ALLEN, Monegetta Vic 3433

Mr Allen is an outstanding example of the dedicated and committed volunteers that are the backbone of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) within Victoria. Since joining CFA in 1974, he has displayed exceptional commitment to his colleagues and to the community as a volunteer and staff member. Mr Allen displayed outstanding leadership and commitment to duty as a Lieutenant and Deputy Group Officer during the Ash Wednesday fires, in his work in IMT Operations during the north east Victorian fires, and as Romsey Group Officer and Acting Manager of Community Safety during the Black Saturday Bushfires of 2009. Mr Allen has made many significant contributions, including his invaluable work implementing new policy and procedures around land use planning and structural fire safety such as the Wildfire Management Overlay. An active participant on many committees representing his Group and the CFA in general to promote fire safety, Mr Allen has also sought to promote a more efficient fire service to meet the challenges and opportunities brought about by the urban/rural interface. Mr Allen has been the Group Officer for the Romsey and District Fire Brigades Group since 1987.

Mr Andrew John CUSACK, Mumbannar Vic 3304

Since 1979 Mr Cusack has demonstrated outstanding enthusiasm and outstanding commitment to the Country Fire Authority within Victoria through a number of significant contributions, particularly by ensuring that the best possible systems and processes are in place so people are adequately trained and have appropriate safety systems. With 18 years' distinguished service as Group Officer for the Dartmoor Fire Brigades Group, Mr Cusack is considered the South West Victoria leader in the promotion and adoption of training. His forward-thinking approach has made a significant difference to the training and safety of members at all levels. A highly experienced firefighter, he has worked tirelessly as the Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria representative on a range of state training committees. His strong character and ability to lead by example mean that he has never flinched at challenging those at the highest level if he felt more attention was required for member training issues. Mr Cusack has always driven the need for Occupational Health and Safety and effective safety systems, and he has generously shared his extensive training knowledge and experience.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Phillip John DE LA HAYE, Hastings Vic 3915

For over 42 years Mr De La Haye has devoted considerable energy, time and expertise to benefit the Country Fire Authority (CFA) within Victoria at brigade, group and region level. A respected Captain of the Hastings Fire Brigade for over 12 years, his leadership, organisation and communications skills were exemplary. Mr De La Haye is passionate about CFA members and their welfare, and is considered an extremely valuable resource in the area of Strike Team coordination. He would routinely allocate his annual and long service leave during long campaign fires in order to speak with every Strike Team or Relief Crew on its departure and return; then he would often drive individual firefighters to their homes to ensure that they arrived safely. His exceptional sense of duty as Group Communications Officer since 1993 has seen Mr De La Haye manning the Group Radio Base Station (together with his wife), thus providing ever-present vital radio communications for the Brigades. Members turning out to incidents know they that can rely upon him to take calls and to provide knowledge assistance and logistical support.

Mr Roger Eric EDWARDS, 23 Cadden Street, Cavendish Vic 3314

Throughout his long career with the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Mr Edwards has established himself as a skilled and respected forest firefighter with a deep understanding of the bush, land management and the need for proper fire management. He has repeatedly demonstrated superior fire suppression leadership skills, both in knowing exactly how to attack and suppress a going wildfire and in being able to lead and galvanise multi-agency teams of firefighters to produce the best possible community outcomes. He has a deep knowledge and understanding of the important skills that forest firefighters 'need to know'. Based on his exceptional knowledge, he has been a leader developing long-standing and tried and true training and accreditation packages so that new firefighting recruits can also gain similar knowledge and skills. Mr Edwards is also a very skilled fire trainer who is able to relate to firefighting recruits easily. He has a rare ability to be able to demonstrate and convey the practical skills that recruits must gain and be able to draw upon under the stressful conditions of a forest fire or an equally difficult situation.

Mr Stephen Patrick O'MALLEY, Eltham Vic 3095

Mr O'Malley has provided distinguished service, leadership and dedication to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) for over 19 years, particularly in the area fire safety and awareness within the multicultural community, and he is the current Multicultural Liaison Officer within the MFB's Central Zone. A determined and dedicated approach to ensuring the ongoing safety and protection of the multicultural community has been maintained by Mr O'Malley through the development and delivery of education, the fostering of partnerships with other agencies and community groups, and the motivation, mentoring and encouragement of firefighters to better understand the diverse community that the MFB serves and protects. Mr O'Malley has served the community of Melbourne with distinction.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Robert Matthew SMITH, Ocean Grove Vic 3226

For over 45 years Mr Smith has been a dedicated, committed and outstanding member of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) within Victoria. He has provided outstanding leadership and guidance through undertaking many roles, including that of Lieutenant/Foreman, Captain and Deputy Group Officer. Through these roles he has sought to lead by example and has keenly participated in the many and diverse elements that comprise Brigade, Group, regional and state activities, as well as representing the CFA in Municipal Fire Prevention activities and meetings. His roles in both Operations and Community Safety has meant that he has been instrumental in the saving of many lives and property during significant fire operations in Region 7, as well as other areas across Victoria and New South Wales. His genuine commitment to the very grassroots of CFA has seen him provide outstanding leadership and dedicated service to the Ocean Grove Fire Brigade, the Bellarine Group and Region 7. Mr Smith's long-standing and exceptional service to the Brigades, to the Victorian Urban Fire Brigades Association and to the CFA has been distinguished with extraordinary ability and merit.

Mr Maxwell Albert (Max) STUART, 714 Grimmes Road, Denison Vic 3858

Mr Stuart has demonstrated throughout a long career in land and fire management that he is an outstanding leader and innovator in logistics to support the fire effort. He has played a key role in evolving logistics into a service that can be successfully applied to all events but, specifically, the large-scale fire events, including the Black Saturday fires in 2009. Mr Stuart has played a leading role in the development and implementation of the Base Camp model that provides accommodation and services for up to 1,500 personnel. He has also led in the development of a contracts-based external plant system that has had major work efficiencies and significant safety improvements. Mr Stuart has earned the respect and admiration of his work colleagues and is especially recognised for his work in training and developing others. Mr Stuart is an acknowledged leader in his field and willingly shares the knowledge and experience that he has gained throughout his 32 years' career in land and fire management throughout Australia.

Mr Andrew John ZAMMIT, Coburg Vic 3058

Mr Zammit has provided outstanding service and exceptional leadership to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB), particularly in the consolidation and enhancement of emergency medical response service delivery and training and the promotion and development of a supportive framework for diversity within the MFB. Through his passionate, hard working approach to making a difference, Mr Zammit has driven change and implemented improvements to enhance the MFB's emergency medical response capability and, at the same time, encouraged and assisted other community-based organisations to improve the service that they provide. Mr Zammit has served the community of Melbourne with distinction.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Queensland

Mr Alister Donald ALEXANDER, 'Willoughby', Barcaldine Qld 4725

Mr Alexander has served the community of Queensland and the Queensland Fire Service with distinction through his participation as a volunteer member of the Ibis Rural Fire Brigade. His outstanding dedication in proactively addressing risk management fire activities and his initiatives in improving equipment and resources have added to firefighter safety as well as improving services in rural and remote areas.

Western Australia

Mr Stephen Roy FOUREUR, 81 Delgado Parade, Iluka WA 6028

Mr Foureur has been involved as an active volunteer firefighter, emergency services worker, Coordinator, Crew Leader, Treasurer and Lieutenant for over 29 years, initially in South Australia and then in Western Australia. In addition, he has had extensive experience as an 'out of area' Strike Team Leader, and has operated in key roles at major incident locations. Mr Foureur has held the rank of Coordinator with the Wanneroo State Emergency Service and has been very active as an instructor for over 20 years. He is a natural leader and he currently holds the rank of Lieutenant in the Wanneroo Bushfire Brigade. He is an enthusiastic participant of the Executive Management Committee and has actively contributed to a number of significant projects and initiatives, including writing the brigade policy and involvement in the restoration of the Thornycroft Nubian 6x6 Aircraft Fire Tanker. Mr Foureur has been very positive and successful as a mediator and has always used his skills to assist with the resolution of issues, disputes and grievances in the best possible interest of all parties concerned. Mr Foureur has provided outstanding and distinguished service to the Wanneroo Bushfire Brigade and is a most respected volunteer.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Terence Howard (Terry) JACKSON, 3 Cedar Place, Woodlands WA 6018

Mr Jackson has been a career firefighter for many years, and has played a significant role in shaping fire standards in commercial buildings in Western Australia and in improving fire preparedness and training across the community. Initially joining the (then) WA Fire Brigades in 1979 as a firefighter, he was eventually transferred to the training arena in 1997 to manage the Industrial Training section of the Fire and Rescue Service where he oversaw the fire and emergency training delivered to staff from various companies and was instrumental in introducing new training scenarios to improve the reality of the emergency training. In 2004 Mr Jackson headed a review of the fire safety preparedness of public accommodation facilities following the tragic Childers backpacker fire in Queensland. Under his outstanding leadership, this 'At Risk' program was instrumental in highlighting and improving the fire safety standards, with particular focus on the 'budget' accommodation in metropolitan and regional areas of Western Australia. With his wealth of emergency service experience, Mr Jackson also provided valuable guidance on improving the public safety at many other public facilities, including major sporting venues. Mr Jackson is currently Superintendent of the Fire and Emergency Service Authority's Built Environment Branch where he oversees the fire safety standards in all new commercial buildings across Western Australia. He is seen as a specialist structural fire safety practitioner and is highly respected within the fire protection and fire engineering community. He has served the community of Western Australia with distinction.

Mr Donald Sydney JOHNSTON, 240 Mortimer Road, Wellard WA 6170

Mr Johnston is a dedicated Community and Emergency Services Manager, Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and Life Member of the Kwinana South Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade. He is a highly respected member of the fire community in Western Australia and is always present to actively promote and support all firefighters. Mr Johnston's fire service history has been highlighted by his Captaincy of the Brigade for several years. His outstanding service was recognised when he was nominated for the Town of Kwinana Citizen of the Year Award in 1997. He was also awarded the Martin Waudby Memorial Award in 1999 for his outstanding community leadership. He was further honoured in 2000 when he was awarded a Certificate for Outstanding Service in the RAC Fire Insurance Fighter of the Year Awards.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Antonino John (Nino) MESSINA, Mullewa WA 6630

Although 67 years of age, Mr Messina remains a fully active firefighter and attends all training sessions and call-out incidents; no task is too great. He provides outstanding leadership to the local community as Shire Councillor, Shire President and Chief Fire Control Officer, and through the local fire and rescue brigade. Mr Messina is a strong community leader; always encouraging, supporting and mentoring others, particularly those in the emergency services such as local fire brigade, and, especially during the years of drought He has many achievements, and the setting up of Mullewa's Bush Fire Brigade is one of his most successful achievements. In 2001, he was presented with the Country Shire Councils Association's Distinguished Service Award and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Shire of Mullewa.

Mr Charles Carmelo MESSINA, Mullewa WA 6630

Mr Messina has been an extremely active volunteer in the Bush Fire and Fire and Rescue Services of Western Australia for over 46 years. He has protected and promoted fire safety for the community of Mullewa and has taken upon himself administrative and leadership positions. He was recognised by his peers at the Mullewa Volunteer Fire and Rescue Brigade and has been awarded life membership. Mr Messina was an inaugural Founding Member of the VFRS Mullewa Brigade and was an active member of the bushfire service in his twenties. Mr Messina has held positions in the Mullewa VFRS as Captain, Apparatus Officer and Foreman. Mr Messina has fostered and supported the community of Mullewa in the formation of both the Bush Fire and Fire and Rescue Brigades, and has been exceptionally supportive and proactive in the delivery of fire safety messages to the Mullewa community. His diligence and devotion to the community has been outstanding, and he was honoured by being named Mullewa's 'Firefighter of the Year' in 2003.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

South Australia

Mr David Thomas PEARCE, SA

Mr Pearce joined the Blackwood Brigade within the South Australian Country Fire Service (SACFS) in 1975 as a firefighter. From the time he joined the Brigade he fully embraced the concept and ideals of the SACFS and became a driving force for excellence and teamwork. He steadily progressed through the ranks of the Brigade, becoming a Senior Firefighter in 1979, a Lieutenant in 1982 and the Brigade Captain in 1985. He was then elected as Group Officer for Mitcham Hills in 1995. He represented the SACFS at National Road Crash Rescue Competitions at various interstate venues, managing and organising most of the travel arrangements and accommodation and gaining much respect for his professionalism and competency from his fellow competitors. He regularly attended and ran Brigade training nights, and attended hundreds of operational incidents. Mr Pearce commenced paid employment with the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (SAMFS) as a firefighter in 1986, rising to the rank of Senior Firefighter in 1994. He has always been a strong supporter of the SACFS and has used his skills and knowledge gained from both Services to improve the operational and administrative efficiencies of both. He has also given exceptional service to his local CFS, becoming the Sturt Deputy Group Officer 2001 and performing the roles of Operations and Support Coordinator and responding as part of the Region 1 Incident Management Team to many incidents. Because of his highly respected operational competence and experience, he is regularly used as a Strike Team Leader, Sector and Divisional Commander, and has been a valuable member of many Incident Management Teams. He currently holds the rank of State Training Officer as part of the Incident Management Taskforce and has been intimately involved in air operations during the past 3 fire seasons. Mr Pearce's willingness to strive for excellence in all that he has undertaken for the benefit of firefighting and community safety has been exceptional.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr David Arthur SCHMERL, Scott Creek SA 5153

Mr Schmerl exemplifies the personal qualities and attributes of the firefighting profession and has achieved considerable improvements to service delivery throughout the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) during his distinguished career spanning over 33 years. As a highly regarded senior fire officer, he has also taken the lead in ensuring that high standards of ethical and professional conduct are maintained at all levels of the MFS. Mr Schmerl has served the community of South Australia and the MFS with distinction. Further to his exemplary career with the MFS, he has also made an outstanding personal contribution to supporting and helping develop fire services in the South Pacific, specifically the Kingdom of Tonga Fire Service.

Mr Gerold SEPPELT, Nuriootpa SA 5355

Mr Seppelt joined the South Australian Country Fire Service (SACFS) in 1983 as a firefighter with the Burnside Brigade. He transferred to the Stirling Brigade and, in 2001, he became the Brigade's First Lieutenant. Mr Seppelt has dedicated his volunteer career to training both SACFS staff and volunteers from other organisations. He is a highly respected and devoted instructor within a number of CFS disciplines, both operational and managerial, and he regularly travels extensively to pass on his skills and knowledge to others. In recognition of his extensive volunteer training and management experience, he is regularly called upon to represent the SACFS at the highest forums. He also represented the SACFS in reviewing the FESA Western Australia Bushfire Investigation Course in 2008. Mr Seppelt is also one of the most active and experienced fire investigators in South Australia, and a major player in the development of the SACFS Bushfire Investigation Course; he was a Trainer/Assessor on both courses held in 2008. He was also instrumental in developing the new Fire Service Fire Investigator's Worksheet that is now a joint document with South Australia Police. Mr Seppelt has played a lead role in establishing high standards in these fields, and his input into these projects has been invaluable. Mr Seppelt's guiding force in a number of initiatives within the SACFS and the emergency services in general is testament to his outstanding commitment to the organisation. He has served the community of South Australia with distinction.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Tasmania

Mr Graham Ronald BENNELL, 59 Kindred Road, Forth Tas 7310

Mr Bennell joined the Tasmania Fire Service in 1974 as a volunteer firefighter with the Forth Fire Brigade. In 1985, he was elected by his peers as the Brigade Chief and he still serves with distinction in this position. Mr Bennell has also been the area's Fire Permit Officer and an active mentor of the Barrington Fire Management Area Committee. He has attended many training courses and conferences, ensuring his knowledge and his Brigade's capability are enhanced. The Forth community and the Tasmania Fire Service have benefited greatly from Mr Bennell's distinguished leadership over many years.

Mr Andrew Charles COMER, West Launceston Tas 7250

Mr Comer joined the Tasmania Fire Service as a career firefighter with the Launceston Fire Brigade in 1980 and was promoted to Station Officer 6 years later. In 1988 he transferred to Training Services where he served with distinction for several years and was instrumental in developing a modular training system for firefighters across Tasmania. He was also influential in the introduction of an Incident Management System to the Tasmania Fire Service and its partner agencies. Mr Comer was promoted to District Officer in 1995 and subsequently held positions of District Officer Tamar, Deputy Regional Chief-North and Regional Chief-North. Mr Comer has also served as the National Director, Institution of Fire Engineers, for the past 14 years; and as an elected member of the Institution's International Council in the UK.

Mr John TYRRELL, 255 Richmond Road, Cambridge Tas 7170

Mr Tyrrell joined the Tasmania Fire Service as a volunteer with the Mount Rumney Fire Brigade in 1974. In 1996 he commenced a full-time career with the Tasmania Fire Service as a career firefighter. He still remains as an active volunteer member and Fire Permit Officer with the (now) Cambridge Fire Brigade as well as career member with the Hobart Fire Brigade as a Leading Firefighter. In his volunteer capacity Mr Tyrrell has served in many positions including Brigade Chief and other executive positions. With his experience and enthusiasm Mr Tyrrell is respected as a mentor at the Cambridge Brigade and has been influential in the development of the members and of the Brigade itself. Mr Tyrrell has served his community and the Tasmania Fire Service with distinction of many years.