

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

NEW SOUTH WALES

Inspector Robert Frank ASPINALL, 169 Fragar Road, Penrith NSW 2750

Inspector Aspinall joined the NSW Fire Brigades in 1974, and has served the community of New South Wales with distinction for over 32 years. He has progressed through the ranks, culminating in his promotion to the rank of Inspector. Since his attachment to the Fire Safety Division, he has worked in the challenging field of structural fire safety in health care centres. His efforts in extending his understanding to other officers in the fire service and health industry have been particularly outstanding. Inspector Aspinall is well known and highly respected throughout the NSW Fire Brigades.

Mr Allan Edward BRETT, 34 Willandra Road, Beacon Hill, NSW 2100

Mr Brett joined the Rural Fire Service in 1971 as an active firefighter in the Warringah Headquarters Rural Fire Brigades, and has always acted in the best interest of the Service. He has served as Deputy Captain, Captain and Deputy Group Captain. He was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2001 and Rotary's 'Pride of Workmanship' award in 1998. He is also a recipient of the Commissioner's Commendation for Service for his outstanding contribution to the growth and development of the Rural Fire Service locally. Throughout his long period of distinguished service with the Rural Fire Service, Mr Brett has continually shown outstanding leadership, commitment, application and dedication to his community. In addition, he is also an Honorary Ranger with Warringah Council, has served almost 9 years as an Honorary Ambulance Bearer, was involved in the Granville rail disaster, and assisted evacuees following the Darwin cyclone disaster.

Mr Thomas Desmond FAIRFULL, 64 Beaumont Drive, Lismore NSW 2480

Mr Fairfull was appointed to the NSW Fire Brigades as a Retained Firefighter attached to the Lismore Brigade in 1959. He was appointed Captain of the Brigade in 1984 and continued to serve the community with distinction for over 46 years. While the Lismore Brigade was under his command, Mr Fairfull maintained a brigade of highly professional and competent firefighters. During his service, he represented the NSW Fire Brigades on numerous committees and was a driving force behind the upgrade of the '000' callout system in the Lismore area. Mr Fairfull is held in highest regard within the community and the NSW Fire Brigades.

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Superintendent Alan William GILLESPIE,
PO Box 270, Raymond Terrace NSW 2324

Superintendent Gillespie joined the NSW Rural Fire Service in 1997, having previously served for 7 years with the Queensland Rural Fire Service as a District Officer. During 2000 and 2001, the NSW Rural Fire service underwent significant change following a major restructure. Under his guidance, “zones” were established in the Lower Hunter, Liverpool Ranges and McArthur areas. His outstanding efforts also paved the way for the transitional arrangements of teaming in the Upper Hunter, Lake Macquarie/Wyong and Hunter areas. Superintendent Gillespie has embraced change enthusiastically and is a staunch advocate for “zoning”. Following his appointment as Zone Manager, Lower Hunter, in 2003, he has implemented many improvements and his exceptional skills as a manager and negotiator have led to significant benefits for the Service and the community, including a 60 percent increase in volunteer access to training and a substantial improvement in information flow to volunteers.

Chief Superintendent Gordon Ryrrie HILL, 20 Morrison Street, Cobar NSW 2835

Chief Superintendent Hill joined the Urbenville Rural Fire Brigade in 1972 and, until 1988, he served as Deputy Captain, Senior Deputy Captain, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as Captain of the Brigade from 1984 to 1988. As a Councillor of the Tenterfield Shire he was also Council’s representative on the Clarence Bush Fire Prevention Association from 1982 to 1988 and on the NSW/Queensland Border Liaison Committee from 1985 to 1988. In 1988 he was appointed Regional Officer, Western Region for the then Department of Bush Fire Services and was based at Cobar. In 1994 this position became the Regional Coordinator and, in 2001, he was appointed as the Regional Operations Officer following a restructure of all Regions. Chief Superintendent Hill has been an influential figure in establishing the NSW Rural Fire Service in western New South Wales. He has also been instrumental in establishing Brigades in remote areas, the implementation of structured training programs, developing prevention and mitigation programs and coordinating fire and emergency operations. Chief Superintendent Hill was also actively involved as a volunteer with the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, is currently a volunteer member of the RFS Critical Incident Support Team, and has twice been awarded the Commissioner’s Commendation. His dedication to serving the Rural Fire Service and the community of New South Wales has been outstanding.

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Chief Superintendent Michael John HURLEY,
16A Evans Street, Mittagong NSW 2575

Chief Superintendent Hurley joined the NSW Fire Brigades in 1970 and has served his community with distinction for over 36 years. During his service, he has progressed through the ranks, culminating in his promotion to the rank of Chief Superintendent and his current appointment as Deputy Regional Commander West. He has served at various operational administrative commands throughout New South Wales, including the specialist areas of Fire Investigation and Fire Safety Divisions. While attached to the Fire Safety Division, he worked in the highly complex and technical area of special projects. His efforts in the area of fire cause investigation were particularly noteworthy. Chief Superintendent Hurley is well known and highly respected throughout the NSW Fire Brigades, as well as in the private sector.

Mr William Arthur LENTHALL, 22 Belle-Vue Drive, Macksville NSW 2447

Mr Lenthall was appointed to the NSW Fire Brigades as a Retained Firefighter attached to the Macksville Brigade in 1978. Prior to his service with the NSW Fire Brigades, he spent 15 years as a firefighter with the Country Fire Authority (Victoria) attached to the Maryvale Brigade. Mr Lenthall has given 43 years of distinguished service to his community as a firefighter. Mr Lenthall commands his Brigade of 11 highly professional, competent and motivated firefighters in an outstanding manner. He has also devoted much of his time in coordinating the NSW Fire Brigades smoke alarm campaign; over 500 smoke alarms have been sold to private households within the local community, and the proceeds raised have been donated to the Macksville Hospital. Mr Lenthall is held in the highest regard within the community and the NSW Fire Brigades.

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Mr David Ian MESSENGER, PO Box 403, West Wyalong NSW 2871

Mr Messenger joined the Avoca Rural Fire Brigade in 1994 after attending the devastating bushfires in New South Wales while serving with the Royal Australian Navy. Within 6 months of his joining the Brigade he became the Brigade Training Officer, spending countless hours instructing members on all facets of firefighting. He was able to call upon his considerable naval experience, demonstrating outstanding leadership qualities, team building skills and firefighting skills. Over his period with the Avoca Brigade, Mr Messenger also served as Deputy Captain, Senior Deputy Captain, Training Officer, Vice-President and Breathing Apparatus Officer, and spent many hours in the delivery of training. In 2001 he joined the Copacabana Rural Fire Brigade and again provided outstanding dedication and commitment to the Rural Fire Service, serving as ordinary member, Deputy Captain and Senior Deputy Captain. His skills and experience were highly regarded and he was called upon regularly for advice, guidance and support. In 2003 he joined the Forbes Central Rural Fire Brigade and is currently the Training Coordinator for the Forbes District, which requires him to arrange and coordinate courses in accordance with the current training schedule. Since his appointment, training has greatly increased within the District. Mr Messenger's years of dedication and commitment to training in a number of brigades and positions within the Rural Fire Service have been truly outstanding.

Inspector William Ernest POWELL, 106 Barton Street, Monterey NSW 2217

Inspector Powell has given dedicated and distinguished service to the community of New South Wales through the NSW Fire Brigades for over 40 years, particularly as Fire Investigation and Research Officer. His operational diligence and competence on the incident ground, and his professional interaction with NSW Police and other emergency services are second to none. Inspector Powell is a well respected and highly regarded officer who has provided outstanding and distinguished service.

Superintendent William John (Bill) RODGER (Ret'd),
54 Church Road, Wilberforce NSW 2756

In early 1960, after a series of bushfires in the Wilberforce area, Superintendent Rodger collaborated with other concerned residents to establish the Wilberforce Rural Fire Brigade. From the beginning, Mr Rodger was the driving force behind the Brigade's establishment. He played an important role in the subsequent and ongoing development of the Brigade and was appointed Deputy Captain in 1964, Senior Deputy Captain in 1967, and Captain in 1969. Eight years later, he was appointed as the Fire Control Officer for the Colo Shire Council, later Hawkesbury City Council, and served in this appointment for the next 23 years before retiring from office. As the Fire Control Officer/Superintendent, he played an integral role in steering the Hawkesbury Rural Fire Brigades into a well equipped, well trained and highly effective and efficient firefighting organisation. Superintendent Rodger remains an active member/Deputy Captain of the Wilberforce Rural Fire Brigade. His dedication, leadership, commitment and promotion of the Service have been outstanding and exemplary.

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Mr Bruce Allan SMITH, 9 Luck Street, Moruya NSW 2537

Mr Smith has been a member of the Rural Fire Service for 46 years, having joined the Moruya Rural Fire Brigade in the early 1960s. He remains an active member of the Brigade and is currently the Deputy Group Officer, Central and Captain of the Moruya Rural Fire Brigade. He was particularly active during the major fires in the Eurobodalla Shire in 1968, 1972, 1988, 1994, 1997, 2001/2002 and 2002/2003. He was also a member of the Strike Team during the 2003 Canberra bushfires. Mr Smith has also been involved in the catering brigade when not actively involved in the suppression of fires. He is widely known as an exceptional officer who has the confidence of the volunteer and salaried members of the Service. His ability to manage and preserve the safety and well-being of those members under his control during fires and other emergency incidents is above reproach. Due to his ability as a front line manager and his extensive local knowledge, he was continuously tasked as a fire controller, often in highly volatile and dangerous situations where his performance was nothing less than outstanding throughout. He was responsible for and instigated the recruitment and training of junior members of the Service, many of whom have continued on to become efficient and effective active firefighters. Mr Smith's outstanding contribution to the local community and to the Rural Fire Service far exceeds that which is normally expected of a volunteer member.

Leading Firefighter Gregory Daniel WATSON,
69 Shorter Avenue, Beverly Hills NSW 2209

Leading Firefighter Watson was appointed as a permanent firefighter to the NSW Fire Brigades in 1984. He has continually served the community and the NSW Fire Brigades with distinction, and was awarded the Unit Commendation for Meritorious Service in 1997 and a Commendation for Meritorious Service in 2005. Leading Firefighter Watson transferred to the NSW Fire Brigades Rescue Section in 1995 where he has specialised in the area of operational logistics at large-scale, multi-agency emergencies. His outstanding skills, both as a rescue operator and as a logistician, are recognised throughout the NSW Fire Brigades and its sister services.

VICTORIA

Station Officer Philip John CUTHBERT, 3 Mayfair Court, Croydon Vic 3136

Station Officer Cuthbert has provided distinguished service, leadership and dedication to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and the community through his involvement in fundraising activities for a number of charities. He also serves as President of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Running Club and is totally committed to developing and maintaining firefighter fitness.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Ex Captain Kenneth William DEVERAUX, 278 High Street, Kangaroo Flat Vic 3555

Ex Captain Deveraux has served as a volunteer with the Country Fire Authority (CFA) for over 38 years. He first joined CFA in 1967 at Gnarwarre Rural Fire Brigade where he was an active firefighter. He then transferred to Kangaroo Flat Urban Fire Brigade where he provided distinguished service through his leadership of the Brigade, initially as Apparatus Officer for 12 months, as Foreman for 3 years, and then as Captain for almost 20 years until 2001. In addition Ex Captain Deveraux was the Brigade's representative on numerous working parties and committees, both operational and advisory. Since passing on his Captaincy, he has continued to remain very active as a firefighter within the Brigade as well as participating in the Regional Community Education Facilitators Group in which he provides hands on community education to various community groups throughout north central Victoria. Ex Captain Deveraux has given an outstanding and selfless contribution to the community through his work as a CFA volunteer and has been an excellent role model.

Mr William James (Bill) MILLAR, 180 Millars Road, Lake Goldsmith Vic 3373

Mr Millar has served as a volunteer with the Country Fire Authority (CFA) for almost 60 years. He has provided distinguished service through his outstanding leadership and active participation as an officer of the Lake Goldsmith Rural Fire Brigade and through his leadership of the Beaufort Fire Brigades Group as Deputy Group Officer for 10 years and Group Officer for 20 years. He is highly regarded by volunteers and career staff alike for his well-considered guidance and support on a wide range of issues. This has been amply demonstrated through his initiation and encouragement of brigades to become involved in 'Brigades in Schools', and community fire prevention and other public awareness programs. He was instrumental in introducing a training program for all firefighters in the Beaufort Group which pre-dates the current CFA 'Minimum Skills' program by many years. Mr Millar is also committed to fire brigade championships where he has been involved as a competitor, coach and track official. In addition, for more than 51 years he has also been involved in communications. He is currently the Communications Officer for the Beaufort Fire Brigades Group and operates the Lake Goldsmith sub-base radio station. He has also served as the Group Communication Officer for 6 years.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr John Patrick NIHILL, 14 Hunt Street, Ouyen Vic 3490

During his 50 years' service as a Country Fire Authority volunteer Mr Nihill has provided outstanding leadership to volunteer members of the Ouyen Rural and Urban Fire Brigades and Ouyen and District Fire Brigades Group, as well as to the senior volunteers of Fire Control Region 18 through his chairmanship of the Regional Planning Committee. His commitment to his local community through his selfless service and influential leadership has been significant to the achievement of a high level of community awareness and safety outcomes in Ouyen and the surrounding district. He was Captain of Ouyen Urban Fire Brigade between 1964 and 1994, and has served concurrently as Group Officer of the Ouyen and District Fire Brigades Group since 1980. He has also provided outstanding leadership and guidance during periods of significant change to volunteers and staff as Chairman of the Fire Control Region 18 Planning Committee ever since its inception in 1988. He has also been an influential contributor to both the Walpeup and Mildura Municipal Fire Prevention Committees which have been highly successful in engaging local communities and stakeholders in fire prevention and mitigation strategies.

Fire Officer Roderick John ROBERTS, 10 Settlers Place, Maiden Gully Vic 3551

Fire Officer Roberts has provided outstanding leadership in the development of driver training and related protocols in the Country Fire Authority (CFA) over many years. A widely respected officer with strong professional conduct and diligence, he has extensive experience in a range of leadership roles in both station and specialist environments. He has made an outstanding contribution to the CFA in these areas and is held in the highest esteem by both peers and management. Fire Officer Roberts' outstanding efforts as a leader in the introduction of new equipment and appliances has seen him at the forefront of change, and his technical ability, combined with his persuasive manner, has seen many problems overcome with a high degree of success. He is a great example of a long serving officer who has been diligent and loyal to the ideals of CFA over many years, treating volunteers and career staff alike with courtesy and respect.

Mr Bryan Douglas ROBERTSON, 55 Strathallan Road, Macleod Vic 3085

Mr Robertson has provided distinguished service and leadership, particularly in the areas of promoting the Metropolitan Fire Board and fire safety within the community through the Fire Services Museum. He has also contributed to employee welfare through his participation in the management of the Firefighters Credit Co-operative as a firefighters' representative on the Board of Management.

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QUEENSLAND

Mr John Charles CAWCUTT, 3 Campbell Crescent, Bellbowrie Qld 4070

Mr Cawcutt has provided exemplary and distinguished service to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS), in particular through his outstanding leadership and management of various operational projects that have had significant effect, not only on the QFRS but also on the Department of Emergency Services as a whole. Prime examples of his achievements include his leading the design, development and implementation of the QFRS State Incident Management Team project that is based on a demonstrated and measurable commitment to operational quality, dedication to excellence, and the provision of improved services - the project won a Minister's Award for Excellence. Mr Cawcutt also led and project managed the design, development and implementation of the QFRS Operations Doctrine. This included the extensive task of reviewing all existing operational response procedures and developing a system to ensure a consistent state-wide approach for emergency response and management. Through his outstanding personal drive and vision Mr Cawcutt is also a key driver in the establishment of the State Operations Directorate.

Area Director Daryl Stephen RUSH, PO Box 521, Warwick Qld 4370

Area Director Rush has provided outstanding dedication, commitment and expertise to advancing Road Accident Rescue techniques and theory within the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS). He has also been instrumental in advancing the science and practical aspects of road accident rescue, not only within the QFRS at local and state level but within the Department of Emergency Services in general. Area Director Rush contributes countless voluntary hours on advancing Road Accident Rescue issues and currently manages the State Road Accident Rescue Committee as the State Manager. The Committee not only coordinates the State Road Accident Rescue challenges but also assists regions in managing their own regional challenges. These challenges have proven to be an instrumental tool in educating and assessing Department personnel in the management of certain motor vehicle accidents and patient treatment. Under his leadership the challenges have taken a broader focus with Queensland Ambulance Service paramedics forming part of the rescue team; in recent times, State Emergency Service teams have also participated. Area Director Rush is also an executive member of the Australasian Road Rescue Organisation. He is regarded as an 'expert in the field' and is often called upon by other agencies for his advice and assistance.

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Mr John Grant BARKER, 87 James Street, Guildford WA 6055

Mr Barker joined the Guildford Volunteer Fire Brigade in 1952 and is still actively involved. Living close to the Brigade's Station, he has always been one of the first firefighters called upon. He still attends drills, hydrant checks and many fire alarms, and performs mopping-up duties at fire scenes. He has served as Secretary and Apparatus Officer, and regularly attended Zone Meetings and many Captain's meetings as the Guildford representative. He coached the Guildford Competition Team from 1970 to 1980, winning the B Grade Easter Championships and Central Zone Championships. He also assisted the new coaches in the years following. He has also coached the Guildford Juniors. He continues to attend State Open Championships, has judged at Zone State Open, and is still an active judge at the Easter Championships. Mr Barker is an outstanding mentor and an excellent senior member of the Brigade, passing on his considerable knowledge and skills to all volunteer firefighters.

Mr William George ROSE, 21 Sellenger Avenue, Samson WA 6163

Mr Rose has dedicated his career to improving communication and to enhancing the valuable role fire and emergency services personnel play in providing a safer community. His involvement in the development of Community Programs, such as smoke alarm installation, and his subsequent move to the Fire and Emergency Service Authority's Media and Public Affairs, has provided an avenue not only to keep the public informed during significant emergencies but also to promote the dedication and commitment provided by Western Australia's volunteer and emergency services personnel. Mr Rose possesses outstanding communication skills, and he has sought opportunities in all roles he has performed to enhance the message of gaining public engagement in fire and emergency planning. He is a committed, highly professional and dedicated individual who is focused on improving community safety and promoting the professional role that fire and emergency services play in providing a safer community.

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Mr Trevor James WIGG, 13 Helena Crescent, Thornlie WA 6108

Mr Wigg is a dedicated career firefighter who has made a significant contribution to the systems and processes used by the Western Australia Fire Service to improve its effectiveness and efficiency. His devotion to duty has enabled developments in the operational management sphere that will improve the management of fire and emergency services in Western Australia. He has demonstrated unswerving loyalty and commitment to improving operational performance. At all times he has demonstrated outstanding leadership and empathy in his various fire service roles, and has developed innovative solutions to meet challenges. Mr Wigg's work ethic is well developed and he has completed a number of activities outside his normal work scope, including emergency planning for major events such as Rally Australia. He is an excellent role model and ambassador for the Western Australia Fire Service.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Senior Firefighter Peter Howard HALL,
17 Margaret Cutten Grove, Aberfoyle Park SA 5159

Senior Firefighter Hall joined the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service as a Firefighter in 1979. He is an extremely valuable member of the Service and the standards he has set in carrying out numerous tasks and training initiatives have always been of a high order. He has been instrumental in the establishment, development and promotion of the Road Awareness and Accident Prevention Program (RAAP) which is delivered to senior high school students in both metropolitan and country schools. The RAAP Program focuses on the effects motor vehicle crashes have on those involved and the consequences to the victims, their families and the emergency personnel involved. Senior Firefighter Hall is an exemplary firefighter, always willing to pass on his broad based knowledge to others by tireless and effective training programs which he has developed. His endeavours in safety and prevention and his work with the RAAP Program underline his dedication to the Service and, in particular, the community of South Australia.

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Group Officer Andrew Alan OAKLEY, Brahma Lodge SA 5109

Group Officer Oakley has been a member of the Tea Tree Gully Country Fire Service Brigade since 1977, when he was elected Brigade Logistics Support Officer, a position he held until 1991. At the same time, he was elected Deputy Group Officer for the Para Group. During this time, he worked tirelessly through the Ash Wednesday 1981 and 1983 fires. In 1994, Group Officer Oakley was elected to his current position. Group Officer Oakley has taken part in many Strike Teams to various parts of South Australia and overseas, including Indonesia in 1997, Ngarkat in 1999 and Tulka in 2001. In addition to his service as a firefighter, Group Officer Oakley has been a member of many and various committees within Emergency Services and is currently, inter alia, the Chair of the Region 2 Management Committee, and the Chair and CFS Representative on the Region 2 Fire Prevention Committee. He was awarded the South Australian Emergency Services Medal in 2002 in recognition of his distinguished and meritorious service.

Mr Raymond Lee SQUIRES, 73 Narrung Road, Meningie SA 5264

Mr Squires began his association with the Emergency Fire Service in 1962 at the age of 15. On his 16th birthday, he officially joined the Currency Creek EFS as a firefighter. He began his 42 years' service of dedication learning to operate the radio and the concept of 'the truck'. In 1977, he was appointed Fire Control Officer for the District Council and was a member of the Goolwa CFS Brigade from its inception in 1975. In 1980, he joined the Narrung Brigade and was appointed Captain in 1992. During his time with the Narrung Brigade, Mr Squires instigated a cadet program, led a Strike Team into a large fire on the Coorong, attended many callouts and was part of the second contingent to travel to Sydney in 1994. In 1996, he moved from Narrung to Meningie where he took up the position of Brigade Training Officer. He was appointed Deputy Group Officer for the Coorong Group in 1997 and Group Officer in 2004. In 2005, when the Coorong and Coonalpyn Groups amalgamated, he took on the role of Deputy Group Officer 1 for the new Group. Mr Squires has also served on several committees for the betterment of the South Australian Country Fire Service and the local communities.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Mr Peter JOHNSON, Fannie Bay NT 0820

Mr Johnson has served with the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS) for over 15 years. Prior to this, he was a Fire Safety Officer for 13 years with the NT Government Transport and Works Department, and also served with the Aviation Firefighting and Rescue Authority between 1964 and 1977. Mr Johnson is highly respected amongst his peers within the fire service industry nationally and within the building industry locally for his fire safety work in the built environment. His advice on fire safety matters is sought by developers and builders not only within the Northern Territory but also throughout Australia. His knowledge in fire safety aspects in the built environment and his understanding of the Building Code and Australian Standards as they apply to fire safety are testament to the professional manner in which he approaches his job. He represents the NTFRS on a number of national fire safety committees and regularly participates in fire safety forums at the national level. Mr Johnson is also the NTFRS officer responsible for ensuring that fire safety requirements are complied with in the larger building projects and developments in the Northern Territory. His personal contribution of knowledge, experience and leadership in building fire safety has ensured the community will continue to benefit from his involvement for many years to come.