

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

### ***NEW SOUTH WALES***

#### **Mr Christopher John BARRON, 69 Mahonga Street, Jerilderie NSW 2716**

Mr Barron commenced employment with Jerilderie Shire Council as its Fire Control Officer in 1996. He has totally transformed the Jerilderie District Rural Fire District into a cohesive, organised, trained and equipped contributor to the local and state-wide operations of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS). He achieved this through an absolute commitment to the District's volunteers. It was this quality which set him apart from his peers. Coming from a long-term background as a volunteer firefighter, he came to the role of Fire Control Officer with credibility and an ability to engage both short-term and long-term volunteers on their own terms. Mr Barron has also been able to break down the barriers that previously existed locally between the RFS members and members of the NSW Fire Brigades, uniting the agencies into a cohesive and effective firefighting and emergency response force. His vision for training has been endless. Apart from running the standard RFS courses, he has instigated additional programs such as a weekend 4WD tanker driving course conducted in the mountainous terrain around Tumut, designed to provide drivers from the flat terrain areas with the skills to competently and safely drive tankers in the terrain that they would typically find themselves when participating in Section 44 out-of-area bushfire emergencies. Programs such as this have imparted the skills, knowledge and confidence to volunteers from flat terrain areas to enable them to make a valuable contribution to Section 44 campaigns in mountainous terrain, something that did not occur previously. Mr Barron also implemented a tanker replacement program soon after his appointment. When he assumed the duties of Fire Control Officer only two of the District's 13 Brigades had a RFS supplied and dedicated tanker. Through his tireless efforts, every Rural Fire Brigade in the District now has a good quality, diesel powered tanker.

#### **Mr Brett Andrew BOWDEN, Orange NSW 2800**

Mr Bowden has provided 28 years' distinguished service to the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) as both a volunteer and salaried member. During his tenure he has been instrumental in providing inspiration and leadership to an innumerable number of firefighters throughout the Hunter and Western areas of New South Wales. In 1995 he was appointed Fire Control Officer with the Cabonne Shire Council. He immediately set about developing strategic relationships, building trust and earning the respect of the volunteers. Having developed a respectful relationship with the volunteers, he embarked on an extremely challenging program of call-out procedures, paging and communication systems and training. He became one of the pioneers in the RFS with the use of aircraft. In typical fashion, he achieved all that he set out to achieve and in the process won not only the respect of the volunteers but also a high level of respect from his peers. He was appointed Superintendent Operations for the Canobolas Zone in 2004 allowing him to focus on the operational side of the Zone for which he had a passion. Mr Bowden's commitment and support of the volunteer members of the RFS are exemplary and he has ensured that they have all that is needed to tackle all incidents, both small and large. His ability to support and ensure that the best is attained from all members of the RFS reflects his commitment to maintaining a high level of competence within the Zone.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

### **Mr Keith Darral BUTT, Young NSW 2594**

Mr Butt has been an active member of the Monteagle Rural Fire Brigade within the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) since 1960. He served as the Brigade's Captain from 1988 until he relinquished the position to become a Group Captain in 2000. Mr Butt has been a leader, change manager, fire manager, active participant and Committee Member within the local RFS Zone. He was instrumental in the initial arrangement for the 'Zone' being put into place between the Councils of Harden, Boorowa and Young. Without his stewardship, the bringing together of this Group was considered to have not been possible. He has also been heavily involved in training and he became an Instructor in 1996, and has assisted in all levels of training on an annual basis ever since. He has also been an active member of the South West Slopes Zone Bush Fire Management Committee, Senior Management Team, Zone Discipline Panel, Training Committee and Group Captains/Captain Forums. He has also participated in many out-of-area strike teams and task forces, both as a leader and participant, attending incidents at the Blue Mountains, Orana, Oberon, Wee Jasper, Tumut and Goobang, and in Victoria in 2009. Mr Butt continues to show a selfless attitude towards the RFS and its volunteers, often forgoing his farming operations. He is a strong, diligent, caring and compassionate leader, creating an environment whereby the volunteers will follow his direction without fear.

### **Mr James Downing (Jim) CHIVAS, Bullaburra NSW 2784**

Mr Chivas is both an employee and a volunteer in the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS), and has served in virtually every major fire in the Blue Mountains since the 1950s. He has held the rank of Captain and Group Captain and has led major deployments of firefighting units throughout New South Wales, served on numerous incident management teams, and made a major contribution to the development of remote area firefighting techniques. His understanding of training issues, not only in the RFS but also in the Australian vocational education and training system, is regarded widely as 'leading edge'. He has been responsible for the development of numerous training programs concerned with training trainers, assessors and training coordinators; and senior staff and volunteers in the management of large scale firefighting operations. He was instrumental in enabling the RFS to become a Registered Training Organisation to deliver nationally recognised training and has participated in the development of national training standards and training materials. Mr Chivas has also consistently displayed outstanding dedication to promoting the needs, capabilities and reputation of the RFS. He is a model employee who has mastered the often difficult task of balancing the responsibilities of work, volunteer involvement and home life. He is well liked and respected as a person who epitomises fairness and the volunteer ethic, and he has displayed an outstanding talent to resolve conflicts and grievances in ways that often lead to remarkably positive results.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

**Mr John Matthew McDONOUGH**, 73 Digby Road, Erina NSW 2250

Throughout his 22 years' career, Mr McDonough has demonstrated a high level of professionalism, ethical standards and commendable leadership. He has also worked with great commitment to the improvement of the New South Wales Fire Brigades in operational areas, specifically in relation to training firefighters in safely attacking structured fires. Mr McDonough is the current Manager of the NSW Fire Brigades Fire Suppression Training Section. In 2002 he was selected to study compartment fire attack techniques with the Swedish Fire Service. Following this study, he proceeded to the United Kingdom to study how these firefighting techniques were taught to operational firefighters. He was responsible for establishing the current Compartment Fire Behaviour Training Unit which now trains firefighters from across New South Wales in safer firefighting techniques. The Unit has also provided extensive training to staff from fire services across Australia. In 1999 Mr McDonough was also responsible for developing the NSW Fire Brigades RescuED Program that focuses on teaching teenage students the importance of safer driving techniques to avoid accidents. In 1996 he assisted in establishing a new Operational Information System in preparation for assisting crews during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. He has also co-authored a book entitled *3D Firefighting* which is currently used by several fire services internationally in the training of staff in firefighting techniques. Mr McDonough has received two NSW Fire Brigades Commissioner's Unit Commendations, one for his involvement in the rescue team at the tragic Thredbo Landslide in 1997 and the second in 2000 for his actions in quickly responding to a fatal fire in Mount Ku-rin-gai which killed several National Parks and Wildlife Service staff who had been conducting a hazard reduction burn.

**Mr Robert Thomas MURRAY**, Waverley NSW 2024

Mr Murray is a serving officer in the New South Wales Fire Brigades with a career spanning over 20 years. During his career, he has demonstrated a high level of professionalism, ethical standards and commendable leadership. He has also worked with great commitment to the improvement of the New South Wales Fire Brigades in operational areas and, more recently, in the field of information technology. Mr Murray has led the team of IT Systems from a small department of approximately 9 people to over 36. Under his leadership, his team has made many advances to the New South Wales Fire Brigades' Information Technology landscape that will contribute to the advancement of not only the Brigades but also emergency services in New South Wales, as well as agencies within Australasia. Prior to this, Mr Murray's leadership had proven to be a great asset in a number of ways. He was part of the team that developed the 2002/2003 Annual Report which won the highly-sought after Gold Medal at the Australasian Reporting Awards – an achievement that set a high benchmark for both New South Wales Government agencies and fire services across Australia.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

**Mr Gregory Charles PICKERSGILL**, 80 Holbrook Street, Temora NSW 2666

Details not available at the request of Mr Pickersgill.

**Mr Alfred Kenneth RAISTRICK**, Cobbitty NSW 2570

Mr Raistrick joined the Cobbitty Rural Fire Brigade in 1952 and continues to be an active member of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS). He was integral to the development of the Cobbitty Brigade in its early years, and participated in all facets of brigade activity. He attended many incidents that occurred in the Camden district and across New South Wales as a firefighter and he developed extensive skills. Further, he was involved in the continued development of the Brigade's firefighting resources and training, and made significant contributions to the design and construction of tankers during their early developmental years. Mr Raistrick has undertaken a variety of core RFS and specialist training courses aimed at providing the highest level of service to the Brigade and to the community. He has participated in training at all levels of the organisation and his accumulated experience has been a great source of information and insight to many firefighters. He was appointed to the position of Group Captain in 1990 and he continues to hold this position. Mr Raistrick was heavily involved as a representative of his volunteers during the formation of the Macarthur Zone, where the Districts of Camden, Campbelltown and Liverpool were amalgamated into a single entity. He has also participated in a number of events as a mediator and played a supporting role to volunteers during times of hardship and distress. He has participated in the resolution processes associated with grievance and dispute handling and has consistently been a responsible leader and mentor to those who serve with him and under him. In 1997, he transferred his membership to Camden West Rural Fire Brigade and he continues to provide the same support and guidance in that brigade as he has provided in his many years of service. Mr Raistrick has provided over 57 years of dedicated and distinguished service to the RFS to the people of New South Wales.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

### **Mr Mark Dennis REILLY, NSW**

During his 26 years' distinguished service, Mr Reilly has worked with great commitment to the improvement of New South Wales Fire Brigades and its staff. Mr Reilly is currently the Duty Commander for "A" Platoon of the Metropolitan East 1 Command. Through his involvement with over 100 firefighting staff, he has established a number of mentoring programs that has resulted in many of his firefighters being successful in achieving officer rank within the NSW Fire Brigades. He is a highly respected leader by his staff due to his continued keen interest in the firefighters under his command. The respect with which Mr Reilly is held by his fellow senior officers is evidenced in the fact that he has been elected as the Senior Officers' representative on the State Committee of Management of the NSW Fire Brigades Employees Union. In his position as an industrial advocate he has a strong reputation as being highly respected by both the Union and Senior Management of the Fire Brigades. He is recognised as being a steadying influence in maintaining harmonious relationships between union and management during a number of negotiations. Mr Reilly is currently President of the Institution of Fire Engineers Australia, a peak engineering body representing both fire engineers and fire officers across Australia in the advancement of fire safety standards for the community. Mr Reilly also has a long and successful involvement with many Brigades sporting bodies. He is responsible for re-kindling the Brigades' interest and involvement in its rugby union club. He has held numerous offices within the NSW Fire Brigades Sporting Association and is currently the Secretary of the NSW Fire Brigades Rugby Union Club, a position he has held for many years.

### **Mr Cecil John ROBINSON, 54 Tudor Street, Bourke NSW 2840**

Mr Robinson is a retained officer within the New South Wales Fire Brigades with service of over 37 years. During this time he has demonstrated exemplary leadership and a proactive commitment to fire safety and community involvement in Bourke to the changing roles and dynamic operating environment of the NSW Fire Brigades. As Captain of the Bourke Brigade, he has been directly responsible for influencing improvements to fire service delivery by embracing, facilitating and leading complementary and coordinated multi-agency emergency management. Mr Robinson has been able to achieve this through effective planning, consultation and team building to influence a positive shift in workplace culture and work practices. Mr Robinson has been proactive in delivering Community Risk Management Programs and Community Education to the schools and general community of Bourke. Together with his Brigade colleagues, he is an avid supporter of the Bourke Variety Car Bash, providing breakfast to race drivers and supporters. While providing the food from his primary employment free of charge, he utilises the opportunity to promote the NSW Fire Brigades to all participants. He has also developed a strong and healthy relationship with Bourke Local Government and sister emergency services and, as a result, the Bourke Fire Brigade is held in high regard within the community. Mr Robinson has high level values and his integrity has been paramount in his consultation with the community, fellow officers, firefighters and other emergency services personnel.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

### **Mr James Thomas (Jim) SMITH, Dural NSW 2158**

Mr Smith joined the Middle Dural Rural Fire Brigade in 1975 after experiencing a devastating fire in the district. As an engineer in large scale building projects, he brought to the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) excellent leadership skills, attention to detail and abilities to achieve effective and positive outcomes. Operationally, Mr Smith's knowledge and his capacity to think strategically and to apply and act tactically, particularly while under pressure, are exceptional. His demonstrated leadership abilities from small to major incidents are excellent, and qualities are applied across the full spectrum of incident management tasks. His commitment and dedication have not only been confined to his Brigade but also to the District and RFS as a whole. Within the District, he is active on the Senior Management and Training Committees and is a representative on the Bush Fire Management and Planning Committees. He actively carries out his Group role working with the staff, members and the community, setting direction with well constructed opinions. From the outset Mr Smith has been part of the establishment and ongoing success of the Rural Fire Service Association Inc in the District, serves on the Operations Group and Workers Compensation Committee, and provides significant input into the Technical Sub-Committee. Having devoted immeasurable time and energy to the RFS, Mr Smith still advances with boundless enthusiasm He is held in the highest regard by his colleagues and by the community.

## ***VICTORIA***

### **Mr Geoffrey William AUDSLEY, Colac Vic 3250**

Mr Audsley has provided outstanding service and leadership in promoting the work and services of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB), both within the service and in the general community, through his widespread and well-established relationships with local and mainstream commercial networks. Such activities have resulted in the MFB proactively engaging with the community, thereby promoting fire safety and providing timely and accurate information in emergency situations. Mr Audsley is a highly qualified Station Officer in a wide range of disciplines, including Road Accident Rescue. As a senior Rescue Operator, he has continuously demonstrated outstanding leadership in the mentoring of newly-graduated firefighters and the more junior Rescue Operators in the Zone.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

**Mr Robert Petrus (Bob) BRINKMAN**, 22 Shute Avenue, Berwick Vic 3806

Mr Brinkman has served with distinction for over 37 years in the area of land and fire management, working as a Forester and Chief Ranger in a variety of locations including the Otway Ranges, Marysville, Dandenong Ranges National Park and, most recently, on the Mornington Peninsula. His fire experience and knowledge represents a significant asset to Parks Victoria and the general community. Mr Brinkman is a very experienced Incident Controller and Operations and Planning Officer, and has continually demonstrated his outstanding capacity to lead teams effectively in highly demanding situations. His excellent leadership and management qualities and experience were evident in 2000 when, as part of an Australian and New Zealand contingent of firefighters to the USA, he performed the role of Planning Officer in Incident Management teams. He has also acted as an Incident Controller at fires in New South Wales Throughout his distinguished career Mr Brinkman has developed and maintained effective relationships with the Country Fire Authority, local councils and other authorities and organisations involved in emergency service management.

**Mr Liam Gerard FOGARTY**,

Department of Sustainability and Environment, 4/8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne Vic 3001

Mr Fogarty has demonstrated an outstanding ability in leading strategic thinking, based on science and knowledge and extensive land, forestry and fire management experience with many fire agencies across Australia, New Zealand and Indonesia. As Assistant Chief Fire Officer - Planning and Knowledge within the Department of Sustainability and Environment, he is widely respected for his breadth of knowledge, his experiences and resourcefulness in fire management and his ability to translate and make it applicable from the ground firefighter to Incident Management Teams and to senior and executives of land and fire management agencies. His ability to look at issues and to develop and apply innovative concepts makes him an exceptional leader in fire management. Mr Fogarty has developed and led many innovations during his distinguished career, including the Criticality Asset Map for Victoria, his involvement in the establishment of the Integrated Fire Management Planning Framework for Victoria, and as a key leader in the development of Victoria's Bushfire Strategy 'Living With Fire'.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

### **Mr David Gerrard GIBBS, 19 Tasman Road, Somers Vic 3927**

Mr Gibbs has served with distinction an outstanding leader in the Country Fire Authority (CFA) for over 38 years. the. past 19 years of which he has been the Group Officer in the Westernport Group. Prior to this he was a Deputy Group Officer for 8 years and Somers Brigade Secretary for 21 years. His excellent leadership qualities have been further demonstrated in his capacity as Chairman of Region 8's Regional Planning Committee (RPC), a role he has performed for almost 11 years, and as a Founding Member of the RPC Strategic Reference Team. In addition, Mr Gibbs is the current representative of the Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria on the CFA Board. Furthermore, as a qualified level 3 incident controller, he has performed exceptionally as the Incident Controller during many major campaign fires across Victoria.

### **Mr Bruce Alan PICKETT, Herne Hill Vic 3218**

Mr Pickett has provided dedicated and outstanding service to the Country Fire Authority (CFA) for over 38 years and has undertaken the role of Lieutenant/Foreman, Captain and Group Officer for many years. He has also been actively involved in all components of fire brigade activity including Brigade, Group, regional and state aspects, and has represented the CFA in Municipal Fire Prevention activities and meetings. Mr Pickett has provided outstanding leadership to the Geelong West Fire Brigade, Geelong Group and Fire Control Region No 7, and has been instrumental in the saving of many lives and property during major fire operations in the region and in other areas across Victoria and New South Wales. In addition, he has undertaken roles in both operations and community safety within his own and surrounding communities. Mr Pickett's prolonged service to the Geelong West Fire Brigade, the Victorian Urban Fire Brigades Association and the CFA has been distinguished with exceptional ability and merit. Mr Pickett was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2001.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

### **Mr James Russell READ, Knoxfield Vic 3180**

Mr Read joined the Country Fire Authority of Victoria (CFA) in 1969 as a junior member of the Mount Evelyn Fire Brigade and has also been a member of Tolmie and District, Wangaratta and Scoresby Fire Brigades. In 1994 he was elected Captain of the Scoresby Fire Brigade, a position he held until 2004 when he was elected as 3rd Deputy Group Officer of the Knox Fire Brigades Group. Such was his application and expertise in assisting with the management of the Group and Brigades, in 2005 he was elected 2nd Deputy Group Officer. He continued to perform his duties and representation to such a high degree that he was appointed as the senior Deputy Group Officer in 2007. Mr Read has, for many years, been a dedicated training provider to CFA volunteers, at the local level and in the wider CFA. He concurrently manages the training portfolio across all 8 brigades within Knox Group, as well as being an integral member of the CFA Region 13 Training Committee and course presenter. He was instrumental in the development and implementation of a structured recruit training roster and course curriculum that ensures all recruits are trained in the same subjects equally and together. It also provides a system that ensures recruits are exposed to all brigade locations and varied brigade training officers. Importantly, recruit volunteers have the opportunity to meet and make long-term linkages with fellow recruits; a most positive firefighting attribute and personal development outcome. Mr Read has served the CFA with distinction over many years, particularly as Captain of the Scoresby Fire Brigade and as Deputy Group Officer within the Knox Fire Brigades Group. He has been particularly active and instrumental in ensuring that volunteers receive high level, pertinent and practical fire and safety training.

### **Mr Robert William TAYLOR, Docklands Vic 3008**

Mr Taylor has provided outstanding service and leadership to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and the Melbourne community in the implementation of public safety education by combining the skills and knowledge of firefighters with the expertise of educators and community workers in order to develop and deliver high quality programs that are relevant and responsive to the ever-changing needs of Melbourne's many diverse cultures safety, and providing timely and accurate information in emergency situations.

## **QUEENSLAND**

### **Mr Rowen David CLEM, Kurwongbah Qld 4503**

Mr Clem demonstrates an exemplary ongoing commitment to the development of innovative Community Education Programs including the Fight Fire Fascination Program, Motor Vehicle Offences Program, and the Juvenile Arson Program. He has a distinguished service history of championing fire safety within the community.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

### **Mr John Frederick GRESTY, Alexandra Hills Qld 4161**

As the inaugural State Manager, QFRS Air Operations Unit, Mr Gresty has demonstrated significant resourcefulness and distinguished leadership, being instrumental in developing and introducing the use of aircraft in operational firefighting tactics for wildfire events across Queensland. He has provided outstanding commitment to achieve a significant outcome for the community in Queensland.

### **Mr Shan Werner RAFFEL, 7 Honeymyrtle Court, Capalaba Qld 4157**

Mr Raffel has provided exemplary and distinguished leadership and management of initiatives to improve the knowledge and safety of firefighters. His sustained commitment to developing new operational firefighting and management techniques include compartment firefighting, Total Station Workload Gap Analysis, and the compressed air foam system program.

### **Mr Neil Scott REID, Kipparing Qld 4021**

Mr Reid has provided exemplary and distinguished service through his management and leadership of initiatives that have provided significant benefits and progressed key organisational priorities. Through his ongoing commitment, he has challenged the organisational culture towards unwanted alarms and has achieved a sustainable reduction of false alarms across Queensland.

### **Mr Gordon Francis RYAN, 8 Sandringham Road, Sandringham Qld 4701**

Mr Ryan has demonstrated distinguished service as a Rural Fire Service volunteer and Group Officer for the Keppel Group. He has demonstrated superior operational and organisational leadership and outstanding personal commitment to the management of the rural and urban interface and to his local community.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

### **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

#### **Mr Robert William COX, Broome WA 6725**

Mr Cox has established himself as a senior and key contributor with the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) WA, in a career so far spanning some 33 years. Recognition of his positive and passionate attitude has seen him progress through the ranks from a firefighter to his current position as Regional Director for the Kimberley Region. Mr Cox has actively pursued the bringing together all of the arms of FESA, inclusive of career and volunteer personnel, in a bid to provide a truly united and effective emergency service in the Kimberley. Coupled with his active promotion of FESA and encouragement of all other stakeholders to work together to keep the community safe, this has resulted in a much improved preparedness and coordinated response to the challenges encountered in a remote environment. The role of Regional Director in the Kimberley is a very diverse one and involves everything from the provision of equipment, PPE and training to the volunteers, the planning and construction of facilities, through to the implementation of prevention measures such as aerial controlled burning, flood planning, cyclone management and the introduction of emergency management into remote Indigenous communities. Through effective media use and continuous liaison with the relevant stakeholders Mr Cox ensures all these worthwhile projects maintain a high profile and priority. In 2008 Mr Cox's valuable and outstanding contribution went a long way to securing the top award in the Western Australia Environmental Awards in recognition of a joint project involving FESA.

#### **Mr Kevin Robert POLLOCK, Glen Forrest WA 6071**

Mr Pollock became a forestry field cadet in 1970 and, upon graduating as a Forestry Department field officer, he worked in a range of locations undertaking a range of forest management duties including fire management and silviculture burning. This was at a time when forest fire management in Western Australia was developing significant science-based infrastructure and knowledge, and this science needed competent and skilled forest fire managers to implement the scientific information in the field. This was also a time when significant forest blocks were being logged and regenerated. The karri silviculture experts recommended that clear falling logging methods be undertaken to ensure a kern forest could be regenerated; successful post logging regeneration requires high intensity karri regeneration burning to be undertaken in the logged forest blocks. Mr Pollock demonstrated an excellent ability to manage bush fire activities to achieve the joint objective of forest fire protection and environmental value protection. In 1982 he transferred to the CALM Mundaring office and continued his forest management duties and, in 1988, took on the role of Mundaring District Fire Coordinator. His area of responsibility was expanded in 1999 to include the region from north of Mundaring to south of Dwellingup. This is a large forest/urban interface zone that requires significant forest fire management and community relationship and development skills. Mr Pollock has shown outstanding leadership in community engagement and community forest fire protection. He has also shown an extensive long-term ability to achieve high quality prescribed burning planning and results in the field. Mr Pollock is an exceptional fire manager.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

### ***SOUTH AUSTRALIA***

**Mr Gregory Charles FRICK**, 38 Dudley Avenue, North Plympton SA 5037

Mr Frick has made an outstanding contribution to the community of South Australia as a Fire Officer with over 30 years' dedicated service with the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service. Mr Frick demonstrates the finest qualities of operational management as a strong team member while simultaneously providing leadership for multiple crews in demanding and arduous circumstances. He values highly the safety and well-being of all personnel under his responsibility and displays empathy with those members of the community impacted by trauma. Although focused on the major tasks at hand, he is also approachable, professional and well regarded and acts as a mentor for many of his personnel and encourages the development of their careers within the Service. Mr Frick is very positive in his thinking and uses available information to intelligently process and develop decisive outcomes. He communicates his plans and objectives clearly, producing excellent operational outcomes with efficient and effective use of limited resources.

**Mr Christopher George SMITH**, 5 Alison Drive, Happy Valley SA 5159

Mr Smith has provided exemplary service to the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service, its employees and the community of South Australia. His outstanding commitment and dedication to professional operational management and his active involvement on numerous committees and employee service and support clubs have been exceptional. He is not only a member and chair of many and various committees and service clubs but also a long-standing member of the Firefighters Union and, through these organisations, he has significantly improved the firefighters' well-being and profile within the community. As a highly regarded senior fire officer, Mr Smith has taken the lead in ensuring that the high standards of ethical and professional conduct are maintained at all levels of the Service. He was awarded a Ministerial Commendation for his exemplary performance in 2005, and in 2008 he was assigned responsibility for the Regional Operations Command, a responsibility that includes overseeing all Regional Fire Stations within South Australia.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

**Mr Keith William (Sandy) TAYLOR**, Taylors Road, Ashton SA 5137

Mr Taylor, joined the South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS) (then called the Emergency Fire Service) in 1959 as a firefighter with the Norton Summit-Ashton Brigade and served as the Brigade's Captain between 1971 and 1994. He was Captain through the horrendous Ash Wednesday fires of 1983. In 1994, he was elected as Deputy Group Officer within the East Torrens Group; mostly within the Adelaide Hills Council area, and was further elected Group Equipment Coordinator with a continuing special interest in appliance design, development, construction, and maintenance. In 2008 Mr Taylor did not seek re-election to the Deputy Group Officer's position and "retired" to assume the position of Brigade Lieutenant. In addition, he served 38 years on the Management Committee, as well as being a Member of the East Torrens Bushfire Prevention Committee for some time. Mr Taylor's vast experience has been utilised to great effect by the CFS in his leading many Strike Teams out of the district, and he led a South Australian Strike Team to the NSW fires in January 2002. He has taken command many times in all sorts of situations. It is his quiet, cool, understated demeanour, coupled with a 'lets get it done' attitude that endears him to everyone involved. Mr Taylor has dedicated his volunteer career to working quietly with other volunteers to get the job done and to pass on his skills and knowledge to others. He was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2001, and received the SA Premier's Award in 2008.

**Mr Neil Kenneth TURNER**, Callington SA 5254

Mr Turner is a respected and well liked member of the South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS), joining the (then) Emergency Fire Service in 1973. His diligence and dedication to his role of volunteer firefighter saw him advance through the ranks of Lieutenant and Captain to Deputy Group Officer; a position he still holds. He spent many years expounding the importance of training; this passion for training led him to being involved from the inception of the State Training Centre at Brukunga, with a special emphasis breathing apparatus. During his years of CFS service Mr Turner has served on a wide range of committees ranging from the Vehicle and Equipment Committee (now the Infrastructure and Logistics Committee) through to the Chief Officers' Advisory Committee where his knowledge of fire-ground practices and procedures as well as his understanding of volunteer ethics, commitment and dedication and personal experiences, have played significant roles. He also assisted with advising and liaising with a local community group on bushfire preparedness when local landowners expressed interest in forming a community group for themselves and as a means to support the local brigade. Mr Turner's involvement and expertise have also seen him invited to attend numerous planning and scoping workshops, including appliance and station design. He has spent many years as a judge of the Best Brigade Competitions and has also been deeply involved in the CFS Competitions as competitor, judge and Committee Member. Mr Turner actively attends incidents including strike teams, both locally and interstate and incidence management team deployments. He is a staunch believer in volunteer ethos and has been an active member of the Country Fire Service Volunteers Association since its inception and is currently a Branch President. Mr Turner has devoted a huge portion of his life and energy into improving the lives of his fellow firefighters within the community. He has proved to be a great firefighter and an excellent Group Leader and role model.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

### ***AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY***

**Mr Gregory John KENT, 1 Bemm Place, Amaroo ACT 2914**

Mr Kent has provided exceptional leadership, commitment and passion to the ACT Fire Brigade. From his early days as an officer, he consistently displayed an ability to lead, to completion, a wide range of projects and tasks and was responsible for a number of complex projects. He was promoted to the rank of District Officer in 1994 and served in a number of sections including operations, strategic and event planning, and equipment and facilities. During this time he was responsible for the procurement of a number of new vehicles and played a leading role in the Brigade's involvement with the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. He was awarded the Australian Sports Medal in 2000. Mr Kent was promoted to Superintendent in 2003 and has been in charge of the training and fire safety sections and, most recently, he has been responsible for the operations section consisting of some 300 staff. Mr Kent exhibits a can-do attitude and is constantly results-focused. He was a driving force in the development and implementation of the most recent ACT Fire Brigade business plan. At an Emergency Services Agency (ESA) level he had been the active champion of the outdoor training centre that is undergoing final planning processes for the benefit of all the services within the ESA. Mr Kent has had leadership responsibilities in nearly all major incidents and interstate deployments that the ACT Fire Brigade has been involved with since 1990, including the 1994 Bushfires around Sydney, the 1997 Thredbo landslide, the 1999 Sydney hailstorms, and the 2003 ACT bushfires. Mr Kent has an enthusiasm and passion for the ACT Fire Brigade as a service provider of excellence and provides an ongoing commitment and drive for the organisation. He leads by example and is widely respected by his staff, colleagues and peers.