

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)**

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

#### **Ms Debra May SCANES, Goulburn NSW 2580**

Ms Scanes joined the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA) in 1996 as a rescue operator in the Binalong VRA Rescue Squad. She remains an active member and is the current President of that Squad. Ms Scanes consistently provides dedicated and distinguished volunteering service in rescue and emergency management along with her tireless enthusiasm, both on and off the rescue field. As a rescue operator she has taken part in a large number of search and rescue operations including motor vehicle collision rescue, vertical rescue, wilderness search, rural worker rescue, evidence search for police, bush fire assistance for the NSW Fire Brigade and the NSW Rural Fire Service, and assisted the Ambulance Service of New South Wales at scenes of trauma. Ms Scanes has always displayed a high level of skill and endurance during these operations. She also performed many hours of volunteer duty in the Yass Fire Control Centre during the fire-storm that occurred in the Australian Capital Territory in January 2003. As well as being a rescue operator, Ms Scanes regularly contributes to emergency management within New South Wales. In 2005, Ms Scanes was appointed the VRA Region Coordinator for south eastern New South Wales, and her responsibilities include the coordination of VRA operational and administrative activities in that region. She also serves as a member of the VRA State Executive that is responsible for managing 70 land, marine, specialist and aerial rescue affiliates consisting of 3,500 volunteers with assets worth many millions of dollars. Ms Scanes also serves the community as a member of the Local and District Rescue Committees, and is a member of the Local and District Emergency Management Committees. She also adds value to the VRA by training and mentoring new rescue operators.

### ***VICTORIA***

#### **Mr Colin David CROXFORD, 490 Goomalibee Road, Benalla Vic 3672**

Mr Croxford has provided exemplary and distinguished service to the Victorian State Emergency Service (SES) for over 30 years, and is currently the Controller at the Benalla SES Unit. Due to his wealth of knowledge and expertise he is regularly called upon for advice and assistance and has represented the local community and the North East Region on many committees. He is a well-respected leader and an excellent mentor to unit members, encouraging each individual to be the very best he/she can be and achieve things he/she did not think were possible. He is also extremely generous with his time and knowledge. In late 2005 Mr Croxford was asked by the North East Regional Manager to assist the Wangaratta SES unit by acting as their Controller on a temporary basis. Despite his having to assume the extra responsibility of looking after 2 units, during his 8 months at the Wangaratta SES unit Mr Croxford was able to make positive changes that promoted new membership and helped improve that unit's service to the community.

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)**

**Mr Brett Ian ELLIS**, 23 Betton Crescent, Warrandyte Vic 3113

Mr Ellis has served the community of Victoria with distinction for over 20 years as a volunteer lifesaver. In 2004 Surf Life Saving Victoria (SLSV) and Royal Life Saving Australia merged to become a new water safety and lifesaving entity - Life Saving Victoria (LSV). As a result of the merger Mr Ellis took on the position of LSV General Manager - Life Saving Operations. The appointment saw the expansion of Mr Ellis' previous roles and responsibilities as SLSV's State Lifesaving Operations Manager to cover the operations, patrolling and training delivery and Life Saving Operations staffing of the new organisation. There are now 57 clubs affiliated with LSV, with over 22,000 volunteers providing safe water experiences for all Victorians. Mr Ellis brought to the new position all the experience and knowledge required for the overall management of the increased number of patrolling lifesaving clubs and rescue services affiliated with LSV, plus the emergency services partnerships across Victoria. Under his management of the Life Saving Operations division, the LSV has expanded its resources to respond far beyond the traditional 'between the flags' beach patrols. Mr Ellis was awarded the prestigious John Wishart Memorial Medal, an award that recognises a member who has made an outstanding contribution to the delivery and development of lifesaving in Victoria. He was further recognised as Australian Lifesaver of the Year.

**Mrs Dianne Gwenyth MONTALTO**, 1085 Merriang Road, Woodstock Vic 3751

Mrs Montalto has provided over 50 continuous years to lifesaving in Victoria as a fully qualified lifesaver, instructor, trainer and examiner and, as qualification requirements have become more demanding, has always ensured that she was 'up-to-date', and thus able to accurately carry out any duties required of her. As Chief Instructor at a number of clubs, Mrs Montalto recruited and re-built membership by working with local schools to educate students in all lifesaving techniques. As a result, clubs gained new members and students gained valuable knowledge in lifesaving and resuscitation. Mrs Montalto has also held a number of other executive positions in several clubs and with the Victoria Branch of the Royal Life Saving Society Australia (RLSSA) that have required her to initiate programs for groups of students to attend courses held at clubs and in the beach environment. She has an extensive history of successful leadership in various areas of lifesaving which has resulted in drawing into lifesaving many youth members. Many of these positions also required responsibility for organising training, instructing appropriate qualifications for participants in all age groups including staff. Mrs Montalto is the current Chair of the Victoria Branch of the RLSSA and continuing with ongoing discussions on the future role of the Branch within Lifesaving Victoria (LSV), she is also their delegate to RLSSA National. She is also the Aquatic Education Teacher at the YMCA Mill Park Leisure Centre, preparing courses and teaching non-swimmers and swimmers techniques and lifesaving, and training candidates under the Duke of Edinburgh Awards program. Mrs Montalto has worked all her life in lifesaving with the RLSSA; its Victorian Branch and LSV to further the aims of lifesaving, as well as instructing lifesavers at clubs and pools to the highest standard, along with members of the local community. Her outstanding efforts and skills have benefited thousands of people over the past 50 years, and have undoubtedly resulted in the saving of many lives.

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)**

### **QUEENSLAND**

**Mr Kingsley Leonard FRASER**, 15 Hagman Street, Stafford Heights Qld 4053

Mr Fraser joined the Cairns flotilla of the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard (AVCG) in 1981 and has served with distinction in a variety of both operational and administrative roles, including Flotilla Commander and Training Commodore for the North Queensland Squadron before being elected the Squadron's Deputy Commodore in 1994. In 1996, Mr Fraser moved to Brisbane and joined the Redcliffe flotilla and eventually served as Deputy Commodore of the South Queensland Squadron between 2001 and 2004. During his time at both Cairns and Redcliffe, he participated in a number of activations as either a crewman or skipper as the situation required. From 1997, in addition to his other responsibilities, he undertook the role of State Insurance Officer in which he negotiated the annual renewal of insurance for all Queensland AVCG Association assets and was later appointed National Insurance Officer for the Association in the following year, negotiating policies and claims for all units in Australia. Mr Fraser has provided outstanding commitment and distinguished service to the AVCG Association and to the community of Queensland over many years.

**Mr Robert Grant HARTLEY**, Mitchelton Qld 4053

Mr Hartley has provided outstanding service to the Queensland community in the provision of services for the State Emergency Service (SES) in training, operations coordination and response to emergency situations. He began his SES service in Toowoomba in 1984 and, since 1989, with Brisbane City SES Unit, serving in numerous positions including Group Leader and Manager Planning and as part of the Unit Executive Management Team. Mr Hartley also contributes to public safety through his paid employment as a Communications Support Officer in the Queensland Ambulance Service Quality Assurance Unit. Mr Hartley was instrumental in developing and designing the casualty simulation processes to support realistic emergency services training across all services. This simulation has allowed emergency service first responders to practice realistic and real-time scenarios under realistic conditions. This activity proved invaluable in the aftermath of a serious road accident involving a coach when the SES members involved cited their ability to respond without significant psychological impact was as a result of the systems and methodologies that were introduced by Mr Hartley during training. This support roll is consistently requested by other emergency services and Queensland Police to support their own organisations' training. Mr Hartley is very highly regarded in the operations coordination functions of the SES, particularly for his outstanding contribution to regional preparedness and training. He has been instrumental in driving the regional approach to SES operations and need for a joint multi-agency approach in response to emergency situations. During this process, Mr Hartley has greatly assisted Emergency Management Queensland staff in developing doctrine and operational procedures, as well as providing guidance on operational equipment for use by SES. Mr Hartley is an outstanding member of the community. His tireless efforts and selflessness to support operations and training is an outstanding example of the SES ethos.

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)**

**Mr John Graham JACOBSEN**, Calamvale Qld 4116

Mr Jacobsen joined Volunteer Marine Rescue at Jacobs Well in 1984 and in the ensuing years has given his service and expertise to the Squadron and the Volunteer Marine Rescue Association of Queensland (VMRAQ) in a wide range of activities, and is a Past President and Life Member at Jacobs Well. Throughout his distinguished voluntary service spanning all levels of local, regional and state-wide arenas, he has served with distinction in activities from search and rescue to administration, management and the delivery of training programs. Mr Jacobsen has served on several management committees and was instrumental, in the earlier years, in the development and implementation of training requirements and programs. Utilising his experience, he volunteered his service on sub-committees investigating and formalising project requirements for the expansion and betterment of the Squadron, Zone and State Association. Mr Jacobsen became a Divisional representative of the VMRAQ in 1997, moving through the ranks to become a Director on the State Council in 2000. He was then elected VMRAQ Vice-President in 2002 and has served as President since 2004. He has been an instrumental leader in the development of VMRAQ policies and procedures especially in the areas of training, recognition of VMRAQ by the training and maritime authorities, Occupational Health and Safety, and constitutional changes to meet the requirements of today's society and environment.

### ***WESTERN AUSTRALIA***

**Mr Arthur Barry JONES**, 34 Karrakatta Road, Goode Beach, Albany WA 6330

Since 1996 Mr Jones has served the community of Western Australia in many capacities including Training Officer, Operations Manager, Regional Director State Emergency Service (SES), FESA Regional Director and Project Director, and he has achieved many significant successes. At the request of the CEO, Bush Fires Board, he successfully assumed sole responsibility for a project of assessing the Operational Competency of all field staff. This involved travelling Western Australia to interview and evaluate all staff in their ability to competently undertake their responsibilities as operations managers within the Bush Fires Board of Western Australia. He successfully provided a report and developed an effective implementation strategy to the (then) Executive Director of the SES to have the SES adopt an administrative approach to incident management within FESA at a time when there was great resistance from SES staff and volunteers. He also developed in very short time the publication of the 12 Bushfire Fighting Training Modules, elevating the training package from scratch to approved national competencies. In addition, he initiated a radio communications strategy to assist SES, WA Police and other agencies to deal with significant emergencies along the rugged south coast where radio communications were either difficult or non-existent. Apart from his outstanding management skills, a special strength of Mr Jones' is his close links with aboriginal culture, his acceptance by the aboriginal people and an understanding developed from his past teaching experiences in the Kimberley area. These proven skills were valuable when negotiating the re-settlement of the Kiwirrkurra community who were evacuated to Alice Springs after serious flooding in early 2001.

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)**

### ***SOUTH AUSTRALIA***

**Mr Grant Andrew GEYER**, Renmark SA 5341

Mr Geyer joined the State Emergency Service (SES) in South Australia in 1993 with the Murray Bridge Unit before transferring to the Renmark Unit where he held the positions of Rescue Officer and Training Officer. In 2000, with the support of the SES Regional Manager, he formed the Riverland Headquarters Unit to support the Regional Headquarters and unit operations. Mr Geyer has developed this unit to perform a range of tasks including Incident Management, local and state-wide communications support, incident mapping and specialist support to other emergency services. He has also evolved the unit to deliver training to various volunteer emergency services in map reading, communications and the use of GPS and electronic mapping. Mr Geyer has been a key initiator, motivator and facilitator in implementing the SES's HP Radio program. Utilising his knowledge and the skills of some of his unit members, he co-opted staff, manufacturers and radio technicians to ensure that the system available to volunteers and staff across South Australia was second to none. In addition, he worked with the radio manufacturers to develop a training package for the new radio that he is proposing to deliver to volunteers and staff. Despite his heavy commitment in the SES and voluntary work with the SA Ambulance Service and St John Ambulance Service, Mr Geyer also assumed extra responsibilities as Chair of the East Region Unit Managers Forum. In this capacity, he motivates and encourages the views of the managers and volunteers from across eastern and southern South Australia. Mr Geyer's tireless and selfless commitment to the emergency services in South Australia clearly identifies him as a person who has served and continues to serve his community with distinction.

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

**Mrs Tracey Annette FOOTE**, Murrumbateman NSW 2582

Mrs Foote has demonstrated outstanding commitment and provided a valuable contribution to the community of the Australian Capital Territory as a volunteer with the ACT State Emergency Service (ACTSES). Mrs Foote is the current Deputy Commander of the Majura Volunteer Unit and has a reputation for ensuring everyone follows defined standard procedures across the ACTSES and the Majura Unit. She also has strong management skills which she uses extensively to ensure the continued smooth operation of the Majura Unit. Mrs Foote has a passion for training and regularly participates in the delivery of training modules to volunteer members, including the ACTSES Induction program, Senior First Aid and General Rescue modules. She continually provides support and guidance to her members and actively encourages young and new members to expand their skills and to take on further responsibilities. Mrs Foote has also facilitated the delivery of community education messages within primary schools within the ACT, and assisted in the development of a school/teacher resource kit which will deliver messages on what children should do in the event of storms or floods. Mrs Foote is also an active member on the ACTSES Capability Group, the role of which is to improve the capability of the ACTSES to ensure that legislative requirements are met and that the community receives appropriate service in times of storm and flood.