

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

New South Wales

Mr Ian Charles BARTHOLOMEW, 81 Ourimbah Creek Road, Ourimbah NSW 2258

Mr Bartholomew has provided many years of distinguished service to the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) as both a volunteer and salaried staff member. His dedication has been instrumental in the advancement of the RFS in the Gosford District. His outstanding leadership and mentoring have seen development of both personnel and physical resources. Many current serving officers owe their early RFS development to him. He first joined the Brisbane Waters National Park Bushfire Brigade in 1968 and very soon after joined the Pearl Beach Rural Fire Brigade. He was eventually elected Captain of the Brigade, and when elected Group Captain in 1979 he applied his energies to the advancement of the local area including the establishment of local field days, participation in the Training Committee and an ongoing commitment to dealing with incidents. In 1987 he was appointed Deputy Fire Control Officer for the Gosford District. This position has now evolved into the Operations Officer and in this position he continues to provide outstanding leadership, coordination and commitment. Mr Bartholomew has played crucial roles in the combating of many significant bushfire events, and has consistently demonstrated a commitment to the safety of firefighters and the community in dealing with the multitude of emergency calls in and around the Gosford Rural Fire District. During his tenure as Brigade Captain, Mr Bartholomew was instrumental in upgrading appliances including a Bedford MFR to replace an aging Blitz and, in the late 1970s, he led the way in petitioning Council to upgrade the fleet within the Gosford area, a theme that he still continues with his strong commitment to his quality, well maintained and safe firefighting equipment. He has also served on the NSW Rural Fire Service Technical Committee for many years and has provided insight and input that has allowed the RFS to advance its equipment levels.

Mr Allan Vincent CAREY, 49 Polding Street, Yass NSW 2582

Mr Carey has served the community of New South Wales with distinction for over 42 years. During his distinguished service as a retained firefighter with the NSW Fire Brigades and attached to the Yass Brigade, he has clearly demonstrated exemplary leadership and a proactive commitment to fire safety and fire education programs throughout the Yass district. He has been directly responsible for the Yass Brigade's participation in the 'Driver Reviver, Stop at Yass' program as well as the Brigade's associated programs for schools. He is highly respected inside and outside the NSW Fire Brigades and his community. Mr Carey's dedicated service has seen him achieve a standard of proficiency that is second to none, culminating in his appointment as Brigade Captain in 2001, having served as Deputy Captain since 1983.

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Mr Barry Howard CARR, 'Currabel', Belgravia Road, Molong NSW 2866

Mr Carr began his distinguished serve to the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) and the community of New South Wales in 1953 by joining the (then) Kerrs Creek Bush Fire Brigade working as a team member to fight fires with limited and very basic equipment. Mr Carr was eventually elected Captain of the Kerrs Creek Brigade and, later, was elected as a Group Captain for the northern area of the Cabonne District, a role he still maintains. The Mullion Creek area north of Orange is a significantly timbered landscape with native and commercial pine forest covering hundreds of square kilometres. Mr Carr has dedicated his firefighting career to ensuring bushfire mitigation works are carried out by mechanical means and by the implementation of Hazard Reduction Burning. He has often gone beyond his call to duty by using his own earthmoving machinery and time to construct and maintain fire trails through the Caluela and Mullions Range Forest areas to ensure community safety from fire. Mr Carr has also been a long-serving member of the Cabonne and Canobolas Zone Bush Fire Management Committees where his views and passion for bushfire mitigation have been infectious and well respected. He is also on the Canobolas Zone Senior Management Team and the Canobolas Zone Liaison Committee

Mr Kevin COOPER, Ambarvale NSW 2560

Mr Cooper joined Headquarters Rural Fire Brigade (Macarthur Zone) as a volunteer in 1987. With his outstanding leadership qualities, he soon held the position of Captain for a number of years as well as President. Mr Cooper is particularly focused on training programs, operations and leadership. Through his outstanding dedication to the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) and Emergency Management Mr Cooper has seen active involvement in many notable operations, including the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. Mr Cooper annually applies his skills and knowledge of Emergency Management with heavy involvement in Incident Management Teams operations. He possesses an outstanding ability to appreciate a situation, undertake risk assessment, gain situational awareness and execute sound plans from both applied and acquired knowledge. Locally within the Macarthur Zone, particularly those Brigades located within Campbelltown, he ensures open communication and effective volunteer representation in Senior Management Decisions and is always there to assist local volunteers with ongoing issues. More recently, Mr Cooper has become actively involved in the strategic development of the RFS in south west Sydney, playing an active role in the Zoning of the Campbelltown, Camden and Liverpool Rural Fire Districts. Mr Cooper has served the community of New South Wales and the RFS with distinction.

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Mr James Patrick FLYNN

Mr Flynn has served the community of New South Wales with distinction over many years. He was appointed to the NSW Fire Brigades as a retained firefighter attached to the Tenterfield Brigade in 1968, and was then appointed Deputy Captain in 1985 and Captain of the Brigade in 1992. He epitomises the commitment and dedication of a fire brigades officer in a regional community, with his prime focus on community safety. Mr Flynn is held in the highest regard and was recognised as Tenterfield's Citizen of the Year in 2005.

Dr Kenneth Charles HUGHES, 38 Loblay Crescent, Bilgola Plateau NSW 2107

Dr Hughes joined the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) in 1979. During his distinguished career he has attended numerous fires and incidents, both inside and outside the Warringah District. While holding numerous firefighting qualifications, Dr Hughes has also taken on the added responsibilities of the Brigade President and Treasurer of the Coal and Candle Rural Fire Brigade. In 2002 he was appointed as Treasurer of Donated Funds, a position he still holds. This fund seeks, manages and is responsible for both solicited and unsolicited donations to the volunteers of the district. During his tenure he has been directly responsible for raising over \$320,000 for the benefit of RFS volunteers. Dr Hughes also regularly participates in local school visits. His insight into the safety and welfare of children led to an innovative approach to these visits, resulting in the design of fire vehicles and a set of steps that enable children to easily and safely climb in and out of vehicles. This was of immediate interest to other local brigades and Dr Hughes quickly arranged the funding and manufacture of more steps to be used throughout the district. Dr Hughes has made an extraordinary contribution to the community; in particular, to the ongoing development and improvement of the RFS. He is held in the highest regard and was recognised as Citizen of the Year by the Pittwater Council in 2002.

Mr Christopher Ernst JURGEIT, 5 Kiama Street, Padstow NSW 2211

Mr Jurgeit has served the community of New South Wales and the NSW Fire Brigades as a permanent firefighter with distinction for over 30 years. Mr Jurgeit was promoted to Station Officer in 1992 and Inspector in 1998 and served with distinction in the NSW Fire Brigades Structural Fire Safety Unit. In 2004 he was seconded to the Australian Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands where, as the country's first Chief Fire Officer, he provided invaluable assistance to the Commander Participating Police Forces and the Commissioner Royal Solomon Islands Police in the rebuilding and capacity development of the country's firefighting services. He was promoted to Superintendent in 2005 and appointed as Manager of the NSW Fire Brigades Structural Fire Safety Unit, a position he continues to occupy.

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Mr John Michael McNAMARA, Chittaway Point NSW 2261

Mr McNamara was appointed to the NSW Fire Brigades in 1977 and has provided dedicated and distinguished fire service to the community of New South Wales. He is currently the NSW Fire Brigades Bushfire and Urban Interface Officer, contributing significantly to the NSW Fire Brigades' bushfire operational preparedness. Mr McNamara's work has realised a significant enhancement to the effectiveness of the NSW Fire Brigades' approach to emergency management by ensuring that operational firefighters receive adequate and appropriate training in bushfire fighting and hazard reduction. Mr McNamara is widely respected inside and outside the NSW Fire Brigades and his distinguished service has been of the highest order.

Mr Robert John McNEIL, North Narrabeen NSW 2101

Mr McNeil has diligently served the community of New South Wales for over 26 years, providing dedicated service to the NSW Fire Brigades, culminating in his promotion to the rank of Chief Superintendent. Mr McNeil's progress through the NSW Fire Brigades has seen him serve in a wide range of operational and administrative areas, including Operational Command, the State Training College and the Hazardous Materials Response Unit. Throughout, he has demonstrated exemplary leadership and commitment. His professional approach to his duties, particularly in the technically difficult area of hazardous materials, has directly resulted in the NSW Fire Brigades' enhanced capability in this field. Mr McNeil is widely respected inside and outside the NSW Fire Brigades for his professionalism and his distinguished fire service.

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Mr Kenneth James NEVILLE, Forbes NSW 2871

Mr Neville joined the local Forbes Brigade Ooma-North of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) in 1977. He joined the Forbes Shire Council as the weeds inspector, becoming the part-time Fire Control Officer (FCO) in 1986. He then became full-time in the position and, when the District Staff transferred over to employment by the State Government in 2001, he was appointed Team Manager for the Mid Lachlan Valley Team, comprising the local government areas of Forbes, Parkes, Weddin and Lachlan. He has since developed these discreet volunteer groups into a cohesive, functioning and progressive firefighting service that achieves high standards in training, operations, community engagement and, most importantly, volunteer support and advocacy. Mr Neville has always been passionate about the rural volunteers, especially with regard to their needs and wants, and has been a very strong supporter and advocate of the modern day firefighting tanker. Mr Neville designed tankers for the Forbes area that proved ideal for the grasslands areas and these formed the concept for what the RFS now describes as the 'grasslands' model of the current tanker configuration. Mr Neville developed and managed the tanker event at the annual Local, Regional and State Championships that has brought great credit and recognition to the RFS. Mr Neville has represented the western parts of New South Wales on many committees, forums and groups, and his peers regularly look to him for leadership, support, guidance and wise counsel. Mr Neville has served the community of western New South Wales and the RFS with distinction for many years.

Mr Geoffrey Colin THIESSEN

Mr Thiessen has been actively involved in the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) since joining the Yerrinbool Brigade in the Wingecarribee District in 1963. He held the position of Deputy Captain for 10 years and was Brigade Captain for over 19 years. He is the current Brigade President, a position he has held for the past 14 years. He was appointed a Group Captain in 1998 and has provided outstanding leadership in the District. He has mentored Deputy Group Captains enabling them to experience both his local knowledge and vast firefighting experience. Mr Thiessen was a Divisional Commander during several major incidents, and also played a significant role in the Incident Management Team during the Willow Vale bushfire which impacted numerous homes; his significant contribution was instrumental in the reduction of property loss. In his capacity as a Group Captain, Mr Thiessen has been a delegate on both the Local Bush Fire Management Committee and the Occupational Health and Safety Committee. He has led several out-of-area task forces and he regularly assists in the planning and implementation of hazard reduction works. He has worked tirelessly with the Yerrinbool Rural Fire Brigade with the building of the new brigade station and has also assisted with the preparation of several grant applications the Brigade has submitted to secure additional funds for the station project. He has also assisted with the After Hours Duty Roster for the past 8 years as well as being a volunteer delegate on the District Bush Fire Management Committee. Mr Thiessen has been tireless in his dedication to the RFS for many years and has served the community of New South Wales with distinction.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Victoria

Mr Ian Daniel BOARD, Lara Vic 3212

Mr Board has provided dedicated and outstanding service to the Country Fire Authority (CFA) in Victoria for more than 40 years. He has undertaken several executive roles including Lieutenant, Captain and Group Officer, and has been actively involved in all components of fire brigade activity, which includes Brigade, Group and Regional aspects. He has represented the CFA with distinction in Municipal Fire Prevention activities and meetings and is now a leader within the Headquarters Brigade. Mr Board has also undertaken roles in both Operations and Community Safety within his own and surrounding communities. He has provided outstanding leadership to the Lara Fire Brigade, Geelong Group and Fire Control Region No 7.

Mr Noel Charles FLAKEMORE, 25 Eaglepoint Road, Bellbrae Vic 3228

Mr Flakemore has provided outstanding service and leadership to the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board in Victoria, particularly in the field of firefighting work practices, through his role of a Health and Safety representative and the encouragement and mentoring of others in the development of their skills and knowledge in the field of occupational health and safety. By his passionate, hard working approach to making a difference, Mr Flakemore has consistently stepped outside his normal functional role in order to drive change in improving the health and safety of firefighters in the performance of their duties.

Mr John Beresford GERRAND, 'Malanda', Giffard Road, Stradbroke Vic 3851

For more than 50 years Mr Gerrand has demonstrated an exceptional level of dedicated and committed service to the Country Fire Authority (CFA) in Victoria. At all times he has shown extraordinary commitment to sound and inspired leadership. Possessing extensive experience, exceptional operational management skills and the ability to plan and direct resources calmly, he has been appointed to senior roles at incidents in Victoria and interstate. His roles at the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires, the 1998 ESSO Longford fire and major fires in the ACT and NSW are testament to his ability and commitment. Mr Gerrand's leadership during the Canberra fires of 2003, when so many senior volunteers and staff were overwhelmed, was exceptional. The high standards that he has set for CFA members in Stradbroke and Region10 are an inspiration to all. His ability to lead by example, mentor and inspire volunteers and staff at all levels, means that his judgement on many issues is constantly sought and his advice is highly respected.

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Mr Rodney William HOLLAND, 2 Hillmartin Road, Diamond Creek Vic 3089

Mr Holland has been a dedicated member of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) in Victoria since 1963. A respected and passionate leader, he has held many roles with distinction including Captain at Diamond Creek Fire Brigade, and his outstanding contribution as Group Officer for the Whittlesea/Diamond Valley Group has seen the Group considered as one of the most forward thinking and progressive groups in Victoria. Among his many operational duties, Mr Holland has also been a Group Delegate and representative on the Nillumbik and Banyule MEMPC, MFPC and GERM committees for many years, and has devoted considerable energy to the Region 14 Regional Planning Committee as Deputy Chair. He has often used his strong links with the building and construction industry to improve the operating environment to many brigades and regions significantly.

Mr Bryan Charles McARTHUR, Lilydale Vic 3140

Mr McCarthy has provided outstanding service and leadership to the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board (MFB) in Victoria, particularly in the field of community safety and emergency management. By his passionate, hard working approach to making a difference, Mr McCarthy has consistently sought to identify opportunities to drive and promote change, both within the MFB and through partnerships with other services and agencies.

Mr Peter Vincent RICE, Alexandra Vic 3714

Mr Rice joined the Country Fire Authority (CFA) in Victoria as a volunteer firefighter in 1969. As well as being an active firefighter he served as Secretary of the Alexandra Urban Fire Brigade for 4 years, and as a Secretary of the Alexandra District Fire Brigades Group for 16 months until his appointment to the staff of the CFA and consequent resignation as a volunteer in 1977. After training, Mr Rice served as a Regional Officer in a number of locations throughout Victoria including Instructor duties at the CFA Training College at Fiskville. He left his staff position in 1993 and returned to Alexandra to live; immediately rejoining as a volunteer. Mr Rice served with distinction as a Deputy Group Officer until late 1996 when he was elected to his current position of Group Officer. Throughout, he has retained his status as an active firefighter, currently serving as a Lieutenant in the Alexandra Urban Fire Brigade. Mr Rice has been particularly influential in implementing arrangements to establish the community radio station UGFM as the prime supplier of emergency information in the area and in supporting his community over a long period, exemplified by his practical work in enhancing community and brigade resilience prior to, during and following the Murrindindi Mill fire of February 2009.

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Mr Peter Russell SANDELL, Mildura Vic 3500

Mr Sandell. has worked for Parks Victoria and its predecessors for over 20 years in a variety of roles and locations, including a secondment as a fire planner for the Department of Sustainability and Environment DSE in the Mallee district. As an Environmental Project Officer for the Mallee parks and reserves, Mr Sandell has demonstrated significant leadership and innovation in fire management to achieve a truly integrated fire management program in the Mallee. His ability to lead, coach and influence decisions has been instrumental in forging strong relationships with fire agencies, local brigades and residents in the areas he has worked. Mr Sandell has also played a significant part in facilitating critical change in culture and approach to fire management within Parks Victoria and the DSE, and continues to play an important role in strategic fire planning, particularly in burning in the Mallee district.

Mr Ian Claude WALTER, Horsham Vic 3400

Mr Walter has been a dedicated member the Country Fire Authority (CFA) in Victoria for over 53 years. Highly respected by his colleagues and peers, he has served with distinction as a firefighter in several brigades and is a highly respected Strike Team Leader. He is currently an active Air Observer and active Member of the Doon Rural and Region 17 Headquarters Brigade, His commonsense, experience and ability to lead and manage have seen him elected to many executive roles including Captain of the Charam Fire Brigade, Group Officer, Group Secretary, RPC delegate, Regional and Area H&S delegate, State VRFBA and VFBV delegate,. As well encouraging younger colleagues and members, Mr Walter has always sought to support member training and development. His excellent management and operational skills have also ensured the smooth running of many Rural State Championships. Mr Walter has served the CFA, his colleagues and the community of Victoria with distinction for many years.

Mr Andrew Allan WILSON, Hawthorn Vic 3122

Mr Wilson has demonstrated creativity, innovation and dedication to bushfire prevention research and its direct application for over 23 years in Victoria. His willingness to undertake painstaking analysis has enabled him to develop integrated community protection and fire control strategies that are informed by scientific evidence. The strategies and technology that have resulted from his work have been used across Australia for many years and he continues to shape bushfire management. Since commencing employment as a Fire Research Officer in 1987, Mr Wilson has worked with distinction for the Departments of Infrastructure, Primary Industries, Natural Resources and Environment, Conservation and Natural Resources and Conservation, Forests and Lands. His various roles include Manager of Fire Prevention, Manager of Fire Research, State Fire Coordinator and State-wide Planning Officer during major fires. As Fire Knowledge and Learning Manager within the Department of Sustainability and Environment, he is currently pioneering an holistic approach to learning about fire and has acted in Assistant Chief Fire Officer roles on several occasions.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Queensland

Mr Colin Frank HARCH, Summerholm Qld 4341

Mr Harch has provided exemplary and distinguished service to the community and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) for over 50 years. Through his commitment, hard work, tireless efforts and outstanding leadership, he has achieved the development of a very efficient, cohesive and professional unit at the Hatton Vale Summerholm Rural Fire Brigade. He is a model volunteer firefighter who embodies the capabilities and values the QFRS wishes to encourage in all volunteers.

Mr Ronald Francis STEMM, Algester Qld 4115

Mr Stemm has provided exemplary and distinguished service, particularly through the consolidation and management of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service's State Operations Coordination Centre. He has demonstrated commitment, integrity, diplomacy and professionalism throughout his career, and has exhibited initiative and commitment beyond what is normally expected. He has provided outstanding leadership in the coordination of intrastate, interstate and international deployments, and displayed a high level of care for the welfare of all participants.

Mr Ivan Ernest WESTERN, 44 Bells Road, Mount Chalmers Qld 4702

Mr Western has served the community and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) with distinction in developing the capacity of the Cawarral Rural Fire Brigade to a very high standard. Of particular note, is his dedication to mentoring and inspiring other volunteers, especially younger volunteers. His determination, initiative and outstanding leadership have been beyond what is normally expected of a Brigade Officer and Deputy Group Officer and have seen his Brigade develop into one of the most active in the Keppel Group. His exemplary efforts as a volunteer firefighter and leader have contributed significantly to the QFRS in securing the future protection of his community.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Western Australia

Mr Robert Henry STONER, 130 West Road, Bassendean WA 6054

Mr Stoner has devoted more than 50 years' distinguished service to the Bassendean Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) and the WA Fire Brigade as a volunteer firefighter. He has participated regularly in all Brigade activities, including firefighting and support activities, competitions and fundraising events. He joined the Bassendean VFRS on 1952. He left the Brigade briefly in 1972, but returned in 1975 and is still a current serving member. During his many years of service Mr Stoner has held a number of positions including Foreman between 1955 and 1957 and Apparatus Officer for 12 months. He has also held several executive and coaching positions within the Brigade and has received numerous service awards for his exceptional dedication and commitment. Apart from his firefighting duties, Mr Stoner was also actively involved with the Brigade's Competition Side for many years and was a member of the 1956 State Fire Brigades Championships winning team in 1956. Mr Stoner also coached the senior State Fire Brigades Champions in 1966, and was assistant coach of the 1984 and 1985 winning teams. He also coached the Brigade's first junior competition side in 1977 that was successful in winning the first Junior State Fire Brigades Championships. In addition, he has been a regular Judge at the State Championships since 1973 and has not missed a State Championship since 1952. Mr Stoner has served the VFRS and the community of Bassendean with distinction over many years.

South Australia

Mr Anthony Leonard WEGE, 27 Second Street, Nuriootpa SA 5355

Mr Wege has served the South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS) with distinction as a volunteer firefighter since 1981. In 2007 he stood down as a Deputy Group Officer with the Angaston CFS Group after more than 8 years in the appointment. Mr Wege is also a member of the Nuriootpa Brigade as a firefighter and a member of the Regional and State Incident Management team as a planning officer. He recently retired as the Regional CFS representative on the Regional Bushfire Prevention Committee. Currently, he is an adviser to the State CFS Training Committee, and is a much sought after training officer on Brigade, Group, Regional and State CFS courses. Utilising his experience as a school teacher, he was instrumental in the development of the CFS 3 tiers of training, writing the majority of courses undertaken by CFS volunteers. Mr Wege also managed the CFS state training centre, establishing the groundwork for the current centre at Brukunga. As a qualified planning officer, Mr Wege also took the lead role in planning during a fire in NSW providing guidance and mentoring to 5 other planning officers at the Glen Innes Incident Control Centre. He has also been instrumental in the setting up and management of the Angaston Group Incident Coordination Centre and has provided advice to other groups when setting up their own Incident Coordination centres. Mr Wege has also been successfully involved with the State CFS Competitions and CFS regional field days, not only in his capacity of Brigade member but also as organiser and trainer.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Ms Trudy Lola WHELAN, SA

Ms Whelan joined the South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS) in 1978 as an administration officer and worked in a variety of administrative positions. As Rehabilitation and Welfare Officer since 1988 until her recent retirement, Ms Whelan managed the Stress Prevention and Management Program to assist thousands of CFS and State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers and managed an Employee Assistance Program for career staff, including the role of Staff Counsellor. These programs involved the provision of a wide range of psychological services, including training and education, group debriefings after critical incidents and individual and family counselling. Ms Whelan managed and coordinated an extensive Peer Support program and was instrumental in the development of a nationally accredited and recognised Certificate 3 course in Community Services. Many emergency services volunteers in South Australia have graduated from this course and have been involved in the CFS and SES, working in conjunction with mental health professionals to add to a multilevel service provision. Ms Whelan incorporated other visionary practices into the program and worked diligently to promote to firefighters the concepts of prevention and self management. Ms Whelan also coordinated welfare support to several large South Australian deployments interstate, including to bushfires in NSW in 1994, 2000 and 2001 and to Victoria in 2003 and 2009. Ms Whelan has received awards from WorkCover and the Critical Incident Stress Management Foundation in recognition of her exceptional contribution.

Australian Capital Territory

Mr Brian Phillip MURPHY, 8576 Monaro Highway, Royalla NSW 2620

Mr Murphy has been a member of the ACT Rural Fire Service (RFS) since 1978 and has progressed from being a firefighter with City Parks to a Group Officer and agency representative for Canberra Urban Parks and Places. For a period he undertook a temporary posting as the Training Officer for the ACT Bushfire Service, providing training for volunteers and was largely responsible for the RFS's display at the Royal Canberra Show. Since 2004 he has been the Operations Manager for the RFS and is the current Membership Manager. Mr Murphy has been involved with the suppression of almost every major bushfire and grass fire in the Australian Capital Territory since 1978, and for most of these incidents he was appointed to a senior position within the Incident Management Command structure. He is renowned as both an excellent fire tactician and personnel manager during operations, and local RFS members hold him in the highest regard. Mr Murphy served as President of the ACT Fire Controllers Group between 1998 and 2000, and represented the Group on the ACT Bushfire Council between 2001 and 2004. He has worked extensively with fire agency representatives in the adjoining NSW jurisdictions both on the fire ground and in the management sphere, and is well known and highly respected. During the Victorian Black Saturday bushfires, he was a member of the ACT Task Force to the Alexandria area. After the tragic death of one of the team's leaders, Mr Murphy was at the forefront making sure RFS members received timely counselling and support. Mr Murphy has served the RFS and the community of the Australian Capital Territory with distinction.