

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

New South Wales

Mr Jeffrey James BOWER, Koorainghat Close, Rainbow Flat NSW 2430

Mr Bower has been a member of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) since 1976 and his commitment to the community of New South Wales despite recent ill health has been exemplary. His impressive list of qualifications does not adequately convey the esteem and respect in which he is held by fellow firefighters and staff alike. After several years serving as a Group Captain within the Manning region, he was made Group Senior, a position created especially for him, and he has retained this position with distinction. He leads by example and is usually the first person contacted by volunteers seeking advice or mentoring. He is also highly regarded as a trusted support to staff members. Mr Bower has dedicated many years of his life to the RFS in whatever capacity was required of him. However, the area in which he has contributed the most is training, especially the courses devoted to Crew Leader and Rural Fire Driving. He has also been a very active member of his local Rotary Club.

Mr Anthony Michael CAMILLERI, Warri Beach NSW 2534

Mr Camilleri joined Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) in 1987 and has provided exceptional dedication to the community of New South Wales. He is currently a Station Commander at Wollongong Fire Station. He has acquired significant technical expertise in urban search and rescue operations and has demonstrated a unique ability to teach other FRNSW personnel about specialist rescue incidents. He has been a major influence in rescue training techniques across New South Wales. Mr Camilleri is a model employee who always conducts himself in a professional manner. His outstanding organisational values are readily apparent and can be observed by others on a daily basis, and he continues to mentor his immediate and other staff. He works effectively with senior and Executive officers and has developed working relationships with other partner emergency service agencies and with representatives from other non-government agencies and the wider community. Mr Camilleri is widely respected within and outside FRNSW for his dedication and enthusiasm in serving the community. In 2009, in company with two other FRNSW firefighters, he cycled 4,000 kilometres from Perth to Wollongong across the Nullarbor Plain to raise over \$15,000 for the charity Camp Quality.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Russell Geoffrey DEAVES, Wyee NSW 2259

Mr Deaves joined the Wyee Brigade of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) in 1960 as a founding member. He was appointed Deputy Captain in 1962 and served as Captain from 1965 until 1980 when he appointed Senior Group Captain of Lake Macquarie. He was a founding member of the Lake Macquarie Welfare Group, and a member of the Lake Macquarie Bushfire Committee for some time. Mr Deaves is currently the Deputy Captain of the Wyee Brigade and Permit Issuing Officer, previously serving as President and Training Officer. He has also served as a mediator and mentor, particularly to younger members, and is always available to give advice if needed. Apart from his extensive Brigade activities Mr Deaves has been active within the local community, having served as President of the Wyee Hall Committee, President of Neighbourhood Watch and Life Member of the Progress Association, and as President of Junior Farmers in his younger days. For his Brigade work and community spirit he received the Captain's Committee Award for Lake Macquarie for leadership and outstanding service in 1986 and was City of Lake Macquarie Citizen of the Year in 1995 in recognition of his leadership and commitment to the RFS and local community. In 2007, Mr Deaves was the proclaimed the inaugural Volunteer of the Year for the Central Coast.

Mr Paul Jack GLEESON, Cunjurong Point NSW 2539

Mr Gleeson has given over 20 years' commitment to the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS). Commencing with the Cunjurong Point Brigade in 1988, he has participated in nearly every major fire in the Shoalhaven since then. His outstanding leadership qualities were recognised early in his distinguished RFS career, being elected as Deputy Captain in 1989 and Brigade Captain in 1992. In 1998 he was elected Group Captain, a position he still holds. His leadership qualities are recognised across the RFS, having participated in many out-of-area strike teams and task forces as both a leader and participant, attending incidents in Gloucester, Tumut, Yarrowlumla, Wellington, Cooma, Kosciusko National Park, Australian Capital Territory and Victoria. Mr Gleeson has taken particular interest in training activities within the Shoalhaven District, contributing to the strategic development and planning of training. He has regularly conducted crew leader, advanced firefighter and bush firefighter training, and mentors trainee crew and group leaders. Mr Gleeson has been active over many years in encouraging cross agency training through his involvement in organising the Shoalhaven Local Emergency Management Committee's annual interagency training exercise. Mr Gleeson's dedication and leadership within the RFS over many years has made him a valuable member of the firefighting community.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Peter MURGATROYD, 87 Faviell Drive, Bonville NSW 2450

Mr Murgatroyd joined Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) in 1979 and has served the community with distinction over many years. He is recognised by his peers and leaders in other emergency services for his outstanding professionalism and commitment to the community. He has served at a variety of fire stations and positions and is currently the Area Commander of the northern region of New South Wales. Prior to his current position, for many years he was the Zone Commander responsible for Sydney's south western region, one of Sydney's fastest growing areas. He successfully ensured that fire service planning and resource allocation kept pace with residential, commercial and industrial development across a diverse area with complex social and infrastructure challenges. He provided exceptional leadership to firefighters during the 1999 Glenbrook rail disaster and the 2005 Macquarie Fields riots, and was deployed to the Victorian coordination centre to provide senior executive support during the Victorian bushfire emergency. He was also chosen by his peers to represent fellow senior officers for ten years in the Senior Officers Sub-Branch of the Fire Brigades Employees Union. Mr Murgatroyd has demonstrated exemplary leadership and commitment to improvements in community safety and he is widely respected within and outside FRNSW for his distinguished service.

Mr Christopher John POWELL,
'Morningswood', 135 Weeroona Drive, Wamboin NSW 2620

Mr Powell has been a member of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) since 1966 when he joined the Leura Bush Fire Brigade. He is still an active member of the Wamboin Brigade and is always available to assist in activities when required. He has always been a very dedicated RFS member on many levels, providing high level of support to the district staff in assisting with operational incident management and on the fire ground where he has proved himself to be more than capable of managing incidents at all levels in a very professional manner. He is a member of the Lake George Bush Fire Management Committee and actively participates, providing valuable input to the forum. He always researches matters requiring his attention and provides measured professional opinions. Mr Powell was instrumental in the formation of the Workers Compensation Working Group in 2007 comprising representatives of both staff and volunteers of the RFS. This working group addresses issues that have emanated from volunteers and has achieved significant outcomes to benefit volunteers and their families. The framework established has also been utilised by other volunteer organisations. Mr Powell is a highly competent and capable group officer who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, dedication, commitment and achievement throughout his distinguished volunteer career with the RFS.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Mervyn John REED, Tocumwal NSW 2714

Mr Reed joined Fire and Rescue NSW in 1969 as a volunteer firefighter and has been Captain of the Tocumwal Fire Brigade since 1983. He has served with distinction over many years, providing dedicated service to the people of New South Wales, particularly the Tocumwal community. He has coordinated the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal for over 15 years, served as Treasurer of the Tocumwal AFL Club for 11 years, and has been a long-serving Committee Member on the Tocumwal Squash Club and Tocumwal Bowls Club. For over 40 years he has been dedicated to the Firefighter Championships, where he has personally enhanced the firefighting skills of countless volunteer and retained firefighters and, thereby, the safety of the communities they serve. Mr Reed has gained a reputation for being an active, ethical and reliable community member who is always willing to lend a hand when needed.

Mr Geoffrey Claude TOWNER, 23 Poinsettia Crescent, Brooms Head NSW 2463

Mr Towner joined the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) as a member of the Brooms Head Rural Fire Brigade 1979, and he has been involved as an active frontline firefighter and field officer and leader with the Brigade and the Clarence Valley District. Since the formation of the Clarence Valley Zone in 2001, Mr Towner has participated in the process and assisted by providing leadership to the volunteers through the restructure and zone consolidation. He is an energetic participant and vocal advocate in his role as volunteer representative on the Clarence Valley Senior Management Group and has also represented volunteers on the Clarence Valley Bush Fire Management Committee since 2001. Mr Towner has been an extremely active firefighter and during his distinguished service has performed with distinction in providing fireline leadership and coordination for major fire incident campaigns. Mr Towner currently serves Group Captain in the Clarence Valley District and was previously a Captain with the Brooms Head Brigade. He has acquired considerable experience as a senior field officer, and his providing outstanding leadership during the 2001 and 2009 bushfires that threatened the coastal village of Brooms Head contributed significantly to limiting losses. His dedication to serving his community has also seen him play a leading role during the major floods on the Clarence in 2007 and 2009 when he assisted in coordinating the RFS' resources in protecting the Maclean community and infrastructure.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Bruce Ronald WALTON, 52 Ebony Avenue, Carlingford NSW 2118

Mr Walton has served as a member North Rocks Brigade of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) with distinction for over 38 years and has held various positions up to the rank of Deputy Group Officer within Region East, a position he currently holds. He has provided exceptional leadership at Brigade, District and state levels in the areas of brigade management, firefighting training, community education and district welfare provision. Of special note is his extensive work with the RFS Critical Incident Support Service, of which Mr Walton is a founding member. His knowledge and capabilities in this very demanding role are of the highest order and have seen him operate in the most harrowing of operational circumstances. His participation in operational firefighting has extended beyond his local district and includes in excess of twenty out of area deployments. He also served with distinction in his Critical Incident role at the horrendous fires in Canberra in 2003. Mr Walton has represented the RFS widely, including at the World Congress on Trauma and Coping in Baltimore, USA, in 2005. He has also achieved considerable reputation throughout the RFS and is very highly respected for his integrity, unwavering commitment and devotion to duty, especially when assisting RFS members who experience trauma or distress as part of their operational involvement. He is renowned for his immense ability to build trust and maintain confidentiality when compassionately assisting and supporting people during sensitive emotionally demanding times. He is an excellent role model for RFS members to emulate.

Victoria

Mr Robert Wayne JARVIS, Axe Creek Vic 3551

Mr Jarvis has worked for over 33 years in land and fire management in a number of locations in Victoria. His fire experience, particularly in the area of fire aviation management, is a considerable asset to Parks Victoria and the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and other emergency services. In addition to performing operational roles as an Air Attack Supervisor, Air Observer and Wildfire Investigator, Mr Jarvis has a significant role as trainer and mentor of staff performing fire aviation roles with a particular emphasis on aviation safety. Over the past several years he has worked closely with the DSE to develop aviation policy and procedures for fire emergency and the non-emergency use of aircraft. Recently, he has performed a significant role managing aviation response requirements supporting the Victorian Department of Primary Industries in response to Plague Locust infestations and the Victorian State Emergency Service in response to significant floods. Mr Jarvis is highly regarded by his peers in the Victorian fire services and the aviation industry. His high level of skills and experience have led to his being deployed to the USA on three separate occasions to support fire agencies in the management of large and complex wildfires.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Neil Stanley LABBETT, Millbrook Vic 3352

Mr Labbett has provided dedicated and distinguished service as a volunteer with the Country Fire Authority (CFA) in Victoria for over 35 years, and has undertaken the roles of Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Group Officer and Group Officer. He has also been actively involved in all components of fire brigade activity at Brigade, Group, regional and state levels. He has also actively participated in promoting the welfare of volunteers by his involvement with Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria at region and state levels. For a number of years while he was captain of his Brigade, Mr Labbett was instrumental in developing the younger generation and so formed a group of junior members within the Brigade. His exemplary service, outstanding leadership qualities and development of juniors within the Brigade have earned him the respect of his CFA peers and colleagues. Mr Labbett has also been a member of the Regional Planning Committee for approximately 9 years, having served as Chairman in 2004, and is currently serving a term as Chairman of the District Planning Committee. He has provided outstanding leadership to the Millbrook Fire Brigade, Ballan Group and CFA District No 15, and has been instrumental in managing major fire operations in the region and in other areas across Victoria and interstate.

Mr Trevor Robert MILLS, 8 Dakers Street, Ouyen Vic 3490

Mr Mills has provided distinguished and dedicated volunteer service as a firefighter with the Country Fire Authority (CFA) in Victoria for over 39 years, including 32 years as a volunteer fire service and community leader. Mr Mills was one of the key CFA contributors to the design of the Wimmera Mallee pipeline in the Ouyen area, specifically with regard to the identification of the sites for hydrants and its accessibility for firefighting purposes. Through his selflessness he has been an inspiration to fellow volunteers and the local community as an officer and Captain of the Ouyen Fire Brigade. During this time, he has led the CFA's highly effective contribution to the fire awareness and fire safety of the Ouyen community. As leader of the Ouyen Junior Fire Brigade for more than 20 years, he has created a unique personal development opportunity for the youth of Ouyen and district. His guidance, outstanding personal leadership and work by example have built self-esteem and self-confidence among junior fire brigade members and has instilled in them a lasting commitment to community service. Mr Mills has served the CFA and his local community, particularly the younger members, with distinction.

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Mr Allan James MORTON, Woodend Vic 3442

Mr Morton has provided outstanding service and exceptional leadership to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) in Victoria for over 26 years. He has made a significant contribution, particularly in the delivery of the Emergency Medical Response (EMR) program, by establishing best practice standards in the areas of operational systems, training, skills maintenance and automated and improved patient data transfer. Mr Morton has played a lead role in the design development and implementation of a data transfer system for the MFB's defibrillators - a system that is now standard between MFB defibrillators and emergency departments of major hospitals. Many lives have been saved as a result of direct firefighter EMR intervention. Through his passionate, diligent and hard working approach, Mr Morton has driven change and implemented improvements to enhance the MFB's interoperability with other response agencies delivering pre-hospital response services to the Victorian community and, at the same time, encouraged and assisted other organisations to establish best practice pre-hospital response. Mr Morton has served the community of Victoria with distinction.

Mr Alan Norman RHODES, 335 Highett Street, Richmond Vic 3121

Mr Rhodes has provided distinguished and exceptional service as a full-time permanent member of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) in Victoria for over 17 years. His enormous contribution to Victorian fire services has led to substantial improvements in community safety. Through his association with the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council, he has also made a significant impact on community safety across Australia and internationally. His specialised expertise in human behaviour and bushfire preparedness has resulted in the delivery of world class community education programs that help save lives and property from the threat of fires. Mr Rhodes has long been a leader in the field of human behaviour, both in the wildfire and residential fire contexts, and his exceptional performance in research and evaluation has led to the development of best-practice policy and programs in Victoria.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Leslie John VEARING, 12 Fenton Avenue, Campbells Creek Vic 3451

Mr Vearing has made an outstanding contribution to emergency service over over 25 years in developing the capability of staff from the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and partner agencies in fire suppression and planned burning, and in developing a number of operational initiatives that have improved firefighter safety and efficiency. He has provided training and mentoring to DSE operational firefighters and partner agencies involved in fire suppression and planned burning over many years. Mr Vearing has led the development of a number of important initiatives in Victoria such as managing bulldozers during fire control, safe back-burning in difficult forest environments, and strategies and tactics for suppressing grass fires. He was responsible for the development of an innovative automated risk-based despatch system for the Murray Goldfields fire district that has been used successfully to contain a number of potentially serious fires at first attack. Mr Vearing has also demonstrated an outstanding commitment to mentoring less experienced colleagues in the field; of particular note was his mentoring of interstate and overseas staff during the 2006-2007 fires and the 2009 fires in Victoria, thereby ensuring their safety in challenging environments.

Mr Bruce Leonard VINE, 697 Mountain Creek Road, Tawonga Vic 3697

Mr Vine has provided exemplary service and dedication as a volunteer with the Country Fire Authority (CFA) in Victoria for 39 years. His outstanding contribution has been above and beyond the expected duty and obligations of a CFA member. Mr Vine's role in leading the establishment of the CFA Youth Crew program across the cluster of Mount Beauty, Tallangatta and Corryong was invaluable in providing opportunities for the young people of north east Victoria to contribute to their community through volunteering with CFA. As Deputy Group Officer, Mr Vine led the Kiewa Group through the 2003 Alpine Fires and, as Group Officer, through the destructive 2006-2007 Great Divide Fires, both of which had an impact on his home community of Tawonga. Mr Vine is also currently serving as Vice-President of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (of which is a Life Member) and as District 24 Delegate through a period of enormous change, ensuring the welfare and interests of Victorian volunteer firefighters are represented and valued at the highest levels of government and within the community in Victoria. Mr Vine has served the CFA and his local community, particularly the younger members, with distinction.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Queensland

Mr Ian William BIRBECK, 102 McGhee Crescent, Agnes Water Qld 4677

Mr Birbeck has demonstrated outstanding commitment and dedication to the enhancement of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service communications network throughout Central Region. He has used his expertise and technical knowledge, considerable contacts and dedicated drive to expand radio networks and infrastructure. This has increased the operational capability of Central Region, and has contributed to the operational capability of other agencies and emergency services. In addition, Mr Birbeck's commitment to the local area has contributed to the development of the joint Rural/Auxiliary Station at Agnes Water.

Mr Brian Francis CLERK, PO Box 693, Ingham Qld 4850

Mr Clerk has demonstrated outstanding volunteer commitment to the community of Hinchinbrook and the Bambaroo Rural Fire Brigade, and has significantly contributed to the improvement of operational capability. Mr Clerk has been tireless in his desire to assist and support the functions of the Rural Fire Service in Queensland in the continued advancement of community safety.

Mr Antonio PERNA, Kuttabul Qld 4741

Mr Perna has provided distinguished volunteer service to the Kuttabul Rural Fire Brigade and an exceptional contribution and guidance for rural fire service reforms across sugar cane related brigades. Mr Perna has also been an active and influential member of the Queensland Rural Fires Council and the local Cane Growers Association, and has been a strong advocate for the safe use of fire.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Charles Isaac SMITH, deceased,
Late of Coomera Qld 4209

Mr Smith provided outstanding volunteer service in the establishment and support of the Wasp Creek Rural Fire Brigade through inspirational leadership to the Brigade, the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service and the community. Mr Smith was dedicated to encouraging new members and committed to providing the best possible service delivery to his local community. He gained the respect of firefighters, management, politicians and community members.

Mr Smith died on 27 September 2011.

Mr John Stanley WATSON, Hervey Bay Qld 4655

Mr Watson has displayed outstanding service and exceptional contributions in relation to operational management and post incident analysis. This notably includes his leadership in relation to the Childers Backpacker Hostel Fire in 2000, the Tilt Train disaster in 2004, numerous major incident management roles and the post incident analysis relating to Tropical Cyclone Larry in 2006.

Western Australia

Mr Russell Joseph HAYES, Geraldton WA 6530

Mr Hayes' contribution to emergency services in Western Australia dates back to 1979 when he joined the Fire Brigades Board as a volunteer firefighter in Merredin, and he is still linked to the Waggrakine Volunteer Bushfire Brigade. Mr Hayes has also worked as a professional in emergency services since being employed by the Bush Fire Service as a Fire Liaison Officer in 1987, working in various locations, particularly in the Pilbara/Kimberley region where his roles included Regional Director of the Western Australian State Emergency Service. Mr Hayes instigated many programs for the delivery of sustainable emergency management programs to Indigenous communities while in north west Western Australia, and delivered the Fire and Emergency Service Authority's 'Stay and Defend or Go Early' bushfire preparation and education program in the Shire of Greenough. Mr Hayes' leadership qualities have instilled into volunteer bushfire firefighters a great deal of faith and trust under difficult and dangerous situations and his ability to train and teach in this field has been exceptional. His ability to train members of both permanent and volunteer emergency rescue teams has earned him the respect of everyone he has worked with, as well as the wider community. His distinguished service to the community of Western Australia over many years has been consistently highlighted by outstanding leadership, the encouragement and development of others and extensive community engagement.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Ms Marion Kaye MACDOUGALL, Denmark WA 6333

Approximately 35 years ago Ms Macdougall and her husband moved to Denmark where there was very little in the way of fire brigades. They quickly created an asset register of firefighting equipment held on private land in the Kordabup and Owingup areas, and then raised funds to buy two fire trucks and established a volunteer brigade. They both trained and supported hundreds of volunteers over the years through to the change of ownership of the brigade to FESA and the Denmark Shire. Ever since they joined forces to establish the brigade they have been active firefighters, trainers and mentors. Ms Macdougall has, in addition to her current volunteer duties with the Bush Fire Service, obtained training and achieved her HR truck driver's license to help support her fellow members in an emergency and up-skilled herself by also obtaining her first aid certificate. Along with being a volunteer fire brigade firefighter, she also volunteers for St John Ambulance in the Denmark District. Ms Macdougall has served the community of the Denmark area with distinction.

Mr Roderick Malcolm MACDOUGALL, Denmark WA 6333

Approximately 35 years ago Mr Macdougall and his wife moved to Denmark where there was very little in the way of fire brigades. They quickly created an asset register of firefighting equipment held on private land in the Kordabup and Owingup areas, and then raised funds to buy two fire trucks and established a volunteer brigade. They both trained and supported hundreds of volunteers over the years through to the change of ownership of the brigade to FESA and the Denmark Shire. Ever since they joined forces to establish the brigade they have been active firefighters, trainers and mentors. Mr Macdougall has brought a huge amount of local knowledge to the younger members and those new to the area and his earlier career as a forester enables him to better understand the workings of fire through different terrain and vegetation. He has always kept the profile of the brigade active, showing extreme patience, diligence and good spirit. Though now aged in his mid 80s he still maintains a secretarial role for the brigade, is always attentive and available throughout the fire season, and rarely misses a day on the radio schedule. Regardless of extended fire seasons, he responds readily to any call and always actively works to put a crew together at short notice. Prior to his moving to Denmark, Mr Macdougall was an active member of the Keysbrook Volunteer Fire Brigade. He has served his local communities with distinction.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Jeffry John SMITH, 34 Broadwater Loop, Lakelands WA 6180

Mr Smith has been an active and integral part of firefighting for almost 40 years. He began this involvement serving as a firefighter in the Australian Army at Singleton in NSW for nearly 8 years and also supported the local volunteer fire brigade. After leaving the Australian Army, he commenced employment with the (then) Department of Fisheries and Wildlife in Western Australia as a Technical Officer (Fire). Based in Wanneroo and Pingelly, Mr Smith was heavily involved in fire prevention, being required to prepare fire management plans for nature reserve and to survey these reserves for the installation of strategic fire breaks. Should a fire occur, he was charged with managing firefighting operations on behalf of the Department when the fire was on or threatened nature reserves. His volunteer service began in 1984 when he joined the City of Wanneroo Bush Fire Brigade. Mr Smith became a Lieutenant in the Brigade after 5 years service and fulfilled the position of Captain between 1994 and 1999. In 1999 he became Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for the City of Wanneroo, remaining in this position until he moved to Mandurah in 2005 and joined the Mandurah Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service. His skills were immediately put to use, taking up the role of Apparatus Officer, a position he still holds. Mr Smith's exceptional devotion to community safety has been seen in several areas, where he has excelled above and beyond what could be expected of any volunteer. He is held in high regard by Bush Fire Service members, Fire and Rescue Service volunteers and career staff, and Fire and Emergency Service Authority management. He has displayed exemplary service and has also conducted many public relation exercises at the annual Wanneroo Show and during Fire Prevention Week, and delivered talks to local schoolchildren. Mr Smith has served the community with distinction.

South Australia

Mr Terence John BEESTON, PO Box 310, Summertown SA 5141

Mr Beeston joined the South Australian Country Fire Service (SACFS) (then the Emergency Fire Service) in 1972 as a firefighter with the Norton Summit Brigade. During his years of service with the Brigade, he was elected 1st Lieutenant, Brigade Chairman and Training Officer. In 1986 he was elected as Deputy Group Officer of the East Torrens SACFS Group and then elected as Group Officer in 1999. As a serving member with the Norton Summit Brigade Mr Beeston was the driving force behind the building of the Brigade's Station in 1986. He also undertook many other duties for the Brigade. As the East Torrens Group Officer, Mr Beeston's greatest strength has been his ability to interact effectively with all Brigades within his Group to ensure that their needs have been fair and equally satisfied across all stakeholders, resulting in the Group being an extremely well run and cohesive entity. A lasting legacy of Mr Beeston's distinguished service will undoubtedly be the new East Torrens Group Control Centre. Mr Beeston undertook control of the project management of the total refurbishment of the former (apparently derelict) Uraidla RSL building. The project involved extensive renovations, all performed by a team of volunteers to limit costs. After 7 years, the Group Control Centre is now ready for the oncoming fire danger season. It is testament to his dedication that the Adelaide Hills community now has a Group Control Centre which will serve the community for many years to come. Throughout Mr Beeston's distinguished service he has shown outstanding leadership and has mentored many SACFS members, and he continues to inspire others to achieve the highest levels of professionalism.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Barry Elliott LUKE, Broadview SA 5083

Mr Luke consistently exemplifies the personal qualities and attributes of the firefighting profession. He is relentless in his desires to improve the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service and the well-being of its staff. His enthusiasm for the profession and the community is outstanding. He is a person of high integrity and honesty and is respected highly by his peers. His tenacity and dedication are demonstrated by his unselfish demeanour and the fact that a fair portion of his activities are outside of his job requirements and are entirely in a voluntary capacity. He has been an inspiration in his efforts and involvement to ensure that the many firefighting charities and clubs have a high profile by volunteering his services in supporting and organising various functions. Additionally, his invaluable support and tireless effort in regard to the Australasian Professional Firefighters Association have been pivotal in the promotion and success of the Association. He has been one of the organisers of the Annual Foundation Ball which has been the major supporter of Camp Smokey and raises a significant amount of money annually. Mr Luke's exceptional selflessness and enthusiasm to promote the chosen causes has never wavered.

Mrs Suzanne Joy MICKAN, 12 Railway Terrace, Coonalpyn SA 5265

Mrs Mickan has been a member of the South Australian Country Fire Service (SACFS) for over 30 years and has held many different roles, initially as a Brigade Communications Officer for 13 years. She then became a Group Communications Officer for 8 years and currently holds several roles within the Coorong CFS Group, including Deputy Group Officer, Group Equipment and Purchasing Officer. Mrs Mickan has always gone 'Beyond the Call of Duty' for the benefit of her local Brigade, Group, Region and the SACFS as a whole. She continually inspires youth to join the Emergency Services and is actively involved with Community Education sessions on bushfire awareness held within her Group. She currently holds a Workplace Assessor Certificate and is undertaking Training and Assessment in nationally accredited modules within Region 3. Mrs Mickan is devoted to the SACFS and contributes various ideas to the Murray Lands Branch of the SACFS Volunteers Association as a long-standing member, and is always keen to enhance the well-being of volunteers. She also serves on the Chief Officers Advisory Council, Region 3 Regional Volunteer Management Committee, and the Group and Regional Finance Committees. Despite her committee involvement, Mrs Mickan still manages to attend many of the road crashes that occur along the busy stretch of highway within her Group, along with taking on the role of Incident Controller during campaign fires (both large and small). She has served the SACFS and her community with distinction.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Colin Anthony RYLES, Marino SA 5049

Mr Ryles has displayed exemplary commitment to the professional operational management of the statewide call receipt and dispatch (CRD) within the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (SAMFS). He has consistently demonstrated the attributes and virtues of leadership, perseverance, tenacity and a strong work ethic in his position as the CRD Integration Manager, providing oversight and direction to the overall SA Computer Aided Dispatch (SACAD) Project, which is in the process of being implemented throughout South Australia. Mr Ryles has also been involved in the development of a new Fire Alarm Monitoring system for South Australia. He has led a small team of technical experts to produce a model for a robust state of the art Fire Alarm Monitoring system over the past three years. He is committed to the continuous improvement of the Communication function within the South Australian Emergency Services Sector and has dedicated his service career to progressing this function within the SAMFS. Throughout his distinguished career, he has worked in all aspects of the Communications Centre and has made a significant contribution to the Centre's operational efficiency and the improvement of its operations.

Tasmania

Mr Anthony Dick BLANKS, Hobart Tas 7000

Mr Blanks' distinguished career in firefighting and fire management spans over more than 30 years, initially with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service and presently with Forestry Tasmania. He has been a keen driver in developing effective interagency partnerships and protocols across the three main organisations that provide for bushfire protection in Tasmania - the Tasmania Fire Service, Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service and Forestry Tasmania. Mr Blanks worked tirelessly to develop the co-operative spirit which exists to ensure that the management and suppression of bushfires in Tasmania is safe efficient and cost effective. He has the respect and understanding of all firefighting personnel, developed through his continued commitment to 'working together' and the tried and tested interagency arrangements that are now known as a 'best practice' model by interstate fire services and land management agencies. Mr Blanks has participated in, and supported, incident management arrangements on many major campaign fires locally, interstate and overseas. He recently retired as a member of the Board of the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC), but remains a member of the AFAC.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Colin Edwin TRIFFITT, 22 Barnett Avenue, New Norfolk Tas 7140

Mr Triffitt joined the Tasmania Fire Service as a volunteer firefighter with the New Norfolk Fire Brigade in 1973. In 1995 he was elected to the position of Third Officer, and elected to Second Officer in 2000. In 2003 he was elected to the Brigade's senior leadership position of Brigade Chief and he remains in this position. Mr Triffitt has been a committed motivator and mentor in his Brigade and is an active supporter of junior and cadet development, as well as a valued volunteer training instructor. For several years he has also worked actively on the executive of the Tasmanian Retained Volunteer Firefighters Association, representing and supporting volunteers on a number of committees and working groups. Mr Triffitt has displayed an extensive and dedicated commitment to the Tasmania Fire Service and to the community of New Norfolk.