

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

New South Wales

Dr Gregory Mark BUCKLEY, Leichhardt NSW 2040

Mr Buckley was appointed to the permanent firefighter ranks in 1983 and has since given exemplary service to Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) and to the community of New South Wales. During his distinguished career, he has served in a wide range of command and specialist positions with distinction. Since March 2007, Mr Buckley has served as Assistant Director Built Environment and Research, with state-wide responsibility for the organisation's critical efforts in community safety, research and prevention through improvements to the built environment. In this challenging field, he has been responsible for numerous initiatives that have enhanced public safety. As well as initiating significant improvements in the FRNSW's capability, policy and procedures, Mr Buckley has represented the organisation with distinction on numerous multi-agency committees and work groups, both within New South Wales and nationally, and consistently demonstrates his exceptional value to the FRNSW as one of its pre-eminent experts in the built environment and research. Throughout his distinguished career, he has displayed exceptional professionalism, unwavering commitment, and unquestioned integrity. While his range of appointments has seen him undertake some of the most challenging roles within the FRNSW, Mr Buckley has consistently performed at the highest possible level to the benefit of the organisation and the community. In doing so, he has demonstrated a deep passion for improving the FRNSW's prevention capability, training and regulatory functions.

Mr Lindsay Ronald HENLEY, Ungarie NSW 2669

Mr Henley joined the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) as a member of the Ungarie/Bland Brigade in 1970. His commitment to his community and the RFS is outstanding. He is always focused on assisting his community in times of desperate need, irrespective of it being a flood, fire or a storm. Mr Henley leads by example and is one of the first to take a leadership role. This was evident in the deployments in Narradhan in 2009 and at the recent floods that inundated the village of Ungarie where his leadership skills, professionalism and coordination abilities were demonstrated. In deployments to major fires Mr Henley has taken on roles and responsibilities as a member of the incident management team, divisional commander and strike team leader. He has always been praised for the way he represents the RFS and manages and prioritises tasks that have been assigned to him. He has also been praised for the exceptional care he provides for the volunteers under his command. The resilience and empathy Mr Henley displays is a credit to a man who puts the interests of others before himself. He is passionate about the Bland-Temora Zone volunteers who have benefited from his persistence in achieving continuous improvement. His commitment in attending meetings of the senior management team, group captains and captains, as well as annual group equipment inspections, has been outstanding.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Barrie John HEWITT, 'Ironbark', 2298 Glen Alice Road, Bogee NSW 2849

Mr Hewitt joined the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) as member of the Arcadia Brigade in 1966 and has held various positions in the Brigade, including Captain for 11 years. In recognition of his dedication to the Brigade he was awarded life membership in 1993. In 2001 Mr Hewitt transferred to the Bogee Rural Fire Brigade and was elected to the position of Group Captain in 2006, a position he still holds. As both Captain and Group Captain Mr Hewitt has shown outstanding leadership in the encouragement and development of volunteer members, and has accepted and promoted change to enable the progression of the District. He actively supports and participates in training and exercises as well as being a mentor to volunteers and staff alike. He is active in promoting new initiatives and encourages their acceptance by the Brigades. Since the amalgamation of the Mudgee and Rylstone Councils in 2004 Mr Hewitt has played an integral part in bringing together the 1,200 volunteers from the two areas. His enthusiasm and leadership have been pivotal in moving Brigades forward into what is now a cohesive and progressive Cudgegong District. Mr Hewitt is highly respected as a fire tactician and his ability to read fire and terrain. He has a selfless attitude to the RFS, often forgoing his own pursuits to undertake RFS activities and is highly respected by both volunteers and staff within the District. His contributions as a volunteer over the past 46 years have been of significant benefit to the RFS and to the community.

Mr David Bruce MILLIKEN, 1018 Alpine Way, Thredbo NSW 2627

Mr Milliken has given outstanding service to Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) and to the community of Thredbo as a firefighter attached to Thredbo Brigade since 1988. In July 1997, 2,000 cubic metres of mud and rock shifted below the Alpine Way at Thredbo, destroyed a number of ski lodges and, sadly, resulted in the death of 18 people. Mr Milliken led the response from the Thredbo Brigade, helping to extricate the victims of the landslide. Fittingly, the heroism of Mr Milliken and his crew was recognised through a Commendation for Meritorious Service. Since his appointment as Captain of the Thredbo Brigade, Mr Milliken has cemented the Brigade's place at the centre of the Thredbo community. Through his efforts, the Brigade supports the vulnerable in their local community by educating them about fire safety. During the 2003 bushfires, Mr Milliken and assisting fire personnel stopped the devastating fires at Thredbo's doorstep. Apart from his duties with FRNSW, Mr Milliken dedicates a significant amount of his own time to maintaining his community's safety. He is a dedicated ski patroller and, with advanced training in life support, is the first at the scene of any life-threatening situation when a doctor is not immediately available.

Awards/recognition include:

NSWFB Unit Commendation for Meritorious Service.

NSWFB Commendation for Courageous Action.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Tom NOLLES, PO Box 874, Orange NSW 2800

Mr Nolles joined the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) as a member of the Mullion Creek Brigade in 1975 and served there until he left the district in 1987. Upon returning in 1996, he joined the Northwest Orange Brigade where he has held the roles of Senior Deputy Captain, Deputy Captain, Secretary, Treasurer and Training Officer. In 2009 he was elected as Captain of the newly formed Canobolas Zone Support Brigade, a position he still holds. In addition to firefighting, Mr Nolles is involved in training and is a member of the training committee. He also provides support to the cadet secondary school program as an instructor and cadet coordinator. Mr Nolles is held in high regard throughout the Zone and is often called upon to be a member of various committees. He has chaired the Disciplinary and Awards Committees and is also a member of the Operations Committee and Canobolas Zone Liaison Committee. Mr Nolles is also a committed member of the Rural Fire Service Association (RFSA), spending many hours as Chairperson of the Canobolas Branch, Secretary and State Council Delegate for Division 8, Member of the Grants Committee and RFSA representative on the RFS Membership Services Committee. Mr Nolles is an outstanding example of a dedicated volunteer firefighter. He is highly regarded by his peers as a man of integrity and honesty, and is a champion of the volunteers and their causes through his involvement with the RFSA.

Mr Errol James SMITH, 17 Hunter Street, Singleton NSW 2330

Mr Smith joined the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) as a member of the Bulga Brigade in 1956 and served in various appointments until he was elected Captain in 1984. In 1989 he was elected Group Captain, a position he still holds. During his tenure as Brigade Captain, Mr Smith was instrumental in the establishment of the Brigade station, negotiating the donation of the land and organising the supply of building materials. In recognition of his years of dedicated service and commitment, he was awarded life membership of the Bulga Brigade in 2004. He manages the Brigades within his Group diligently and he is actively involved with the Group's skills. Mr Smith is an active member of the senior management team and represents the interests of the volunteers with great passion. As a very skilled firefighter and extremely competent fire manager, he is a great source of information and insight for many firefighters. Mr Smith has attended countless incidents during his distinguished service and was involved with all major fires from the late 1960s until 2012. He also led many out-of-area deployments, including the response to the Sydney Hailstorm in 1999 and the fires in Canberra in 2003 and Victoria in 2009. In the 1990s Mr Smith regularly assisted the Fire Control Officer by undertaking the Duty Officer role and other essential duties within the Fire Control Centre. Mr Smith has devoted the past 56 years to the community and to the RFS.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr James Patrick SMITH, 'Long Plain', 59 JR Smith Lane, Urana NSW 2645

Mr Smith joined the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) as a member of the Bidgeemia Bush Fire Brigade in 1968. His leadership qualities were evident to the Brigade members and he was quickly elected Captain of the Brigade, a position he held for 27 years. He was subsequently appointed Group Captain in 1996 and continues to serve in this position. Mr Smith has demonstrated outstanding leadership at all levels of RFS activities and has managed the full range of incidents that have involved the RFS over the past 27 years including, more recently, the Victorian Bushfires in 2009 and the flood recovery at Urana in 2012. At every incident his duties have been conducted at the highest levels of safety, ensuring effective outcomes for the firefighters under his command and the community affected. His leadership skills were pivotal in the amalgamation of the five local council areas to form the Riverina Zone, and he continues to work tirelessly as representative on the senior management team ensuring the interests of the volunteer membership are represented. He is totally committed to the improvement of the RFS across the Zone, particularly in the areas of infrastructure, hazard management, training and strategic planning. As an active participant on the Riverina Zone Bush Fire Management Committee, Mr Smith has contributed to the function of risk and operational planning and has promoted mitigation plans of the highest calibre to improve the outcomes for Brigades and the community.

Mr Wayne STAPLES, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Mr Staples joined Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) in 1981 and was promoted to the rank of Station Officer in 1996. Throughout his distinguished service, he has been instrumental to the emergency response to a range of major disasters. His actions have, in many cases, saved lives. Mr Staples participated in the 1997 Thredbo incident where he and his team colleagues withstood extreme temperatures and high physical demands to help retrieve the victims of the landslide disaster. Further afield, in 1999 he participated in an international response to a major earthquake in Taiwan. As part of a combined Australian team, Mr Staples and his colleagues assisted a United Nations disaster assessment team in surveying the worst hit areas and determining response priorities. In January 2001, Mr Staples responded to an accident involving a 50-tonne crane on the M5 freeway at Mascot. Mr Staples, assisted by one of his colleagues, led the rescue operation to free the driver of the crane. Despite the significant risk to his own safety, he volunteered to assist the seriously injured driver during the most dangerous part of the rescue operation. Mr Staples is currently serving in the position of Senior Instructor at Port Macquarie where his expertise and experience should inspire others to emulate his achievements.

Awards/recognition include:

NSWFB Unit commendation for Meritorious Service, 2009.

NSWFB Commendation for Courageous Action, 2001.

Royal Humane Society's Bronze Medal 2001.

NSWFB Unit Commendation for Meritorious Service, 1997.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Ian Charles STEWART, 5 Coombah Close, Tapitallee NSW 2540

Mr Stewart has served in the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) for over 32 years. In this time he has worked in various roles in a number of District positions across New South Wales including Bega, Cooma Monaro, Eurobodalla, Tamworth, Great Lakes and Shoalhaven. He has also worked as Regional Manager and Regional Learning and Development Officer, and has acted as Manager State Operations during protracted fire operations. His detailed knowledge of emergency arrangements in New South Wales and understanding of the RFS have been recognised by his active participation in policy formulation at state level. Mr Stewart is recognised widely for his incident management skills and has been appointed Incident Controller at major fires across New South Wales. He has also mentored many members of the RFS and other agencies involved in incident management at major fires. As the manager of Shoalhaven District, Mr Stewart has worked tirelessly to ensure that the District is capable of dealing with any emergency or disaster. In addition he has strived to ensure that all firefighting resources are the most up-to-date available.

Awards/recognition include:

Commendation for Excellence in Emergency Operations, Fire Services Joint Standing Committee, 2008.

Mr Barry John TINDALL, Salt Ash NSW 2318

Mr Tindall joined the Rural Fire Service (RFS) in 1973 as a member of the Box Hill Brigade. In 2001 he relocated to the Port Stephens area, first joining the Salt Ash Brigade and later transferring to the Tanilba Bay Brigade. In 2009 he was elected as Deputy Group Captain for the area, a position he still holds. Mr Tindall is a very active RFS member and has held most positions, both operational and support, within his Brigades. In addition to his operational duties as a firefighter, he has recently trained as a fire investigator and is now active in that role, investigating both wildfire and structural fires. He is also qualified in all mainstream training qualifications and is an active trainer. Mr Tindall is also active in the area of Community Engagement and is regularly out amongst the community providing fire safety, awareness and education advice. He has been instrumental in the establishment of the Community Education program in the Zone and can take credit for its ongoing success. He actively participates in the Zone Senior Management, the Community Engagement and the Training Committees. Operationally, Mr Tindall has an extensive record of attending major incidents, both in his local area and throughout New South Wales and interstate to assist others. Whenever the Zone is requested to provide crews he is the first to put his hand up either to lead teams or just to participate. While his distinguished record is dotted with major incidents, it is equally full of smaller incidents where Mr Tindall rarely misses a call, regardless of time, size or type of incident. He has served the RFS and the community with distinction over many years.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Victoria

Mr Rocky Joseph BARCA, 3 Newton Street, Surrey Hills Vic 3127

Mr Barca has worked for Parks Victoria for almost 30 years, and has developed significant high level fire management experience that is a considerable asset, not only to Parks Victoria and the Department of Sustainability and Environment but also to the community of Victoria. Mr Barca is a highly experienced Incident Controller and performed in this role during the February 2009 Victorian bushfires (including Black Saturday) and other significant fires in Victoria. In addition to his Incident Controller role Mr Barca is Regional Controller in Victoria. His considerable fire management experience has meant that he has been deployed to numerous major fires in Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia performing the roles of Planning Officer and Incident Controller. Mr Barca is highly regarded for his outstanding leadership qualities within the Victorian fire services. His knowledge and experience has meant that he has been an ideal leader of project teams developing improvements to fire management policy, practices and procedures in Victoria following major fires. Mr Barca has also been instrumental in the development of a fire training and accreditation program for new and existing Incident Controllers that has been adopted by Victorian fire agencies. He also participated in a study tour of North America in 2007, examining fire management systems and operations for application in Australia.

Mr David Eric BLACKBURN, 'Eilyer', 3174 Mortlake Ararat Road, Mortlake Vic 3272

Mr Blackburn's outstanding contribution over more than 30 years has considerably improved the safety of the community in western Victoria through his outstanding leadership, innovation and commitment. He has provided distinguished and dedicated leadership to the Westmere Group of Fire Brigades, Country Fire Authority (CFA), along with key innovations to fire service operations within Fire and Emergency Management. Across Victoria, Mr Blackburn's contribution has had a marked effect, specifically improving local training and preparedness for emergencies and through his development and coordination of protocols for the use of privately owned (farmers) firefighting tankers. Mr Blackburn has also greatly improved the capacity of fire operations and communications through more effective utilisation of CFA radio networks and listening sets between CFA and the community.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Barry William DALE, Yarraville Vic 3013

Mr Dale joined the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) in Victoria in 1977. Throughout his distinguished service he has provided outstanding professionalism, dedication, leadership and initiative, demonstrated in the development and administration of the Operational Priority Recall Roster to ensure that the operational efficiency of the MFB is maintained at all times. Furthermore, these outstanding qualities have been clearly demonstrated with the development and implementation of the major events equipment and resources cache for use at the Australian Grand Prix and other major events that the MFB is involved in. The success of this concept is measured by the fact that other emergency service agencies have adopted the MFB logistics and resource management model and implemented similar concepts relative to the equipment and resources cache. Furthermore, Mr Dale's initiative and self motivation have seen him successfully negotiate with an external agency to establish a large capacity foam storage cache within the Port of Melbourne area to enhance the operational efficiency of the MFB, both in the port area and for off-shore firefighting operations.

Mr James Roger FOX, 10 Lauren Court, Gisborne Vic 3437

Mr Fox has been an outstanding contributor to the Country Fire Authority (CFA) in Victoria and to the community for over 20 years. His demonstrated leadership in the area of community safety should not be underestimated. Driving significant change, he actively developed a Community Safety ethos within the CFA and promoted a paradigm shift through widespread CFA engagement and establishment of key relationships with partnership agencies. Mr Fox chartered a course that enabled the CFA to evolve from response dominated approaches, to those that embrace 'Prevention and Preparedness' in community safety. He instigated a Risk Management philosophy, commencing in the Outer Metropolitan North West encompassing four designated metropolitan growth areas. Mr Fox's vision incorporated projected road networks, residential and commercial developments and planning (involving future fire stations, firefighters, support staff, enhancements to appliances and fire services) for emerging community risks. He had key involvement in the development of strategic mapping data of current and projected growth in the designated growth areas. He also worked tirelessly preparing and presenting detailed evidence to the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission focused on Land Use Planning and Bushfire Preparedness at the CFA. Mr Fox's diligent focus on Community Safety has positioned the CFA as a leading agency in Emergency Management.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Gregory John McCARTHY, 26 Stirling Street, Marlo Vic 3888

Mr McCarthy has provided over 39 years' outstanding service to firefighting, particularly in Victoria but also across Australia in general, dedicated towards transferring fire science and research into operational practice. His work has been vital in the understanding of fire suppression effectiveness, fire ecology and fuel hazard. He has played an important role in the development of the Overall Fuel Hazard Guide which is now the standard method of assessing fine fuels in forests in Australia. His work over many years has significantly improved fire behaviour predictions and effectiveness of hazard reduction treatments, as well as increased firefighter safety and community protection. Mr McCarthy's commitment to sharing his knowledge through training others has led to many people across Australia being exposed to his infectious enthusiasm for understanding the science and improving the practice of fire management. Mr McCarthy is currently coordinating the fire ecology monitoring program for Landscape Mosaic Burning in East Gippsland, working on developing new techniques for mapping fire severity and extent using high resolution colour and infra-red imagery.

Mr William Maurice ROUSE, 39 Cassell Court, Pomonal Vic 3381

Since joining the Metropolitan Board (MFB) in 1989, Mr Rouse has consistently provided the highest level of dedication, reliability, diplomacy and uncompromising attention to technical detail in all forms of technical rope rescue work across all Victoria's emergency services. For the majority of his distinguished career, he has dedicated himself to the development and implementation of expert operation of technical rescue systems, a dedication which he has placed before his own desire to advance in rank. He is unquestionably the subject matter expert in this field and his interpersonal skills, combined with a highly developed understanding of volunteer and career emergency service cultures, has created a strong rope rescue team approach that can operate at an emergency alongside rescue workers from other agencies. In addition to his daily operational firefighting duties, Mr Rouse has specialised as an operator, instructor and assessor for Urban Search and Rescue, High Angle Rescue, Heavy Rescue and Confined Space Rescue. He has also been a serving member of the Stawell State Emergency Service (SES) since 2004 and a Country Fire Authority volunteer since 2006.

Awards/recognition include:

SES Group Commendation for Bravery.

MFB Chief Officer's Commendation, 1990 and 2001.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Queensland

Mr Noel Bruce HARBOTTLE, 16 Moygara Street, The Gap Qld 4061

Mr Harbottle has provided exceptional service in the delivery of an innovative program in the business development area of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS). The Knowledge Management Framework is specifically designed to support front-line fire service delivery. Through his outstanding leadership in the development of this business strategy, Mr Harbottle has ensured that the QFRS has a quality business system that specifically caters for emergency service needs and is based on continuous improvement. His expert knowledge of operational requirements, commitment to business processes and his ability to engender support have contributed to a successful outcome.

Mr Ian Gregory HOLM, 31 Upper Ormeau Road, Kingsholme Qld 4208

Mr Holm has provided distinguished service over more 31 years as a volunteer in the Ormeau Rural Fire Brigade. His dedication to his Brigade and community has included extensive contributions of time and personal resources to enable the development of Brigade facilities over many years. His inspirational leadership has assisted in the delivery of high standards of training for Brigade members and safety education across his local community.

Mr Alun Granville WILLIAMS, 3 Parnell Court, Cranbrook Qld 4814

Mr Williams has provided distinguished service, personal dedication and outstanding contribution to the development of life rescue techniques, particularly with Road Crash Rescue (RCR). He has demonstrated an outstanding contribution to all aspects of RCR across multi-emergency service jurisdictions. He has specifically shown outstanding service in relation to the development of RCR training material; improvements to instruction and technical assessment techniques; and expert advice and input to local, state, national and international road safety organisations.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Western Australia

Mr Malcolm Graham CRONSTEDT, Mosman Park WA 6012

Mr Cronstedt joined the South Mandurah Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade in 1976. He subsequently joined the Bush Fires Board of Western Australia in 1982 as a probationary Fire Liaison Officer. In 1997 Mr Cronstedt became a Regional Operations Officer, and since 1999 he has worked in many positions within the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of WA (FESA). He has also worked with the New South Wales Fire Brigades and Rural Fire Service, and now holds a senior level management position in FESA with the rank of Chief Superintendent. His current role involves undertaking reviews of state-wide bushfire risk management arrangements and policies. Throughout his distinguished career Mr Cronstedt has served the community in a conscientious, honest and dedicated manner. In doing so, he has helped to implement far-reaching change within three different fire services. Mr Cronstedt has delivered operational emergency services in diverse settings, and steered the development and implementation of a range of programs and policies to improve services to volunteers, career staff and communities. The success of his work has been attributed to a deep knowledge of the industry and his pleasant but determined nature. Mr Cronstedt has completed more than 30 years' service and continues to make a significant contribution to the new direction of fire and emergency services in Western Australia.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Peter KEPPEL, Lot 6258, Postcode Road, Manjimup WA 6258

Mr Keppel has had a long and distinguished career in fire management as part of his role as a senior operations manager in the WA Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). In a career spanning over 45 years, he has worked on all aspects of fire management in the field, including prescribed burning and bushfire suppression. In addition, he has served for 12 years as Secretary/Treasurer of the Balbarrup Wilgarup volunteer Bush Fire Brigade in the Shire of Manjimup. In 1988 Mr Keppel was appointed as District Manager at Mundaring on the outskirts of Perth where the large interface with residential and rural properties posed many fire management challenges. The parks and forests managed by DEC in the area attracted a large number of visitors, and there were around 200 bushfires each year. Mr Keppel was also a champion for the commencement of aerial fire suppression and multiagency incident management teams (IMTs) during this period. Later in 1997, Mr Keppel was appointed to the position of Regional Manager of the Warren Region in Manjimup, a complex area containing many forest types and other natural ecosystems. He has now been in the region for 15 years and is heavily involved in fire management planning and operations. Since 2005 he has controlled many Level 3 fires in six of DEC's nine regions. This role places Mr Keppel in the category of an elite fire leader in the Department. In addition to working in the field, he also conducts IMT leadership presentations at DEC fire training courses. Mr Keppel's confident but unassuming manner when interacting with staff and non-agency personnel has contributed to his success in various fire leadership roles. His quiet self assurance and vast experience engenders confidence in team members. Mr Keppel guides and mentors his IMT leaders to complete the objectives set for each shift during an emergency operation.

Awards/recognition include:

Lane Poole Award to visit three eastern states to study aspects of land management Operations, 1987.

Keynes Memorial Prize for Outstanding Forestry Cadet, 1969.

South Australia

Mr Steven Allen MOIR, 21 Shetland Street, Woodcroft SA 5162

Mr Moir joined the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) in 1978 as a firefighter and has shown outstanding dedication to the MFS throughout his distinguished career, whether as an active operational firefighter or in his later positions as a manager and leader, forever adopting a 'can do' attitude. Mr Moir was one of the first trainers when the Government Radio Network was introduced into South Australia and his knowledge and enthusiasm have ensured that MFS personnel are among the best trained in the state. He has taken part and assisted with major developments within the Communications Centre and has been an integral part of several transitions and structure changes. His endeavours in ensuring the excellence of service provided by the Communications Centre highlight his dedication to the MFS and the community of South Australia.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Kenneth Andrew POTTER, Salisbury Park SA 5109

Since 1974, Mr Potter has been a committed volunteer of the SA Country Fire Service (CFS) and has risen through the officer ranks to become Deputy Group Officer for the Para CFS Group. During his tenure as Captain of the Salisbury CFS Brigade he was instrumental in setting up the first 'Bush Firefighting Team', a unique crew of experienced firefighters who, for various reasons, were not able to continue with full-time volunteering. However, they continue to be available for response to larger bushfires and Incident Strike Teams and to pass on their wealth of knowledge anywhere within South Australia. Mr Potter's strong leadership skills and dependability see him appointed as Incident Controller at large and complex incidents, such as the devastating train/bus accident at the Salisbury interchange in 2002. He seeks to ensure that his Brigade is a benchmark for service delivery to the community by continually evolving procedures, processes and training methods to ensure volunteers are well rehearsed for any emergency situation.

Mr Robert Cameron STOTT, 26 North Street, Henley Beach SA 5022

Mr Stott joined the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) in 1976 as a firefighter and has progressed through the organisation to his current rank of Metropolitan Commander. He has served with distinction in several metropolitan stations and various departments and has become a highly experienced operational fire officer who sets an excellent example and role model. Mr Stott has a positive attitude, shows care and concern for others, treating everyone equally as demonstrated by his unselfish demeanour and ethical and professional conduct. During his distinguished service Mr Stott has contributed and developed policies and procedures that have equipped the MFS to move with confidence into the future, and the initiation and development of some of the current standards in the Building Code of Australia is a tribute to his dedication and commitment to the MFS and to the community of South Australia.

Mr Peter Colin WICKS, PO Box 174, Balhannah SA 5242

Mr Wicks epitomises the complete volunteer, and has served the South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS) and the community with distinction over many years. Mr Wicks consistently demonstrates outstanding management skills at major incidents with calm professionalism and sound judgement. His innate ability to ascertain operational priorities and expediently gain organisational control, using the latest technology transfer of information, is recognised at the highest level. Under his outstanding leadership, the Onkaparinga CFS Group demonstrates a strong presence and commitment as an integral part of the community. This is a reflection of the time that Mr Wicks dedicates to leading the Group as well as personal effort in making sure his own training is up to date. Mr Wicks enjoys incredible respect from his peers as an outstanding community member, shouldering responsibility for over 40 years and inspiring many others to follow.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Tasmania

Mr Kenneth BURNS, Otago Tas 7017

Mr Burns joined the Tasmania Fire Service as a Cadet Fire Control Officer in 1977. He served his cadetship working in many locations but worked in the North West Region for most of the period, gaining significant operational experience. He qualified as a Country Fire Officer in that area in 1981. In 1988 Mr Burns was promoted to District Officer and over several years worked in Field Operations on the West Coast, Midlands District, Training Division and State Operations. During his period at State Operations Mr Burns was instrumental in establishing fire service media management arrangements, including memorandums of understanding, staff training and media release protocols. He has since worked tirelessly to develop formalised arrangements on the use of aircraft, both for water bombing and crew transportation, as well as for aerial intelligence gathering, and also represents Tasmania on the National Aerial Firefighting Centre. In 2006 Mr Burns was promoted to Deputy Regional Chief in the Northern Region where he played a leading role in the response and recovery effort at the North East Fires in same year. Mr Burns transferred to the Southern Region in 2009 and has acted with distinction as Regional Chief for extended periods. Mr Burns has also been a member of Australian deployments to the USA and Greece.

Awards/recognition include:
Centenary Medal, 2001.

Mr Garry John COOPER, Main Road, Nubeena Tas 7184

Mr Cooper began his distinguished fire service career as a volunteer firefighter with the Nubeena Brigade in 1979 and, in 1983, he was elected by his colleagues to the senior leadership position of Brigade Chief; a position he still holds. In 2005 Mr Cooper's outstanding leadership and drive were acknowledged by all Brigade officers in the Tasman Peninsula area when he was elected as Group Officer, coordinating the development and activities of all Tasman Group Brigades; also a position he maintains to this day. Mr Cooper also holds responsibilities in local members' safety requirements, property inspections and the issuing of fire permits. Tasmania Fire Service field officers regularly refer to his leadership and integrity as being positive and very reliable influences over the Brigades and the communities of the Tasman Peninsula. Brigade members themselves often comment on Mr Cooper's strong and effective leadership.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Rodney Kenneth SWEETNAM ESM, 15 Scott Street, Hadspen Tas 7290

Mr Sweetnam began his distinguished fire service career in 1973 in Victoria as a volunteer firefighter with the Country Fire Authority. He was an enthusiastic and active firefighter and spent many summer weekends competing throughout Victoria in fire service competitions. In 1989 Mr Sweetnam moved to Tasmania and joined the Brigade near his new home in Hadspen. His experience and leadership qualities were quickly recognised by his fellow members at the Hadspen Brigade and he was progressively promoted through to the key leadership position of Brigade Chief in 2001. Mr Sweetnam's interest in fire operations and emergency management in general led to him to seek and obtain a position representing the Local Government Association Tasmania (LGAT) on the State Fire Management Council from 2002 to 2006. In 2006 the Minister approved a recommendation from the LGAT for Mr Sweetnam to represent Local Government on the State Fire Commission; the service's peak governing body. Mr Sweetnam maintains this position today. The Brigades of the Quamby Group also supported Mr Sweetnam's outstanding leadership qualities and elected him as their Group Officer, a position he has held with distinction since 2004.

Awards/recognition include:
Emergency Services Medal, 2003.

Australian Capital Territory

Mr Gregory Leonard BUSCOMBE, 15 Koorong Place, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

Mr Buscombe joined the NSW Fire Brigade in 1965 and served at Waterloo, Kogarah and Campsie Fire Stations before transferring to Canberra in 1968 following the opening of the Phillip Fire Station. During his time at Phillip Fire Station, Mr Buscombe served on B and C Platoons and participated in the search and rescue operations during the 1971 floods in the Woden Valley which took the lives of two people. In 1974 he was part of a contingent of firefighters who were seconded to Darwin following the devastation caused by Cyclone Tracey. On completion of duty in Darwin Mr Buscombe returned to Canberra to form part of the newly legislated ACT Fire Brigade. Stationed at Fyshwick Fire Station he became qualified as a ladder driver and later became a member of the newly formed Operation Support Section which was responsible for the maintenance and operation of Breathing Apparatus (BA), recharging of BA and oxygen cylinders, chemical suits and BA, Hazmat and Canteen vans, the water tankers and the ladders. For several years, Mr Buscombe was also an active volunteer with the NSW Rural Fire Service as a member of the Captains Flat Volunteer Bushfire Brigade. Throughout his outstanding and dedicated career he distinguished himself as a firefighter and educator in the community, and guided and mentored hundreds of firefighters. In 2001 Mr Buscombe retired from the ACT Fire Brigade following 36 years' distinguished service. He has since continued his involvement with the service through his devotion to the ACT Fire Brigade Historical Society, where he provides valued leadership and guidance as the Society's President.

Awards/recognition include:
Inaugural Australian Capital Territory Fire Brigade Commendation for Meritorious Service Medal, 1999.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Norfolk Island

Mr Gerard Patrick DOWNIE, Norfolk Island 2899

Mr Downie has provided exceptional service to the community as a member of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and the Norfolk Island Fire Service spanning over three decades. After beginning his firefighting service with the CAA in 1980, the Norfolk Island Government seconded him in 1992 to take over the responsibilities of providing the Community Fire Service and the Aviation Rescue and Fire Fighting Service to Norfolk Island. He has been the Emergency Services Coordinator for over 20 years. Mr Downie has assisted in establishing and introducing fire control legislation and shown ongoing dedication and support towards the Emergency Management Committee.