

## **AMBULANCE SERVICE MEDAL (ASM)**

### ***New South Wales***

#### **Mr Michael John CORLIS, Rockdale NSW 2216**

Mr Corlis has had an impeccable career with the Ambulance Service of NSW, whether employed on road duties, in education or in management roles. Mr Corlis is an outstanding ambassador for the Service and he reflects the values of the organisation in everything he does. He holds the strongest belief that clinical care and the safety of patients are of the utmost importance, and he supports paramedics through his presence out on the road and as a member of the clinical review group to ensure that these standards and beliefs are upheld. Mr Corlis has served the community of New South Wales with distinction over many years.

#### **Mr Ian Neil JOHNS, Earlwood NSW 2206**

Mr Johns joined the Ambulance Service of NSW in 1989 and has consistently demonstrated a high level of commitment, not only in the delivery of high quality care to all his patients but also as a mentor to paramedics and managers across New South Wales. Mr Johns dedicated himself to the role of paramedic educator for many years and was responsible for establishing a training unit in Bathurst. He also worked closely with the Charles Sturt University, supporting and lecturing undergraduate students studying Paramedical Science. Mr Johns has served the community of New South Wales with distinction over many years.

#### **Mr Terence Edward WATSON, 6 Peta Close, Belmont North NSW 2280**

Mr Watson joined the Ambulance Service of NSW as an honorary ambulance officer in 1975, working one evening a week at the Point Clare Ambulance Station before becoming a permanent ambulance officer in Sydney in 1977. Mr Watson has demonstrated a strong commitment to patient care through his involvement on the Pre-hospital Acute Stroke Triage (PAST) Steering Committee and research into the development of a new patient assessment tool that can be used in the pre-hospital setting. This tool includes alternate transport options that allow paramedics to bypass hospitals and give patients, particularly those located in the more rural areas of the Hunter region, access to thrombolysis. Mr Watson has served the community of New South Wales with distinction over many years.

## **AMBULANCE SERVICE MEDAL (ASM)**

**Mr Kenneth Charles WHEELER**, Colyton NSW 2760

Mr Wheeler has been pivotal in the development of front-line management principles and training for Station Officers and Duty Operations Managers within the Ambulance Service of NSW. Using his considerable experience Mr Wheeler shaped the role and responsibilities for the position of Inspector and, more recently, the position of Duty Operations Manager. He is a highly respected figure in western Sydney and is held in high regard by paramedics, management, other emergency services and health colleagues. Mr Wheeler has served the community of New South Wales with distinction.

### ***Victoria***

**Mr Jonathan David BYRNE**, 18 Waterloo Court, Hoppers Crossing Vic 3029

Mr Byrne has served Ambulance Victoria and the community of Victoria with distinction for over 28 years in the development of emergency management and training, including undertaking the role of lead planner with respect to the ambulance emergency response for the World Economic Forum held in Melbourne in 2000, which included integration with other emergency services; and innovatively contributing to the planning of ambulance emergency management of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games. He also played an essential role in the emergency response during the period of excessive heat waves in Victoria in 2009, the Black Saturday bushfires in 2009, and the serious flooding during 2010, 2011 and 2012. Due to his involvement on several chemical, biological and radiological committees, Mr Byrne has enabled Ambulance Victoria, for the first time, to be able to respond with paramedics into hot zones in self-contained breathing apparatus with personal protective equipment at Levels A, B and C. Mr Byrne has also significantly contributed to the writing and development of Ambulance Victoria's Emergency Response Plan, including the development of the debrief process currently used after major incidents, and in driving changed behaviour.

## **AMBULANCE SERVICE MEDAL (ASM)**

### **Mr Anthony Scott OXFORD, Portland Vic 3305**

Mr Oxford has served Ambulance Victoria and the community of Victoria with distinction, particularly in emergency management, evidenced by his support and command roles performed during the campaign fires in 2006 and 2007 and the Black Saturday bushfires in 2009. Mr Oxford was the Regional Duty Manager during Black Saturday, overseeing the initial response to the Coleraine fires and coordinating the deployment of support and relief staff. In February 2012, his emergency management skills were again called upon to coordinate the response to a chemical spill in Portland. Mr Oxford has demonstrated creativity in the development and implementation of innovative change at Ambulance Victoria through his research and development of a business case that saw the implementation of a Rural Sponsored Degree Paramedic Program which allows for rural volunteers to be trained as paramedics and then to remain working in their local communities. He has also worked as a paramedic for 15 years in the Northern Territory where he was involved in the training and mentoring of intensive care paramedics. Mr Oxford has also provided exceptional service in the provision of community participation through 36 years' voluntary service with St John Ambulance, including assistance in the development and implementation of the St John Ambulance Cadet division in Portland, and the provision of first aid training, support and mentoring for cadets.

### **Mr Kerry Charles POWER, Lower Plenty Vic 3093**

Mr Power has served Ambulance Victoria and the community of Victoria with distinction, evidenced by his exceptional ability as a Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance (MICA) paramedic, including his consistent high delivery of education, development and mentoring to Advanced Life Support and MICA paramedics across metropolitan Melbourne, and his significant contribution to the establishment and maintenance of high clinical standards. Mr Power led the extensive review of Ambulance Victoria's emergency dispatch grid that resulted in the refinement and improvement of ambulance responses to case types to match ambulance response to patient acuity more effectively. He was a co-contributor to clinical research in the area of Post Return of Spontaneous Circulation - a study which has contributed to the understanding and improvement of cardiac arrest resuscitation. Mr Power planned and implemented the MICA Single Responder Unit program, galvanising the support of MICA paramedics through exceptional negotiation and communication skills, strong leadership and perseverance. He has also demonstrated outstanding commitment to innovation in paramedic welfare and safety, particularly evidenced by the creation and introduction of the Good Mental Health Program for paramedics in Victoria.

## **AMBULANCE SERVICE MEDAL (ASM)**

### ***Queensland***

**Mr Kevin John ELLIOTT**, PO Box 52, St Lawrence Qld 4707

Mr Elliott commenced with the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade at St Lawrence in 1975 as an Honorary Ambulance Officer. He still continues to serve the St Lawrence community with distinction and has attended multiple cases where he has been the primary care provider to the patient until further assistance has arrived. Mr Elliott's exceptional motivation, commitment and dedication to the community are reflected in the respect he is held within the community and by his peers in the Queensland Ambulance Service.

Awards/recognition include:

Star Care Award for Excellence, Queensland Ambulance Service, 2010.

Central Region Honorary Ambulance Officer of the Year, 2010.

Australia Day Achievement Medallion, for his outstanding support and dedication to duty as an Honorary Ambulance Officer to the St Lawrence community, 2006.

**Mrs Ann Clarice TAGGART**, 32 Moojeeba Way, Trinity Park Qld 4879

Mrs Taggart commenced with the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade at Mackay in 1981 as an Honorary Ambulance Officer. Between 1982 and 1998, Mrs Taggart undertook roles as Acting Officer-in-Charge and Senior Ambulance Officer in Proserpine and Gladstone, and in 1998 she was promoted to Clinical Support Officer in Gladstone. In 2007, Mrs Taggart commenced as an Ambulance Educator, committed to the training and skilling of ambulance officers. Her passion and outstanding dedication to advancing paramedic training have had a significant impact on ensuring that the Queensland Ambulance Service provides the community of Queensland with the best possible pre-hospital care. Of particular note is her commitment and dedication to the Indigenous communities of the Far Northern Region. Specifically, Mrs Taggart produced and delivered an Indigenous focused Certificate 2 course to students at the Djarragun College. This course is now being used to inform the delivery of training to Indigenous cadet paramedics on Thursday Island and Yarrabah.

## **AMBULANCE SERVICE MEDAL (ASM)**

### ***Western Australia***

#### **Mrs Sally Anna GIFFORD, Moondah, Gingin WA 6503**

Mrs Gifford has been a volunteer with St John Ambulance in Western Australia since 2001, and was quickly elevated to the position of Chairperson by her fellow committee members. Mrs Gifford led the committee to higher standards of governance with particular emphasis on developing specific roles and responsibilities for each committee member. In doing so, she has always ensured that local development and innovation have been achieved in a way that has been consistent with the broader organisation's policies and guidelines. Mrs Gifford has been both a leader and active participant in many fundraising activities, taking the lead role in the fundraising efforts for three new ambulances and, over a number of years, led the project to raise funds for a new building. In addition to the usual challenges with such a project, Mrs Gifford had to navigate opposing views within the community as to the best location for the building. This she did with great skill and patience, resulting in a new building that should serve the local community for many years to come. This project was much more than simply a new building, it was about positioning St John Ambulance in the local community in such a way as to ensure continuing community engagement in the provision of ambulance services through volunteering and providing a profile and focus that would see the organisation's objective of maximising the number of people in the community possesses first aid skills. Mrs Gifford's outstanding leadership, skill and dedication to St John Ambulance and the community have seen her not only achieve success with specific projects but more importantly also provide a level of inspiration to those around her that should go a long way in ensuring high quality ambulance and first aid services are available in the local community.

## **AMBULANCE SERVICE MEDAL (ASM)**

**Mrs Sally Ann SIMMONDS**, Kingsley WA 6026

Mrs Simmonds served as a volunteer ambulance officer for three years with the Cue Sub-Centre before joining St John Ambulance as a student paramedic in 1991, and graduated as a qualified paramedic in 1994. Mrs Simmonds also contributed to the development of ambulance services in Western Australia through her willingness to participate in training for other student ambulance officers and in the filming of a documentary about ambulance officer training. In 1995 she was seconded to the Ambulance Officer Training Centre and in 1997 was appointed to the position of Manager Curriculum Development, followed by her appointment as Manager Permanent Officer Training one year later. In 2002 Mrs Simmonds was appointed to the position of Manager First Responder System where she was instrumental in setting up the St John Ambulance First Responder system, a system that involves placing defibrillators in the community and linking community first-aiders to the ambulance despatch system to facilitate the fastest possible CPR and defibrillation response to cardiac arrest victims. In 2006 Mrs Simmonds moved into one of the Country Regional manager positions. With 500,000 people spread over vast distances, rural Western Australia presents some unique challenges in the provision of ambulance services. It is vital there is a significant volunteer contribution that must complement and work in conjunction with the career paramedic service. Mrs Simmonds' management style ensured her success in maintaining the effectiveness and sustainability of the St John Ambulance model for the provision of ambulance services throughout Western Australia. Mrs Simmonds' contribution to the development of ambulance services in Western Australia has been outstanding across a number of areas; however, her greatest achievement is the manner in which she has built the First Responder system since her return to this role in 2011. There are now in excess of 300 community first responder systems in Western Australia as a result of Mrs Simmonds' dedication and effort.

## **AMBULANCE SERVICE MEDAL (ASM)**

### **Mr John Douglas WATTS, Canning Vale WA 6155**

Mr Watts was a police officer attached to the Fremantle Traffic Patrol Accident Inquiry Section before joining St John Ambulance in 1980, becoming a fully qualified paramedic four years later. Mr Watts has made a very significant contribution to many aspects of the organisation, from the strength of the country model with career paramedics and volunteers working side by side to the high levels of safety and sophistication within the ambulance fleet during the past 32 years. In early 1985 Mr Watts was promoted to Station Manager and performed his duties in a very positive way, and this in turn led him to play an important part in the development of student paramedics through his appointment as an On-Road Tutor. He also undertook a number of country relief positions. Mr Watts was appointed Deputy Superintendent Country Region in 1986 and began to play a very influential role in the development of the country ambulance service. His outstanding leadership style, coupled with his integrity, skills and genuine desire to improve ambulance services through this period with his involvement in Country Region, helped to develop the strong and positive links between country career paramedics and ambulance volunteers. In 1993 he was promoted to Superintendent Country Region. Mr Watts transferred to the role of Plant and Communications Manager in 2000 and quickly transformed this department into a cohesive focused unit. This role currently sees him responsible for the organisation's fleet and radio communications. Mr Watts has played a major role in the improvement of ambulance vehicle safety and functionality over the past decade and has overseen major changes to the organisations radio system.

### ***South Australia***

### **Mr Dean Hamilton CLARKE, Lockleys SA 5032**

Mr Clarke has been in the pre-hospital care industry for over 30 years, more recently as the Operations Manager of the Patient Transfer Service within the SA Ambulance Service (SAAS). Mr Clarke has excelled in all of the roles he has undertaken and, in recent years, his innovation in a variety of areas has improved significantly the service SAAS delivers to its patients. Often he has been involved in very complex issues involving a large number of stakeholders with differing agendas and difficult logistical parameters. His well-considered solutions have stood the test of time with improved operational efficiency and, at the same time, enhancements in the health and safety of both staff and patients. Mr Clarke's considerable involvement in numerous innovations in SAAS has resulted in safer work environments and a direct reduction in staff injuries, safer treatment environments for the patient, and a patient treatment platform that suits the clinicians' needs and assists them in their day-to-day work in a demanding environment. Mr Clarke's commitment to excellence and his uncompromising approach to patient and staff safety have been outstanding, and he has served the SAAS and the community of South Australia with distinction over many years.

## **AMBULANCE SERVICE MEDAL (ASM)**

### **Mrs Dawn Frances KROEMER, Roxby Downs SA 5725**

Mrs Kroemer has been a volunteer Ambulance Officer in Roxby Downs since relocating to the town in 1989. Combined with her previous service at Elliston, she has served the SA Ambulance Service (SAAS) and the community of South Australia with distinction for over 25 years. She has served as Volunteer Team Leader since 2002, managing all aspects of running an ambulance station and a close knit team of ambulance volunteers, and is an inaugural member of the SAAS Volunteer Advisory Committee. As part of this committee, she has been a strong advocate to resolve issues faced by the volunteers on the frontline, allowing the volunteers to focus on the more important daily aspects of treating patients. Due to the transient nature of the town (with the average stay being less than two years) Mrs Kroemer has often had to manage a high turnover of volunteers and often dwindling volunteer numbers. In recent times there have been high numbers of recruits to train; however, the challenge has often been to get them operational before they leave town. She has been a mentor, inspiration and a friend to many young ambulance volunteers. Her willingness to say yes to help with anything and the determination to follow through have been inspiring to many who have worked under her. Through her outstanding commitment to the SAAS and her constant drive to help others, Mrs Kroemer is perhaps one of the best known residents of Roxby Downs. Over the last quarter of a century she has committed herself to ensuring that when someone phones for help there would always be someone who would come and answer that call. This commitment has rubbed off on many ambulance volunteers, and has helped her to define the current generation of ambulance volunteers working in her community.

## **AMBULANCE SERVICE MEDAL (ASM)**

### ***Tasmania***

**Mr Grant Gordon LENNOX**, 20 Lumeah Avenue, Lenah Valley Tas 7008

Mr Lennox served as Chief Executive Officer of the (then) Tasmanian Ambulance Service, now Ambulance Tasmania, for 15 years before retiring in 2009. In 1978, he was responsible for writing the policy documents adopted by State Cabinet to establish the Tasmanian Ambulance Service by combining the four existing autonomous regional ambulance boards. This is the foundation on which today's Ambulance Tasmania was founded. Prior to his appointment as Chief Executive Officer, Tasmanian Ambulance Service in 1994 Mr Lennox had, through a number of his senior health roles, actively progressed the interests of the ambulance service in Tasmania. He was instrumental in the forming of volunteer ambulance units at Bothwell and Maydena while he was the District Health Manager for the Derwent Valley and Lower Midlands area. While Chief Executive Officer of the former Royal Derwent Hospital, he formed a first response capability to attend cases in New Norfolk should the ambulance be already attending another case. His tenure as Chief Executive Officer, Tasmanian Ambulance Service saw significant change. A move to tertiary education, new models of service delivery, improvements in volunteer ambulance officer support, first responder programs, establishment of a medical retrieval system and introduction of new technologies are but a few of the initiatives. Mr Lennox was a founding member of the Council of Ambulance Authorities and, through that national organisation, he has initiated or played a lead role in a number of national projects and initiatives, including developing ambulance demand and sustainable funding models and strategies for volunteer recruitment and retention. Mr Lennox has also been engaged to review and provide advice to a number of ambulance services. Following his retirement in 2009, he undertook a comprehensive review of the operations of the ACT Ambulance Service. Through this and similar projects, Mr Lennox continues to provide an invaluable service to the ambulance services within Australia.

Awards/recognition include:

Appointed a Member of the Order of St John, 2010.