

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)

New South Wales

Mr Russell Ian ASHDOWN, 10 Dorrigo Street, Woongarra NSW 2259

Mr Ashdown was a Foundation Member of the Casino Rescue Squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA) in 1979. He held the position of the Squad's Secretary for a number of years and was elected as the Region Coordinator for the Far North Coast region in 1984, a position he held for the following 17 years. Over the many years of distinguished service, Mr Ashdown has also served with distinction as the VRA's Vice-President. In 2010, he became the Commissioner of the VRA and has the responsibility of representing the VRA at the State Rescue Board, the State Emergency Management Committee and the Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum. Mr Ashdown has served the VRA and the community of New South Wales with distinction over many years.

Mr Jon Glenn GREGORY, Tumut NSW 2720

Mr Gregory joined the NSW State Emergency Service (SES) in 1992 after extensive service with the Tumut Rescue Squad, a Volunteer Rescue Association affiliate. On joining the SES he was appointed the Tumut Local Controller and has served continuously in this position since then. As Local Controller he has continuously demonstrated outstanding leadership, professionalism and dedication to duty, and has developed an outstanding rapport with other members of the SES, Tumut Shire Council, the wider Tumut community, and the local and district emergency management network. He has also led significant development of a diverse range of capabilities within the Tumut SES Unit, and Unit members are widely held in the highest regard for their professionalism, dedication to duty, technical proficiency and rapid response time. The development and continued effectiveness of this capability is due largely to Mr Gregory's organisational skills, commitment, professionalism and leadership. The Tumut SES Unit is an exemplar of an efficient and effective emergency services unit manned by experienced and dedicated professionals. In the Tumut 2011 Australia Day Awards, Tumut SES was named as the Community Group of the Year by the Tumut Shire Council. Mr Gregory exemplifies the qualities of an exceptional leader, and provides a wonderful example for his community in the best traditions of the SES.

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)

Mr James Angus McTAVISH CSC, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Mr McTavish joined the NSW State Emergency Service (SES) in 2009 as Region Controller, Murrumbidgee Region. Since then he has consistently provided exceptional and distinguished service, and has worked tirelessly with volunteers to improve the effectiveness of the service. In addition to managing the day-to-day operation of the Murrumbidgee Region Mr McTavish has also made significant contributions to the organisation. He has led two high profile working groups, the outcomes of which have resulted in significant change within the SES. Due to his highly regarded leadership skills he was selected to run a trial amalgamation of two regions. Mr McTavish is recognised for his leadership abilities amongst his peers and the senior executive, and has made significant contributions to the development of the NSW SES Incident Management framework. Mr McTavish's operational management is of an exceptional standard and he has managed a number of significant flood events across New South Wales over the past two years. The flood impact on the Murrumbidgee Region was particularly extensive with significant impacts on all major communities. Throughout this period Mr McTavish demonstrated exemplary leadership of both his team and the community.

Awards/recognition include:

Conspicuous Service Cross, 2010; awarded while serving in the Australian Army.

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)

Victoria

Mr Timothy James WIEBUSCH, Box Hill South Vic 3128

Mr Wiebusch commenced his involvement with the Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) as a volunteer member of the South Barwon Unit in 1993 where he quickly demonstrated his outstanding leadership capabilities and was appointed as Deputy Controller. He was appointed to a staff position as a Volunteer Support Officer in 2003, quickly demonstrating leadership and initiative. Shortly after the creation of the VICSES as a Statutory Authority in 2005, to which Mr Wiebusch actively contributed, he was appointed to the key role of Manager State Operations. In 2010, he was promoted to the newly-created position of Deputy Director of Operations, more recently titled Deputy Chief Officer Operations. This role oversees the strategic VICSES day-to-day operations and provides strategic leadership including other emergency services on behalf of the Chief Officer Operations. Over the past 5 years, Mr Wiebusch has played a key leadership role in the development of multi-agency strategies to enhance emergency service delivery in Victoria. He has also provided outstanding leadership to staff and volunteers in the development of VICSES operational capability during a period of intense operational activity and change in the emergency management sector in Victoria. As Manager State Operations and Deputy Chief Officer Operations, he has led the VICSES Doctrine Task Force in the development of the VICSES operational doctrine, delivering key areas of operational improvement to address issues raised in the Bushfire Royal Commission and the Victorian Floods Review.

Awards/recognition include:

Department of Justice Partnership Award, 2005; for his outstanding technical support to the Department of Human Services in the deployment of medical teams in support of the response to the Boxing Day 2004 Tsunami.

Department of Justice Partnership Award, 2005; for his outstanding achievement in the successful establishment of VICSES as a Statutory Authority.

Department of Justice Partnership Award, 2002; for his outstanding contribution as the project manager of the VICSES display at the bi-annual Avalon Air Show.

Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Trust Award for Young Australians, 1991.

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)

Queensland

Mr Christopher Ernest ARNOTT, 4 Carissa Street, Arana Hills Qld 4054

Mr Arnott has been an active member of the Arana Hills Group of the State Emergency Service (SES) in Queensland since 1978, commencing in the Group as a Founder Member. His distinguished service has been marked by his outstanding professionalism, dedication and commitment and he has displayed a willingness to perform in leadership roles, performing with distinction during the Brisbane Storms of 2008 as the Local Controller of the Pine Rivers SES Unit. He provides an outstanding example to his fellow SES members, particularly to those who have just joined the service. His skills, ability, knowledge and expertise are readily acknowledged by his peers, and colleagues readily turn to him for guidance and direction. Mr Arnott has promoted the SES and safety awareness through his work as a community educator. He also has an established reputation for exercising compassion and understanding in his dealing with the victims of disasters, often in the most difficult of circumstances. Mr Arnott has served the SES and the community of Queensland, particularly in the Moreton Bay region, with distinction over many years.

Mr Kevin James DONNELLY, PO Box 317, Roma Qld 4455

Mr Donnelly has provided outstanding service to the Queensland community in the Maranoa Regional Council and the Emergency Management Queensland South West Region. Mr Donnelly was appointed as a volunteer in 1979 and remains an active State Emergency Service (SES) member in both operations and training activities. He was appointed to his current position of Local Controller of the Maranoa Regional Council's Roma SES Unit in 1994. Over his distinguished service Mr Donnelly has travelled extensively throughout the area to assist and support his colleagues as an Instructor and Operator through training and operational activities, and is extremely proficient in a number of operational fields such as General Instructor, Air Observer, Traffic Control Instructor and Road Crash Rescue. His experience and knowledge on such a broad range of fields are exceptional, and he is always ready to mentor the next generation of SES members and his fellow members of the Maranoa Regional Council's Local Disaster Management Group.

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)

Mr Adrianus Fransiscus VAN DEN ENDE OAM, 6 Kelly Street, Dinmore Qld 4301

Mr Van Den Ende joined the Ipswich Unit of the State Emergency Service (SES) in 1975. He initially specialised in flood boat operation and was one of the first trained SES coxswains in Queensland, rescuing six people from the flooding Brisbane and Bremer Rivers. In his years as Local Controller Mr Van Den Ende has managed a number of large land searches, including the search for a young woman in 2004 which lasted over a week and the forensic evidence located by the Ipswich SES members assisted in the arrest and eventual conviction of the woman's murderer. Another search for a woman in 2005 lasted over 2 weeks and involved hundreds of SES searchers, the evidence located by the Ipswich SES again resulted in an arrest and conviction. Also in his position of Local Controller, Mr Van Den Ende coordinated the Ipswich SES Unit's response to the 2011 Ipswich and Brisbane floods and to assist the community of northern Queensland following Cyclone Yasi in 2011. Over the years Mr Van Den Ende has developed and maintained a strong working relationship with the Ipswich City Council and, through this relationship, has been able to develop plans and ensure funding for a number of new SES trailers. Mr Van Den Ende has served the community of Queensland with distinction over many years.

Awards/recognition include:

Awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day 1996 Honours List for his service to the community, particularly through the State Emergency Service.

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)

South Australia

Mr Trevor John BOND, 8 Leeds Avenue, Hope Valley SA 5090

Mr Bond joined the Tea Tree Gully Unit of the South Australian State Emergency Service (SES) in 1980 as a volunteer, progressing through the rank structure to the position of Deputy Unit Manager. Most recently, Mr Bond has represented the SASES Volunteers' Association in the Metropolitan Area and in North Region, where he is highly respected and considered an excellent mentor and a strong advocate for counselling or support. He was also initially appointed as a divisional representative to the Association in 2001 and is currently serving as Secretary. Mr Bond was the Association's representative at the Cultural Review Forums held in North Region and willingly gave of his time to travel the region as he attended forums, met with and discussed issues with volunteers. He was strongly involved in ensuring cadets received a 'fair go', strongly believing that youth were the future of the SASES. He has also recently represented the Association on the District Officer Interview Panels. Mr Bond was also a team leader in the Northern Suburbs, conducting fortnightly meetings with youth to mitigate the use/adverse effect of illicit drugs, alcohol and homelessness. Mr Bond has also supported The Salvation Army's 'Foodbank' and (via COTA) assisted low income earners complete their tax returns and (then with National Seniors Australia) trained as a peer group educator and spoke at seniors group meetings on health-related issues. Mr Bond has served the SES, SASES Volunteers' Association and the community of South Australia with distinction.

Awards/recognition include:

Local Hero Metropolitan' for South Australia, Australian of the Year Awards, 2005.

Australia Day Achievement Award, City of Tea Tree Gully, 2005.

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)

Tasmania

Mr Donald George MACKRILL AFSM OAM, 9 The Strand, George Town Tas 7253

Mr Mackrill is a long standing member of the emergency management community in Tasmania, serving as a Brigade Chief within the Tasmania Fire Service for over 30 years. Of significant note has been his central role in building and maintaining a cohesive and tight knit emergency services community. Mr Mackrill has also served the George Town community as the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator (MEMC) since 1996. Throughout the Tasmanian emergency service and broader community he is well known and highly respected as he works tirelessly in ensuring that a proactive and contemporary approach to emergency management and service is taken in the community. In this role, he continues to face challenges, but meets these with a highly commendable professional attitude and sense of dedication. Mr Mackrill's efforts during the H1N1 influenza pandemic during 2009 and early 2010 demonstrated his dedication to his MEMC role. Single-handedly, he was responsible for coordinating the efforts of local health providers in the George Town municipality to identify and develop preparedness arrangements. Mr Mackrill also made himself available to assist other municipalities, in particular Launceston, in their preparedness and response efforts. Mr Mackrill's work as MEMC has also demonstrated an outstanding commitment to ensuring that the local Tasmanian State Emergency Service Unit has been well supported. In 2010, he applied for and was successful in obtaining funding to provide the Unit with an ancillary shed. He spent many hours of his own time coordinating the project to ensure its success. Mr Mackrill has served the community of Tasmania with distinction over many years.

Awards/recognition include:

Australian Fire Service Medal, 1990.

Awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in The Queen's Birthday 1994 Honours List for his service to fire and emergency services.

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)

Mr Mark David NELSON, South Hobart Tas 7004

Mr Nelson became a volunteer with the Tasmanian State Emergency Service (SES) in 1997 and is currently the Regional Manager, South, having previously served with distinction as the Regional Officer, South, for 8 years. As an SES volunteer, he also held the volunteer position of Search and Rescue (SAR) Team Manager with the Southern SES SAR Team. As the Regional Manager, South, his primary focus is to manage the SES functions within the Southern Region of Tasmania ensuring that the organisation, including the volunteers, staff and resources, are in full readiness to respond to incidents, emergencies and disasters. Mr Nelson is very passionate about his role within the SES and places an extremely high degree of importance on the volunteers' contribution within the community. To this end, he has ensured that the volunteers are fully trained, equipped and prepared to respond to any emergency, and has always had their welfare as a primary focus when tasking them operationally. In his own time he has conducted research in volunteer motivation, which he has applied to every aspect of his work, with very commendable and tangible results. He is also the Vertical Rescue Team Leader, a role he was appointed to as a volunteer and retained when he became a career staff member of the SES. Mr Nelson has displayed extraordinary commitment to the volunteers, their families and employers, as well as the SES organisation and the Department of Police and Emergency Management as a whole. He demonstrates high work standards, sound operation judgment, and fair and equitable resolution skills, and he works most effectively in partnership with the volunteers.

Mr Bevis Charles PERKINS, 23 High Street, Campbell Town Tas 7210

Mr Perkins joined the Tasmania State Emergency Service (SES) as a volunteer in 1986, and is a Founding Member of the SES Northern Midlands Unit. He was instrumental in coordinating and fundraising for the purchase of the original rescue vehicle within the municipality. The vehicle required a lot of engineering work and a total rebuild of the rear compartment. Mr Perkins, being a highly skilled mechanic, did the fitting out in his own workshop. He also absorbed some of the cost of the parts required. Mr Perkins has held many positions within the Northern Midlands SES Unit including Team Leader, Treasurer, Secretary and Deputy Unit Manager. Although elderly, he still attends all the unit training activities and fundraising operations. Until his recent retirement he provided assistance to the Regional Training Officer in training and in assessing the skills required for the newer members. Mr Perkins leads by example and drives the Unit with outstanding dedication. He has served the community of Tasmania with distinction in many ways, attending approximately 500 motor vehicle incidents, land searches, aviation crashes, floods and storms.

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)

Northern Territory

Mr Mark Richard FISHLOCK CSM, Wanguri NT 0810

Mr Fishlock joined the Harts Range Emergency Service Volunteer Unit in 2004, becoming the Unit Officer three years later. In 2008, he moved to Darwin where he joined the Darwin Emergency Service Volunteer Unit and, within a year, assumed his current appointment as its Unit Officer. Mr Fishlock's personal commitment to the Northern Territory (NT) Emergency Service is exceptional. Through enormous personal effort and determined leadership, he has developed the Darwin unit into a cohesive, well-trained and responsive Emergency Service Volunteer Unit. He is the driving force behind fundraising activities and pursues every opportunity to receive grant funding, not only to improve the unit's response capability but also to the benefit of all NT Emergency Service volunteers. Operationally, Mr Fishlock's commitment has also been exceptional. He has dedicated himself to ensuring that he is personally trained and available for all call outs, participating in countless road accidents, land searches, air and maritime searches and vertical rescues. Without hesitation he deployed interstate twice to provide assistance in response to the Queensland floods and Tropical Cyclone Yasi. An exemplary volunteer, Mr Fishlock is a person with enormous passion and dedication, and he serves his community with distinction.

Awards/recognition include:

Conspicuous Service Medal, 1998; awarded while serving in the Royal Australian Air Force.