

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)

NEW SOUTH WALES

Mr John ALDRIDGE, 17 Gorrell Crescent, Mangerton NSW 2500

Mr Aldridge joined the Port Kembla Flotilla (NF14) of the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA) in 1993 and has given outstanding service at a number of levels. He has demonstrated the highest level of commitment, professional and highly distinguished service on behalf of the AVCGA at most levels where it is involved with the public, other organisations and government. His ideals, work ethic and attention to detail reflect the highest standards. During his time as an AVCGA member Mr Aldridge has served the organisation in many positions of its management structure and has had direct input and influence at flotilla, Squadron, State Council and National levels. Mr Aldridge has been, at various times, a Flotilla Commander, Deputy Squadron Commodore, Squadron Training Commodore, and Squadron Board Adviser. He previously held administrative and training positions within the Port Kembla Flotilla and the Illawarra Squadron and is currently the NSW State Training Coordinator, and he continues to serve as a regular, active member as a radio officer in Port Kembla.

Mr Warwick George CARY, 253 Rocky Point Road, Ramsgate NSW 2217

Mr Cary has been a member of the Kogarah Unit within the NSW State Emergency Service (SES) since 1984. He became a Rescue Team Leader in 1988, Rescue Officer in 1992, Deputy Controller in 1995, and Controller in 2003. As Rescue Officer, he built up the unit's small Rescue Section from 5 to 26 members and greatly improved its rescue standards, leading to the Kogarah Team winning the Sydney Southern Region Rescue Competition in 2003. Under his outstanding leadership, the Kogarah SES unit has become an integral part of Sydney Southern Region's emergency response capacity. Mr Cary has been involved in many operations including the Newcastle earthquake, Thredbo landslip, Ku-ring-gai storms, Sydney hailstorm, and many more major storm events throughout the Sydney Southern Region. Mr Cary was appointed to the position of State Protocol Officer for the SES in 2001. This was a newly-created position and, by his own initiative, he developed this role to include memorial services, parades, funerals and award ceremonies. He has also been instrumental in developing the SES Award System, including the design of the Director General's Commendation and Unit Citation. He is also a member of the Awards Committee. Since 1999, Mr Cary has been a member of the NSW SES Volunteers Association where he has served as Vice-President, assuming the role of Interim President for a short time. During this period he had input into the development and roll-out of new leadership insignia. He currently Chairs the Uniform Committee and was instrumental in developing and writing the Uniform Policy for the SES. In 1989, Mr Cary joined St John Ambulance Australia (NSW) Ophthalmic Hospital Branch and is currently a Committee Member.

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)

Brigadier Philip John McNAMARA CSC (Ret'd),
36 McCauley Street, Thirroul NSW 2515

Brigadier McNamara was appointed Director General, NSW State Emergency Service in 2001, and has provided insightful vision and strong strategic leadership that has directly resulted in enhancements to the Service's capability and increased agency profile. Throughout his service, Brigadier McNamara has fostered and nurtured an organisational culture based on team work, consultation, co-operation and communication. He has led and championed the development of a number of innovative programs including the Team Leader, Maintain Team Safety, Critical Incident Support, and Chaplaincy and Controller Development. These programs have been focused at developing and enhancing the Service's volunteers and their leaders as well as providing an increased capacity to provide a safer, physical and emotional organisational environment. Brigadier McNamara has also been instrumental in furthering the development of the Service's information and technology capacity through its Operations Management System, RFA Online, which has been acknowledged nationally. He has also provided both vision and drive to enable the Service to embrace technology through programs aimed at enhancing units' telephony and information technology through the provision of computer hardware and connectivity to better facilitate the conduct of operations. From an operational perspective, Brigadier McNamara exemplifies a leadership style that seizes opportunities to move forward into areas of operation to provide direct support to volunteer controllers and region staff. This approach provides significant inspiration to staff and volunteers alike and is indicative of Brigadier McNamara's strong empathy and understanding of the nature of their work. Brigadier Philip McNamara is an exemplary leader, dedicated to his volunteers, staff and the community of New South Wales.

Awards include:

Conspicuous Service Cross, 1999.

Mr Lindsay William MATTERSON, 114 Dibbs Street, Lismore NSW 2480

Mr Matterson has excelled in his time as Controller within the Lismore City unit of the NSW State Emergency Service (SES). He took control of a unit in crisis and has turned it into one of the premier units of the SES. Mr Matterson has faced many leadership challenges over his time as Controller and has successfully overcome them with his firm, friendly and fair leadership, his moral courage and his exemplary personal standards. He is tenacious in his fight to win resources for the Lismore City SES unit, and was fundamental to the recent opening of a \$1.2 million new Headquarters building. Mr Matterson has a proven track record leading large-scale flood and storm responses within the Lismore area and in support of other units and regions, as well as in support of other agencies. Mr Matterson is an inspirational Controller of outstanding ability.

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Mr Peter John PHILLIPSON, 4 Bent Street, Fingal Bay NSW 2315

Mr Phillipson is currently the Officer Commanding of the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol. Peter joined the Coastal Patrol in 1989 and has held every operational and administrative position within the Port Stephens division, including Divisional Commander. He has represented the Coastal Patrol at regional and district emergency management meetings for many years. He chaired and was a member of numerous management committees, including the Coastal Patrol CBT and Standards Committee. He was a member of the Board of Directors and held the positions of Senior Regional Officer, Captain and Deputy Officer Commanding. Although Mr Phillipson has made a considerable contribution to the emergency management in Australia over the years, it is in his new role as Officer Commanding that he has implemented outstanding policies and principles that have contributed even further to the betterment of the emergency services, particularly the maritime community. Mr Phillipson epitomises the skill, the dedication and the generosity of the emergency service volunteer towards the Coastal Patrol and the community of New South Wales.

Mr Max WALTERS AM MBE,
6 Hillcrest Place, Grangewood Estate, Dubbo NSW 2830

Following a serious level crossing accident in Dubbo Mr Walters was instrumental in the formation of the Dubbo Rescue Squad in 1962 to ensure that the community had trained personnel and equipment to provide rescue capability in the region. The concept was rapidly taken up by other country communities and volunteer rescue units were formed across New South Wales. In 1968, Mr Walters met the then Police Commissioner to discuss training with the officer in charge of the Police Rescue Squad. As a result, Mr Walters led the establishment of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA) in 1969, formed to promote the formation of rescue squads and to standardise procedures and training. From the initial 4 affiliates the VRA has grown to over 73 affiliates. Mr Walters served as the VRA President from 1969 to 1994, and was elected a Life Member in 1973. He was also a Member of the NSW State Rescue Board from 1983-1994. His enthusiasm, drive and leadership have been instrumental in the development of many rescue squads throughout the state. Mr Walters has served the community with distinction over many years having been President of the Dubbo Rescue Squad from 1962 until 2005 and being a Life Member since 1989.

Mr Walters was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in The Queen's Birthday 1988 Honours List for his service to the community. He has also been appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire.

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)

Mr William George WEBSTER, 29 Park Avenue, Blackheath NSW 2785

Mr Webster joined the Baulkham Hills unit within the NSW State Emergency Service (SES) in 1972 as a volunteer member, was appointed as an employee in 2001 and is the current State Learning and Development Officer. While with the Baulkham Hills SES unit he served as Deputy Controller, Rescue Officer, Training Officer and Intelligence Officer, and attended many incidents such as storms, floods, land, waterway and forensic searches, oil spill, bushfires, earthquake and the Thredbo landslip. He has also represented the SES at Local Emergency Management meetings, and been involved with organising SES rescue competitions as well as competing as team leader and team member. As an employee of the SES Mr Webster has been able to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the needs of volunteers and recognise the challenges that they face. He is a strong advocate for volunteers and their safety and this is reflected in his design and delivery of training programs. He has been a mentor and coach to many volunteers. Recently he worked tirelessly with many other volunteers and staff as the Liaison Officer for interstate crews who came to assist the NSW SES following the storm and flooding in the Hunter region. Mr Webster has also been involved in many activities within the Blue Mountains community and is a strong advocate for the maintenance of the natural environment of the region.

VICTORIA

Mr Timothy WARNER, 62 Nunns Road, Mornington Vic 3931

Mr Warner joined the Mornington Community Bay Rescue Service in 1980 and has been an active member and skipper ever since. As well as his active service, he was elected on the first Committee of Management in 1981 and has held executive positions for 26 of the past 27 years. Mr Warner has been a driving force and dedicated Committee Member, Training Officer, First Aid Officer and Secretary, and currently holds the position of President. He also holds the position of President of VMR Victoria. Mr Warner has helped guide the Mornington Community Bay Rescue Service in its transformation to be one of Victoria's leading Volunteer Marine Rescue services. Significantly, he has been instrumental in VMR Mornington being nominated and awarded the Boating Industry Association's 'Safety Initiatives Award' for the past 4 years. Mr Warner's exceptional performance and tireless dedication in the management and 'behind the scenes' lobbying have contributed greatly to the success of his very dedicated group of volunteers in operating a much needed local rescue service. Serving as a member of the Mornington Community Bay Rescue Service has never been a chore for Mr Warner; in his words, "it has always been an honour".

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)

QUEENSLAND

Mr Barry Lex SEMPLE, 4 Power Street, Yeppoon Qld 4703

Mr Semple has given distinguished service to the community and to the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard in a variety of roles for over 23 years. He initially undertook training in all available courses and rose through the operational positions to the position of Offshore Skipper in which he was able to take command of the Rescue Vessel. In 1999, he was elected Commodore of the Central Queensland Squadron where he provided outstanding leadership and coordination to a diverse group of volunteers formed into four flotillas and engaged in a variety of activities. As Squadron Commodore, Mr Semple became a member of the National Board of the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association and he has since contributed significantly to the development of the Association throughout Australia. Mr Semple has willingly and cheerfully given many hours of his own time and effort to service the community and the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Mr Paul John DWYER, 11 Heyerdahl Way, Mandurah WA 6210

Mr Dwyer commenced volunteer service with St John Ambulance in his local community at the age of 15, before becoming a volunteer member of the Mandurah WA State Emergency Service (SES) in 1982. He also served in the Queensland SES between 1989 and 1994; and with the Northern Territory SES in 2000 and 2001, leading air search teams and land rescues on several occasions and coordinating cyclone recovery operations. Mr Dwyer has continually displayed outstanding commitment to seek out, train, equip and develop SES Units and volunteers; this has required him to be a trainer, recruiter, leader, mentor and positive role model. He has actively maintained equipment, grounds and buildings and regularly attends local and regional disaster management meetings, actively promoting disaster preparedness. Mr Dwyer is a multi-talented person who has been responsible for the growth and development of the Mandurah Unit. He lives up to the SES motto *We Serve*, displaying volunteer excellence, achievement and enthusiasm. Mr Dwyer is an outstanding leader and organiser who continually sets high professional standards for himself and encourages others to do the same.

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)

Mr Eliot Russell FISHER, 9 Lisa Road, Australind WA 6233

Mr Fisher has displayed considerable involvement with various youth-based initiatives, not only on land through the Scouting movement but also in the marine environment by way of his active participation in both the Australian Naval Cadet program and the Volunteer Marine Rescue Services. He is actively involved with Bunbury Sea Rescue Group which provides a volunteer-based marine rescue service to both recreational and commercial boating communities in the local region. A part of this service is in the area of public education that is designed to make the recreational sector of the boating community more aware of the responsibility that goes together with boat ownership with respect to the safe operation of the vessel and the responsibility they have for the people on board and the other users on the water. Mr Fisher has been instrumental in conjunction with the Volunteer Marine Rescue WA Association in the establishment of a statewide marine conference based around the volunteers that is designed to inform and actively promote a wide range of safety-related topics amongst the marine rescue volunteers. Mr Fisher's distinguished contribution to marine rescue and to the community extends to his position as the Volunteer Marine Rescue Services representative on the Board of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mr Graeme Desmond WYNWOOD, 23 Epsilon Close, Woodcroft SA 5162

Mr Wynwood has pursued operational excellence at the Noarlunga Unit of the State Emergency Service (SES) and across the region in all areas of his responsibilities. He has developed one of the most efficient Volunteer Units within South Australia, both in training and operational activities to the extent that several of its members are trainers on State courses for all SES members. His management of the Noarlunga Unit, his involvement in Emergency Management Planning and his operational management abilities demonstrate his dedication to the efficiency of the Organisation. He has been involved in the Urban Search and Rescue Category 2 program, which has required him to dedicate countless hours of his own time to the management of this specialist activity. He also has specialist knowledge in the area of structural shoring and is South Australia's leading instructor in this field. His leadership in emergency situations is outstanding, both within his Unit and representing the region in situations from major storm events to assisting the Country Fire Service during fire campaigns. Mr Wynwood has most recently been successful in gaining a grant to provide operational information to all operational volunteers in the form of a printed aide memoir. This should assist the operational members in conducting risk assessments and safe operating procedures for most regularly undertaken tasks. The SES anticipates that his work in this area will further assist in SES's risk mitigation strategies. He has also applied for and received previous grants from Emergency Management Australia, particularly for specialist lighting to enhance operations in all types of weather and for training in breathing apparatus for use in hazardous locations. His involvement in emergency management extends to the South Coast Emergency Management Committee, on which he represents the State Emergency Service; the co-operation between the emergency services and police is a very high priority to Mr Wynwood, and this is exemplified by the high regard he is held in all the services, both during training and operations.

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TASMANIA

Mr Craig William BLIZZARD, 68 Havelock Street, Smithton Tas 7330

Mr Blizzard joined the State Emergency Service with the Smithton Unit in 1989 and has served with distinction ever since. He began as a Student Volunteer and has progressed to be an integral part of its operational capability. His outstanding personal attributes include being able to organise, lead, engage members, engender involvement, and to encourage ideas and concepts with the view to improve the effectiveness of the Unit. Mr Blizzard displays a rare skill in his empathetic approach to patient care, along with a desire to analyse the actions that may have gone wrong or methods undertaken in rescue work and identify areas or strategies for improvement based on observation and logical analysis. He has developed as an outstanding leader, reflecting a most positive impact on moral and team building within the Unit.

Mr Roger Charles BROWN, 337 Macquarie Street, South Hobart Tas 7004

Mr Brown joined the State Emergency Service (SES) in Tasmania as a volunteer in 1981. He has participated in many operations, including storm and water damage operations throughout the southern region, search and rescue operations which include working in a field search base and as a member or team leader of a land search team, manning the SES State and Regional Operations Centre, flood boat operations, and Air Search Observer Operations. For over 20 years Mr Brown has held various leader and management roles that include leading teams during operations. He currently holds the position of Assistant Operations Manager with the Southern Regional Unit based in Hobart. Mr Brown also conducts training at the regional level and at his Unit. He has assisted the training of other units in general rescue, storm damage, emergency operations centres and driving vehicles. He is also been an active volunteer member of the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) since 1979. As a volunteer firefighter he has served in various officer positions, including First Officer/Brigade Chief. During his time with TFS he has attended many fires in Tasmania as well as interstate as part of a task force. He has also conducted training of volunteers at a Brigade level. Mr Brown is also a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services in which he has been actively involved, as well as being on the Tasmania Division Board. He has served the community with distinction.

Mr Antonio Luigi (Tony) CHIRICHELLO, 209 Ten Mile Track, Scottsdale Tas 7260

Mr Chirichiello first joined the Dorset State Emergency Service Unit in 1981. He has served the community and his Unit with distinction and has made every effort to train and assist others within the State Emergency Service. Mr Chirichiello participated in all training activities and applied himself and his knowledge to the fullest. Until recently he served as Deputy Unit Management for the Dorset Unit; however, he has suffered from a debilitating lung disease, and he has had to retire from all strenuous activities.

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Mr Peter Gerard McENCROE, 54 Moruya Circuit, Kaleen ACT 2617

Mr McEncroe has demonstrated considerable commitment and provided a valuable contribution to the community as a volunteer with the ACT State Emergency Service for more than 30 years. He has held a number of positions within the Service, including team member, Transport Officer, Deputy Controller and Controller/Commander. His ability to lead and manage people has led to his building a strong volunteer unit. As the volunteer manager of the Belconnen SES Unit he has consistently improved its performance. Major achievements under his command include the Unit representing the ACT in the 2003 National Disaster Rescue Competition, consistently being among the best performers of ACT SES teams at the annual Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Service's NavShield navigation competition, and a high number of the Unit's members being qualified in Certificate II in Public Safety (SES Rescue). Mr McEncroe has a reputation for ensuring that everyone in his team follows defined standard procedures, and he has implemented additional procedures, particularly in relation to equipment maintenance and accountability, within the Belconnen SES Unit. He continually provides support and guidance to his members and he actively encourages young and new members to expand their skills and take on further responsibilities. Examples of the outstanding commitment that Mr McEncroe has shown to both the Service and his local community include involvement in several major incidents, assuming the senior role of SES Duty Commander for the annual Balloon Festival in Canberra over the past 4 years, and providing 4WD training to members and assisting in the development of 4WD training procedures. He was also very active in the response to the severe storms in Canberra in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Mr McEncroe has also attended a number of interstate emergencies including the Sydney fires in 1994, the Sydney hailstorms in 2001 and the Victorian fires in 2006, and was an active member of ACT taskforces that responded to the Hunter region of New South Wales in June 2007 following severe storms and flooding.