

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

#### **Mr Frederick Albert APTHORPE, Merbein Vic 3505**

Mr Apthorpe joined the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) in 1973 as a volunteer in Cessnock where he achieved the rank of Group Captain and Honorary Fire Control Officer. In 1984, he was appointed the full-time Fire Control Officer for the Muswellbrook Council local government area in the Upper Hunter. Following a staffing expansion in 1995, he was appointed Deputy Regional Coordinator for the Western Region located in Cobar, where he undertook a strong role, negotiating with Senior Council Officers and elected representatives to fill Fire Control Officer positions across the Region. A major RFS reorganisation in 2001 saw staff previously employed by local governments becoming State Government employees. Mr Apthorpe spent many weeks at the Headquarters during this time formulating policies and procedures to enable the restructure to be implemented successfully. Following the restructure, he became the Regional Learning and Development Officer, and his rapport with volunteers at all levels of the organisation allowed him to perform an essential role in facilitating training reform and implementing a variety of important training programs to volunteer brigades. In 2004 he was appointed Zone Manager, Lower Western Zone, incorporating the Wentworth and Balranald local government areas. Since taking up this position Mr Apthorpe has continued to work with brigade volunteers effectively, putting into place many improvements to the RFS infrastructure across the Zone. In addition, as a staff representative on the State Occupational Health and Safety Committee and a delegate of the Public Service Association, he is constantly striving for improvements in safety measures and working conditions. Through his outstanding dedication, significant achievements and long serving commitment, Mr Apthorpe has promoted the RFS as a professional and well organised emergency service.

#### **Mr Stuart Wayne BEAR, 38 Alexander Street, Hamilton South NSW 2303**

Mr Bear has provided distinguished service to the community of New South Wales since becoming a member of the NSW Fire Brigades in 1978. He has served with distinction in the Sydney and Newcastle regions and has worked in specialised areas such as the Communications Centre, Hazmat and Breathing Apparatus Section. He was the Station Commander of Newcastle Fire Station for 9 years and is the current Officer-in-Charge of the Newcastle Communications Centre. Mr Bear is highly regarded throughout the firefighting community, working extensively with northern region and retained staff as a member of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee. More recently, he formed and chaired the Joint Consultative Committee in Region North, working in conjunction with the Overtime Reduction Unit and endeavouring to bring fresh ideas to the table for the recruitment and retention of firefighters. Mr Bear has also been one of the main driving forces behind the Newcastle Firefighters' Ball, for which he was an inaugural and continuing member of the committee. Through its 8 years' existence this fundraising activity has seen vital equipment purchased for the John Hunter Children's Hospital, Hunter Kidsafe and The Children's Burns Survivor Group. He is considered the driving force behind the firefighters' contributions to these causes, with total donations exceeding \$200,000.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

### **Mr Mark Maxwell BROWN, Kingsgrove NSW 2208**

Mr Brown is a career fire officer of the NSW Fire Brigades with service spanning some 27 years. During his distinguished career he has demonstrated an outstanding professional application to his various appointments. He has consistently demonstrated exemplary leadership and a proactive commitment to modifying and adapting the Brigades' capability in regional command areas to the changing roles and dynamic operating environment. Prior to his appointment to the Senior Executive Service and to his current rank of Assistant Commissioner he was seconded to the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia (FESA). During his 12 months with FESA he established himself as an integral team member with the ability to provide logic, influence and perspective into the strategic planning of that organisation. The project with which he was specifically tasked was the review of resource allocation for hazardous materials and rescue capability. Since his appointment as the Director Regional Operations in late 2006, Mr Brown has accomplished several strategic initiatives; in particular, he has realised a significant enhancement to the effectiveness of the NSW Fire Brigades' approach to emergency management in high risk public domains within regional areas. He has worked towards the establishment of closer working relationships between other emergency services, resulting in a number of initiatives that have benefited all agencies in the public safety sector and the community of New South Wales. Mr Brown has also managed the planning, preparedness and response for the NSW Fire Brigades' role in actively contributing to the direction and governance of the organisation by providing effective leadership and management of the Regional Operations Directorate. Mr Brown has served the NSW Fire Brigades and the community of New South Wales with distinction.

### **Mr Bryan John DALY, Grafton NSW 2460**

Mr Daly joined the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) in 1981 as a volunteer member of the Mallanganee Rural Fire Brigade. In 1995 he was appointed as Fire Control Officer, Kyogle District, and continued to rise through the ranks to his current position of Regional Operations Manager. Throughout his distinguished service he has made a significant contribution to the RFS through his outstanding leadership and mentoring qualities and commitment to volunteer training and operational preparedness, exemplified by his commitment to the annual Region North Exercise. He is a Founding Member of the Exercise and has been the Committee's Chairman for the past 8 years. The Exercise is an operational evaluation of the out-of-area capabilities of the Districts/Zones within Region North and *inter alia* introduces crews to the specialist responsibilities of other emergency agencies and provides an opportunity to operate with those agencies. Mr Daly has also been involved in interstate responses, most recently as the RFS's Coordinator to assist his South Australian counterparts with the Kangaroo Island bushfire emergency. He has also played a pivotal role in the development and implementation of major incident management systems and policy that assists with such deployments. His outstanding leadership, dedication, commitment and achievement have gone a long way to making the volunteers and staff in Region North a much more highly trained, professionally skilled and prepared emergency service.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

### **Mr James Henry DRANE, Thirlmere NSW 2572**

Mr Drane joined the Theresa Park Rural Fire Brigade in 1984 and, at various times, held the positions of Secretary, Vice-President, President, Training Officer and Deputy Captain of the Brigade before being made a Life Member in 2005. The most significant achievement under his leadership was the establishment and building of the Brigade's new station. In 1995, he was appointed a Group Officer in the Wollondilly Northern Sector and during the major bush fires of 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002 and 2003 he acted as the Air Attack Officer responsible for coordinating the use of aircraft for fire suppression operations. He is currently the Senior Group Officer in Wollondilly and has also served with distinction in similar positions in other areas of New South Wales during times of emergency. In his current position he mentors Group Officers, Brigade Captains and other Brigade Officers, ably supporting them as future leaders within the Wollondilly District. He is also an avid supporter of Rural Fire Service initiatives by serving on various Headquarters committees, such as the Operations Committee and the recently established Organisational Values Committee. In addition, Mr Drane is the Wollondilly District President of the Rural Fire Service Association Inc, and has fostered the growth of the Association and assisted brigades to augment their station equipment from grants provided by the Association. Mr Drane constantly demonstrates outstanding leadership, commitment and dedication to the community of New South Wales, and has been awarded the Commissioner's Commendation for Service.

### **Mr Dennis JOINER, Mona Vale NSW 2103**

Mr Joiner has been a member of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) for over 47 years. He initially joined the Terrey Hills Rural Fire Brigade and his commitment to the local community led to his being a Founding Member of the Duffy's Forest Rural Fire Brigade which was established in 1964. At various times he has served as President, Vice-President, Deputy Captain and Senior Deputy Captain, and has been Captain for over 10 years. He was made a Life Member of the Duffy's Forest Rural Fire Brigade in 2002. Mr Joiner is a very active firefighter having been heavily involved in major incidents within Warringah Pittwater, and was involved in fighting fires in the Australian Capital Territory in 2002 as well as storm damage and flood relief operations across New South Wales. He is dedicated to promoting the RFS, is committed to educating the local Duffy's Forest community in fire safety aspects and became the Brigade's first official Community Safety Officer. Mr Joiner has recently taken a mentoring role while assisting with leadership training of the volunteer firefighters, and has taken part in many Incident Management Teams and coordinated briefings and debriefing courses within the district. His training expertise has also led him to work at the Headquarters on several occasions as a corporate trainer. Mr Joiner has served the RFS and the community of New South Wales with distinction.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

**Mr Joseph Robert (Joe) KNOX**, 4 Lamber Street, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Mr Knox has been member of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) for many years, initially joining the Urana Bush Fire Brigade in 1979. He held a number of District appointments, including Communications Officer and Deputy Group Captain. In 1983 he was appointed Honorary Deputy Fire Control Officer and, in 1987, Fire Control Officer. Three years later he was gazetted as the full-time Fire Control Officer with the Wagga Wagga City Council. In 2003 he was appointed to his current position of Superintendent, Zone Manager, Riverina Zone, covering Wagga Wagga, Coolamon, Junee, Lockhart and Urana. Throughout his distinguished service as both a volunteer and staff member, Mr Knox has demonstrated exceptional leadership, commitment and achievement in many areas. He has pioneered initiatives that have evolved into very successful outcomes and he continues to initiate and embrace positive ventures for the RFS within the Riverina Zone and beyond. In fire suppression, he has taken on the role of Incident Controller and other senior positions at many fires within and outside of the Riverina Zone and, at all times, has shown a mature attitude in emergency situations, whether it be in the way of leadership or effecting liaison between Group Captains, Brigade Captains, firefighters, other agencies and/or other RFS elements. Mr Knox has served the RFS and the community of the Riverina with distinction.

**Mr Stanley Ronald REIMER**, 29 Hills Street, Young NSW 2594

Mr Reimer was appointed to the NSW Fire Brigades as a retained firefighter attached to Young Brigade in 1965. Since then, he has served the community of New South Wales with distinction and has demonstrated a dedication to duty that serves as an exemplary example to his peers and subordinates alike. As the Deputy Captain and then Captain of the Young Fire Brigade, he has been directly responsible for influencing many and varied improvements to fire service delivery by embracing, facilitating and leading complementary and coordinated multi-agency emergency management. Mr Reimer has been able to achieve this through thorough effective planning, competent operational command and an outstanding commitment to workforce consultation and team building to influence a positive shift in workplace culture and work practices. Through his outstanding leadership, he has been instrumental in the smooth operations of the Young Fire Station and lifting the NSW Fire Brigades' profile within the local community where he has been particularly active in promoting community safety programs. The Young Fire Brigade enjoys an extremely high profile and excellent relationships with other organisations and the Young Shire Council, and donates annually to local charity organisations such as The Men's Shed and Lions Club with funds raised by the Brigade.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

**Mr Alfred John SENDALL, 243 Wheeo Road, Goulburn NSW 2580**

Mr Sendall joined the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) in 1963 with the Parkesbourn Rural Fire Brigade and has been actively involved as a firefighter, Group Officer, S44 Incident Controller and administrator within the Southern Tablelands Zone, Goulburn Mulwaree Headquarters Group, ever since. Initially, he was active as both Secretary and firefighter at the Parkesbourn Brigade and then became the Honorary Deputy Fire Control Officer for the Mulwaree Shire. He was subsequently appointed Fire Control Centre Manager. During most summer periods, Mr Sendall personally keeps a tireless watch on the local fire danger situation and has often opened the Fire Control Centre in preparation for what might occur. He has instituted a close knit team of volunteers ready to operate as an Incident Management Team at immediate notice, should the situation demand it. He has also served as Task Force Leader, Deputy Incident Controller and Incident Controller at many out-of-area incidents including the Lock Marie fire in 2000, the Touga fire in 2002 and the McIntyre's Hut and Childowlah fires in 2003. Mr Sendall has also been heavily involved in training in the Mulwaree District for many years, concentrating on Crew and Group Leader levels but also attending and encouraging participants at many other Brigade and District training events. In addition, he represents both the Mulwaree District and volunteers on the Bush Fire Management Committee and the Zone Liaison Committee. His input to these bodies is welcomed and very much respected. He has also been a successful mediator and has achieved positive outcomes for dispute resolution. Mr Sendall is a selfless and dedicated person who has and continues to work tirelessly for both volunteers and the RFS. He has served the community of New South Wales with distinction.

**Mr Christopher John SMITH, 23A Elizabeth Parade, Tura Beach NSW 2548**

Mr Smith has been an exemplary volunteer member of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) since 1969 when he joined the Merimbula Rural Fire Brigade. His leadership qualities were evident as he became Deputy Captain within a year of joining. In 1971 he became Brigade Captain, a position he held for 33 years. He was also appointed Group Captain in 1974, a position he continues to hold. In addition to these duties, he has also been an active member of the Bega Valley Bush Fire Management Committee since 1996, advocating the requirements of volunteers. Mr Smith has demonstrated outstanding leadership at brigade, district, team and regional levels across a full range of RFS activities including but not limited to operations, training, hazard management and service management. At every incident where he has held responsibilities, his duties have been conducted at the highest level of safety, while maintaining effective and efficient outcomes for the benefit of the firefighters under his command, along with the best possible outcomes for the community affected. Mr Smith has also demonstrated a commitment, dedicating many hours of instruction across the range of qualification from Basic Firefighter to Group Leader and specialised training such as Chainsaw, Driver and Village Firefighter. He is a qualified assessor and undertakes an active role in the planning, promotion and facilitation of training. In addition, he is an active participant on the Bega Valley Bush Fire Management Committee and continues to be an active member of the Senior Management team. Mr Smith has served the RFS and the community of New South Wales with distinction.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

### **VICTORIA**

#### **Mr Robert Lindsay BARRY, PO Box 586, North Geelong Vic 3215**

Mr Barry has provided 32 years' distinguished service to Victoria's Country Fire Authority as a volunteer and career staff member. He has served through the ranks from volunteer firefighter to Regional Operations Manager. In his senior operational position he has demonstrated exceptional performance and efficiency in fire service operations. He has successfully managed several major fires and incidents along with the management of major events. Mr Barry has developed initiatives in the form of the Home fire Safety Strategy that have directly benefited and created a safer community. He has also been instrumental in the development of fire service policy, procedures, Memorandums of Understanding and standing orders at both a regional and state level. Mr Barry has provided exceptional leadership rights across the Country Fire Authority and the Emergency Management sector over many years. He has always promoted the development of youth within the Country Fire Authority and in the general community.

#### **Mr Hayden Bruce BIGGS, Ballarat Vic 3350**

Mr Biggs has been a firefighter with the Department of Sustainability and Environment for over of 26 years. During that time his experience has covered a range of key roles, from ground firefighter through to Incident Controller. In all roles he has been noted for his reliability and diligence and his ability to get on with the job in demanding and complex circumstances. Over the last 15 years, Mr Biggs has specialised in the management of aerial firefighting. He is one of Australia's most experienced and capable Air Attack Supervisors, and has carried out this role in Victoria's worst bushfire situations in recent decades. His experience extends beyond Victoria as he has regularly provided support to other states, particularly during bushfire campaigns in New South Wales. The respect for Mr Biggs' experience and operational skills is well illustrated by the fact that he has been chosen to join every Australia/New Zealand bushfire support mission to the United States in recent times and he led the aviation contingent on the 2 most recent occasions. Mr Biggs has also contributed to the development of safe, effective and efficient equipment for dispensing fire retardant and suppressants from aircraft to the extent that he is now regarded as one of the key authorities in Australia in this area, and he is well recognised as an expert in the field amongst the aviation Industry in Australia and overseas.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

### **Mr Thomas Joseph BRODIE, 35 Correll Street, Longwood Vic 3665**

After 45 years of operational and leadership roles within Victoria's Country Fire Authority, Mr Brodie still continues as a very active volunteer firefighter with the Longwood Fire Brigade and Incident Controller with the Euroa Fire Brigades Group, attending many incidents locally as well as nearly all the major fires including Ash Wednesday, the Strathbogrie, North East campaign fires and Great Divide campaign fires, and interstate support. Mr Brodie consistently undertakes the lead Incident Management roles, varying from Incident Controller, Sector Commander to Strike Team Leader. He has also provided long and expert advice at state level, representing volunteers on the Equipment Design and Communications Committees for the past 20 years. He has been a pivotal player driving change through practical expertise in tanker design and in providing significant design ideas for improved efficiencies and safety. Mr Brodie has provided distinguished service and outstanding leadership to the Country Fire Authority in the development of volunteerism, equipment design and organisational development.

### **Mr Gregory Alfred ESNOUF, Blackburn South Vic 3130**

As Deputy Chief Officer responsible for Operations Performance Improvement within Victoria's Country Fire Authority, Mr Esnouf has provided distinguished service in the field of fire management, performance measurement and standard setting. He has developed a range of systems and processes specifically to improve the measurement, performance and quality of outcomes, greatly improving operational aspects of firefighting. His efforts have directly lead to improvements in the safety of firefighters, the efficiency of firefighting effort and the effective development of legislative and policy frameworks that support field operations across all agencies in Australia.

### **Mr Graham PARKES, Halls Gap Vic 3381**

As a ranger and Ranger-in-Charge, Mr Parkes has demonstrated outstanding leadership throughout a long career in fire management in Victoria. He has worked in a variety of locations such as Chiltern, Buchan Caves, Croajingalong National Park and, for the past 14 years, in the Grampians National Park. His fire experience and knowledge represents a significant asset to Parks Victoria and the Victorian community. His skills and commitment were encapsulated by his outstanding performance at the Mount Lubra Fire in the Grampians region in 2006 and in the subsequent recovery effort. His relationships with local brigades, business operators and residents in and around the Grampians were pivotal in allowing for quick and effective recovery. Mr Parkes has also played a significant part in facilitating a change in culture that has seen everyone work together to protect both the values of Grampians National Park and its surrounding communities. He continues to play a significant role in strategic fire planning in the area and extends himself to build connections with the community regarding the future shape of fire management.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

### **Mr Garry Ronald WATSON, Croydon Vic 3136**

Mr Watson has provided distinguished service and outstanding leadership in the research, development and implementation of water recycling methods, particularly in the introduction of a transportable water recycling module used for practical pump operation training; hereby bringing recognition to the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board (MFB) at a governmental level and contributing to the MFB's aim for environmental awareness. Mr Watson joined the MFB in 1984 and, following extensive operational experience as a firefighter and Station Officer, transferred to the Training and Education Department where he has been actively involved in training recruit firefighters. Given the MFB's responsibility to protect the environment, Mr Watson identified a need to manage the water used in training firefighters at the former MFB Training College in Abbotsford. This water was traditionally drawn from the Yarra River, stored in a static supply dam and ultimately returned to the Yarra River after use. When the MFB was prevented from using water from the Yarra, Mr Watson designed and developed a system whereby water from the static supply could be recycled, back to the static supply without the need to take water from the Yarra.. This allowed the Training College to be completely self-sufficient in terms of water usage for training and maintained the MFB's commitment to protecting the environment. Mr Watson has also demonstrated exceptional performance in the area of water conservation by developing several new and unique training modules that provide a significant benefit to the MFB and other fire services that wish to adopt a similar approach to practical pump operator training.

## **QUEENSLAND**

### **Mr Edward OFFORD, 1 Catherine Street, Tolga Qld 4882**

Mr Offord has shown exceptional dedication to his role as a volunteer Peer Support Officer in the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Firecare Program. His enduring patience, understanding and compassion for firefighters and their families are exemplary. Mr Offord has provided outstanding leadership in times of crisis and has been an adviser, supporter and motivator to staff.

### **Mr Grahame Lindsay RAY, 12 Cherry Street, Wellington Point Qld 4160**

Mr Ray has demonstrated exceptional commitment to Live Fire Training above and beyond the requirements normally expected of his position. He has dedicated himself to the principles of firefighter safety and, as a result, has developed and established statewide compartmental fire behaviour training for staff. Mr Ray has an outstanding record in addressing workplace health and safety issues in all aspects of Live Fire Training that has had benefits for all Queensland Fire and Rescue Service employees.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

**Mr David Oliver ROSER**, 55 Mildren Street, Gin Gin Qld 4671

Mr Roser has provided exceptional service to his community and the broader firefighter community through his commitment to the Firefighter Championships. He has volunteered his time and expertise to provide a dedicated service as an organiser and judge at local, state and national levels. His enthusiasm for this activity has contributed to the improvement of training and skills for firefighters, and brought great credit to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service.

**Mr Bernard Paul SAVAGE**, 135 Chadwick Drive, South Maclean Qld 4280

Mr Savage has demonstrated outstanding and exceptional leadership in the transition of the Jimboomba Rural Fire Brigade to a joint Rural and Urban Service delivery model. His dedication as a volunteer to lead a diverse group of individuals has provided his community with a quality service supported by a range of well implemented community programs, and brought great credit to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service within the local community.

### ***WESTERN AUSTRALIA***

**Mr Terry Matthew LITTLE**, PO Box 80, Wundowie WA 6560

Mr Little has been a volunteer and career firefighter in Western Australia for almost 40 years and has played a significant role in supporting fellow volunteers and providing a community service in the Avon Region. He joined the (then) WA Fire Brigades in 1981 and served at the Perth Fire Station as an operational firefighter responding to fire and other emergencies and completing fire prevention activities. Prior to this, he was an active member of the Wundowie Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service for 11 years, including 6 years as Captain. Promoted to Station Officer in 1989, Mr Little was based in Perth and provided effective leadership, management and direction for fire and rescue personnel in firefighting, rescue, Hazmat, Breathing Apparatus, general training, prevention strategies and a multitude of emergency related incidents. He then broadened his skills by undertaking a secondment to the FESA Training Centre as part of a team that had the responsibility to develop and deliver the Modular Training Program for career firefighters throughout Western Australia. He has since continued to deliver training, including general firefighting, driver training, breathing apparatus and a range of specific disciplines related to operational crews, both career and volunteer. He was promoted to Area Manager in 1997. During his many years in the Avon Region, Mr Little has provided outstanding leadership to volunteer Fire and Rescue Brigades in Beverley, Brookton, Tammin, Quairading, Kellerberrin, Cunderdin, Goomalling, Northam, Toodyay, Wundowie, Southern Cross and York, and for the past 3 years liaising and working with the Shires of Tammin, Kellerberrin, Merredin and Yilgarn, to ensure efficient and effective management of fire-related incidents and community safety programs. He has always been available to support, direct and to stand by any of his team who may be experiencing a difficult situation. Mr Little has served the WA Fire Service and his local community with distinction.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

### ***SOUTH AUSTRALIA***

**Mr Robert Samuel BUTTERY, deceased,**  
Late of Tea Tree Gully SA 5091

Mr Buttery was born in the United Kingdom and for some years was a volunteer with the British Fire Service in Essex before emigrating to Australia in the early 1970s. He very quickly joined the Tea Tree Gully Emergency Fire Service; serving at various times with distinction as a Senior Firefighter, Fire Control Officer, Lieutenant and Brigade Captain. He also served as the Brigade Training Officer, Brigade Administrative Officer and Brigade Representative to the Mount Lofty Volunteer Fire Fighters Association. Mr Buttery was very interested in training and established the first cadets in Tea Tree Gully. He became an instructor and spent many weekends training throughout the region, forming the first competition team in Tea Tree Gully and captaining the Tea Tree Gully team to become the best brigade in the South Australian Country Fire Service. He was the first Region 2 representative on the State Training Committee, and was a member of the Committee that organised the State Competitions and was also a Judge. In the early 1990s Mr Buttery became a Deputy Group Officer within the Para Group, and served as Group Equipment Officer, Region Fire Investigator, and Chairman of the Finance Committee. Mr Buttery served the South Australian Country Fire Service and his local community with distinction.

Mr Buttery died on 18 February 2008.

Next of Kin: Mrs Patricia Helena Buttery (spouse)

**Mr Wayne Brian THORLEY, Jervois SA 5259**

Mr Thorley joined the Jervios Brigade in 1983 and has since devoted a huge amount of time and energy to improving the welfare of the volunteer firefighters within the South Australian County Fire Service. Upon joining the Brigade he assumed the operational leadership role of Lieutenant 2 and also took on the role of Brigade Administration Officer. His positive attitude and leadership in these positions have improved the Brigade's morale and its involvement in social and fundraising activities, enabling the Brigade to expand the size of its station and to house a Bulk Water Carrier and the Region's new Hook truck (pod system). Jervois Brigade and its many active members now provide much needed support in times of need to other brigades and Groups across the Region. Mr Thorley's commitment saw him become actively involved in the (then) Volunteer Fire Brigade Association, serving as Branch President of the Murraylands Branch for 4 years and as a Delegate to the Association's State Management Committee. Since 2004 he has served as Vice-President of the South Australian Country Fire Service Volunteers Association, and his efforts have assisted with the establishment of the positions of Volunteer Support Officer and Regional Business Support Officers. With the creation of the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission in 2005, Mr Thorley was the Association's nomination on the Commission's Advisory Board for 2 terms. He now serves the Emergency Services Sector and its volunteers and staff as a member of the Commission's Board. He has also served on the Minister's Bushfire Prevention Advisory Board. Despite this heavy involvement he still continues to serve the Swanport Group as an operational member as Deputy Group Officer. Mr Thorley's undoubted commitment to volunteer firefighters' welfare led to his being elected as Chair of the Regional Volunteer Management Committee Region 3 in 2007. Mr Thorley has served the South Australian Country Fire Service and the community with distinction.

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)**

### **TASMANIA**

#### **Mr Gerald Charles AULICH, Irishtown Road, St Marys Tas 7215**

Mr Aulich was a Founding Member of the St Marys Rural Fire Brigade in 1960. Due to changes in the structure of firefighting, the Brigade later became the St Marys Volunteer Fire Brigade and Mr Aulich has maintained continuous active membership since then. In 1998 he was appointed as the Brigade's Fire Permit Officer. He achieved the wider leadership role of Group Officer in 2005 when he was elected to the role by the brigades of the Golden Gate Group. Mr Aulich's outstanding leadership and guidance during the 2006/2007 North East fires was exemplary. Since these fires he has also played a leading role in the St Marys community recovery process.

#### **Mr Garry Michael SULLIVAN, Fern Tree Tas 7054**

Mr Sullivan joined the Tasmania Fire Service as a volunteer firefighter with the Fern Tree Brigade in 1980. In 1992 he commenced a full-time career as a Senior Communications Officer. Mr Sullivan currently leads the Communications Division as Manager Communications and continues with his volunteer commitment at the Fern Tree Brigade where he is Third Officer and Fire Permit Officer. Mr Sullivan has made a significant contribution to establishing and maintaining a reliable and effective statewide communications network for Tasmania's 230 brigades. He also leads the communications project that enables the Tasmania Fire Service's 5,000 members to respond using alpha-numeric pagers.

#### **Mr Gregory Walter WILLIAMS, 15 Pine Place, Devonport Tas 7310**

Mr Williams joined the Tasmania Fire Service as a volunteer firefighter with the Devonport Fire Brigade in 1982. For 12 years he served in the role of First Officer at Devonport and still remains an active volunteer firefighter. In addition, he held a number of senior postings with the Aviation Fire Service between 1973 and 1992. Since 2000 Mr Williams has worked full-time for the Tasmania Fire Service as a Fire Education Officer, and is well known by schoolchildren throughout north west Tasmania. Feedback from teaching staff and parents has always been supportive of the school education programs and of Mr Williams' professional and enthusiastic approach.