

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

NEW SOUTH WALES

Mr John Darrell A'BECKETT, 7 Meluca Crescent, Hornsby Heights NSW 2077

Mr A'Beckett gave outstanding leadership and service to the Rural Fire Brigades and Rural Fire Service (RFS) in almost every capacity from 1967 until his retirement in early 2007. He joined the fledgling "The Gorge" Rural Fire Brigade (now known as the Hornsby Heights Rural Fire Brigade) in 1967 and almost immediately impressed as an outstanding leader, being elected President in 1968 and Deputy Captain in 1970. He also served as Captain from 1980 to 1984 and is still remembered within the Brigade as one of its most knowledgeable and inspiring Captains. He was elected Group Captain in Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai District in 1983 while still Captain of the Hornsby Heights Rural Fire Brigade. He continued as either Group Captain or Deputy Group Captain for the next 24 years, forging an enviable reputation for dedication, achievement and commitment. One of the early fire trails established in the Galston Gorge is known as "A'Beckett Highway" - a testament to the thorough and meticulous preparation he always encouraged in hazard reduction activities. Mr A'Beckett was always a stringent advocate of the importance of fireground safety and fire station audits, regularly appearing as a firm but friendly safety inspector at stations throughout the District and acting as fireground safety adviser at numerous hazard reductions over the past 20 years. He also increasingly interested himself in community education activities and was a familiar agent for the RFS in schools, churches, community centres and shopping malls throughout the Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai local government areas. In all these endeavours he always promoted the RFS in the most positive manner befitting a volunteer of his talent and maturity.

Mr Brian Stanley AYLIFFE, 9 Bega Street, Cobargo NSW 2550

Mr Ayliffe demonstrates the highest levels of dedication and service to the community through the Rural Fire Service. He has been an active member since 1957 when he commenced his involvement with the Cobargo Rural Fire Brigade. He became Captain in 1972, a position he held until 2003. In 1975 he was appointed Group Captain and he remains the Group Captain of the Northern Group Bega Valley. In 1996 he was elected Chairman of the Bega Valley Bush Fire Management Committee; a position in which he has shown great leadership to create a most effective Committee and has maintained a strategic view to foster high levels of interagency co-operation. Mr Ayliffe has also provided extensive support to Fire Control staff, both operationally and as a member of the Senior Management Team. He possesses vast experience in operational management of firefighting. Beyond his local area, he has managed incidents across New South Wales and into Victoria, and at all times he has had an unwavering commitment to the safety of all personnel.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr William David CLIFFORD, 222 Gardiners Road, Biraganbil NSW 2852

Mr Clifford has served the community of New South Wales and the NSW Fire Brigades as a permanent firefighter for over 40 years. He was promoted to Station Officer in 1979, and throughout his career he has taken a keen involvement in the welfare of firefighters and their families. As a result of his involvement in the NSW Fire Brigades' Critical Incident Support Program, Mr Clifford was seconded to review the operations of this important program where he was instrumental in the development of a peer support program that services all areas of the NSW Fire Brigades and which is at the forefront of similar programs throughout Australia. Mr Clifford's contribution to the NSW Fire Brigades through his selfless dedication to duty, particularly the well-being of NSW Fire Brigades personnel and their families, has been outstanding.

Mr Kevin William DUFF, 7 Cowrang Avenue, Terrey Hills NSW 2084

Mr Duff has been a member of the Terrey Hills Rural Fire Brigade since 1977 and has served with distinction as Deputy Captain, Senior Deputy Captain, Captain, President and, from 1993, Brigade Secretary. Under his leadership, the Brigade was awarded the prestigious G A Duncan Shield as the best performing brigade in the Warringah Shire for that year. Mr Duff has organised, managed and conducted a considerable number of Brigade training sessions and weekend exercises as well as assisting with Shire field days. He undertook a broader approach to community education long before it became part of the philosophy of the Rural Fire Service by providing safety information to the community at station open days, street meetings and local schools. He has always taken a key role in many of the Brigade's endeavours, including the organisation of fundraising activities, the creation of detailed tanker checklists and Brigade Standard Operating Procedures, and the building of a new Brigade Station which was opened in 1993. He was also a member of the committee established to develop the Brigade's Constitution. Mr Duff has given outstanding service to the community of New South Wales and to the Rural Fire Service for over 30 years.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Keith Robert KING, Davistown NSW 2251

During his 32 years' distinguished service as a firefighter with the NSW Fire Brigades, Mr King has progressed through the ranks, culminating in his promotion to the rank of Superintendent and his appointment to the position of Zone Commander Central Coast based in Wyong. He has served at various operational and administrative commands including the specialist area of the Fire Investigation Unit. Following his appointment as Zone Commander Central Coast, Mr King was charged with managing a fourfold increase in permanent staff and the resultant infrastructure within the Zone. This saw the opening of four new fire stations and the relocation of another two, greatly enhancing the NSW Fire Brigades operational capabilities on the Central Coast. Mr King has also been an active member of the NSW Fire Brigades Retained Firefighters Reform Committee which is responsible for reviewing the operations of the NSW Fire Brigades Retained Firefighter system. Mr King is very active in fundraising within his local community and was responsible for the formation of the Central Coast Burns Equipment Fund in 2001 that raises funds for the purchase of equipment for hospitals in the Central Coast region; to date, the fund has raised over \$100,000. Mr King is also a founding member of the Terrigal Trotters Running Club where he has been made a Life Member for his services to the club and also in recognition of his fundraising work within the community.

Mr Stephen Charles McCRAE,
'Happy Hills', Ruses Creek Road, Manilla NSW 2346

Mr McCrae joined the Mulla Creek Rural Fire Brigade in 1978 and since 1985 has held the positions of Deputy Captain and Captain. He was appointed as Group Captain in 2004. Throughout his many appointments he has shown excellent leadership skills both on and off the fireground. He demonstrates trust in his subordinates and he mentors and teaches new members. During stressful times on the fireground, he provides a calming and supporting influence to all those around him and under his command. His leadership style is fair, firm and friendly, never expecting of others something that he has not done himself or would not be willing to do. Since joining the Rural Fire Service (RFS) he has been tireless in his dedication to the RFS and to the Limbri/Mulla Creek community as a volunteer. In his capacity as Group Captain and previously as Brigade Captain, he has shown a commitment to the RFS and to the community which has been above and beyond what would normally be expected of a volunteer. He has been heavily involved in the delivery of chainsaw training as the Training Coordinator, in driver training as an instructor, and in Remote Area Fire Fighting (RAFT) as the Coordinator where he has been responsible for the planning and organisation of RAFT Exercises at Regional level over many years. Indeed, he was the driving force in the establishment of a RAFT Team within the Tamworth Zone.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr David Keith McMONNIES, 24 Huntingdon Place, Berowra NSW 2081

Mr McMonnies has been a member of the NSW Rural Fire Service for over 39 years having joined Forestville (now the Davidson Rural Fire Brigade) in 1968. His enthusiasm and dedication led to his progressing to Deputy Captain and then to Senior Deputy Captain by 1973. Following a move to Berowra, he joined the Berowra Rural Fire Brigade and became Deputy Captain of that Brigade in 1976 and Senior Deputy Captain in 1989. He was for many years Training Officer for the Berowra Brigade and, at the Shire level, was a Trainer and Assessor for modules of the Crew Leader Course. In 1990, Mr McMonnies was invited to take up the position of Captain of the Cowan Rural Fire Brigade, a position he occupied with distinction until 1995. It was during his time with the Cowan Rural Fire Brigade that he drafted and prepared the first pre-incident planning document in a format which has since been adopted by the Hornsby Shire. Mr McMonnies returned to the Berowra Brigade in 1995 and became Deputy Captain the following year, holding that position until 2000. In 2000, the Berowra Brigade decided to re-establish the Berowra Waters Brigade which had been amalgamated with Berowra since 1971. Mr McMonnies was invited to become Captain of the Berowra Waters Brigade, a position he still holds. From the time of the Brigade's re-establishment, he has worked tirelessly to the point where the Brigade is now recognised as one of the strongest brigades in the Shire. He initiated a program for recruitment and training of junior members, some of whom have become efficient and effective members of Senior Brigades. Objectives contained in the five year business plan formulated by the Brigade when it was reformed have been substantially achieved and, in some cases, exceeded. Mr McMonnies has also been actively involved in the ongoing training of members since the inception of district courses. He is an accredited District Trainer and Assessor and the valuable experience he has gained over many years has seen him appointed as a Divisional Commander, Sector Leader and a member of the ICS Planning Team for major fires and other disasters. In addition to providing innovative and interesting training programs of an exceptional standard, Mr McMonnies has devised and run a competitive field day for waterborne brigades that has been so successful that brigades from other areas in New South Wales are now seeking involvement. He was appointed as a Deputy Group Captain in the Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai District in April 2007.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Gary John MEERS, 248 Malabar Road, Maroubra NSW 2035

Mr Meers has served the community of New South Wales and the NSW Fire Brigades with distinction for over 27 years. After joining the NSW Fire Brigades as a permanent firefighter in 1980, he was appointed to the position of Senior Training Instructor based at the NSW Fire Brigades State Training College in 1996 where he was responsible for training operational fire stations throughout the greater Sydney area. Mr Meers' expertise in training then saw him appointed to the position of Inspector in charge of rescue where he was responsible for both the operations and administration of the NSW Fire Brigades' specialised rescue section as well as ensuring that the training and accreditation of personnel attached to all NSW Fire Brigades rescue stations satisfied the criteria set by the NSW State Rescue Board. Mr Meers was appointed to his current rank of Superintendent in 1997 and throughout his distinguished career as an officer, particularly as an Executive Officer of the NSW Fire Brigades, he has served with distinction in various complex and sensitive positions. He is currently serving as the Zone Commander Metropolitan South 1 based in Wollongong. Mr Meers' contribution to the community of New South Wales and the NSW Fire Brigades has been outstanding.

Mr Vincent Leonard OLIVER,
429 Lawrence Hargrave Drive, Scarborough NSW 2515

Mr Oliver has served the community of New South Wales and the NSW Fire Brigades with distinction as a Retained Firefighter attached to the Scarborough Brigade for over 46 years, during which time he has demonstrated a dedication to duty second to none, and he was appointed the Brigade's Captain in 1986, a position he still occupies. He has made an invaluable contribution to the Scarborough Brigade's professional standing with other Emergency Services, the NSW Police and within the Scarborough community. Mr Oliver has always been the first to volunteer his time to attend training courses and actively encourages members of his Brigade to participate at all levels within the NSW Fire Brigades and the community. He has led his Brigade in seeking a greater involvement in the local community and is very active in promoting the Brigade's participation at open days and community activities. As a result of his community involvement, Mr Oliver is highly respected and was honoured by his being allowed to carry the Olympic Torch through the Scarborough community prior to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. Captain Oliver is also active in numerous community service and interest groups and is particularly interested in programs which support and assist the elderly.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Alan (Sam) WALKER, 44 Barrenjoey Road, Mona Vale NSW 2103

Mr Walker has served the community of New South Wales as a firefighter with distinction for over 29 years following service with the Royal Australian Navy. Throughout his career he has performed at the highest professional level. In 1998, he was appointed as the Station Commander of the City of Sydney Fire Station D Platoon, a position he continues to occupy. The City of Sydney Fire Station is the largest and busiest fire station in the NSW Fire Brigades and the role of Station Commander is one of the most demanding Station Commander positions. He is a quiet achiever who is highly respected and liked by his superiors, peers and subordinates. Mr Walker possesses a unique style of management and his dedication and interest in the development of the personnel under his command are clearly evidenced by the number of his current and former charges who have progressed through the ranks of the NSW Fire Brigades. Mr Walker is also particularly active in the NSW Fire Brigades Ex-services Association.

Mr John David WOOD, 48 Fowler Road, Illawong NSW 2234

Mr Wood has made a life long commitment to fighting bushfires in New South Wales as a volunteer firefighter and as a staff member of the Rural Fire Service (RFS). It is testament to his leadership and commitment that he was elected a Life Member of the Illawong, Menai and Woronora Brigades. Upon his appointment to the RFS staff, his commitment to structuralising training programs and his rapport with the volunteers resulted in a renewed interest in attending training sessions and obtaining the necessary qualifications, thereby strengthening the capabilities of the firefighters. When Mr Wood was appointed as District Manager within the Sutherland Shire in 2003, his outstanding qualities of leadership, commitment and communication enabled him to lead with empathy, knowledge and respect for the volunteers and staff. The excellent working relationship he helped to develop with Council also earned him the credibility and support of Council's staff. Mr Wood has given outstanding service to the community of New South Wales and to the RFS for over 40 years.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

VICTORIA

Mr Peter Raymond BILLING, 3 Ford Street, Ivanhoe Vic 3079

Mr Billing has had a considerable influence on the development of fire management and response in Victoria over many years and has demonstrated outstanding commitment, particularly to firefighter safety. This work has greatly advanced Victoria in the management of and response to fires, and has influenced national standards and processes. As Manager of the Emergency Coordination Centre within the Department of Sustainability and Environment, he has significantly improved and increased the Centre's capability processes. He has also acted as State Fire Coordinator for many years and has strongly influenced incident coordination in Victoria. Mr Billing has also managed several major programs, including the implementation and development of the Project Firefighter program. The continuing operation of this large and potentially difficult annual employment program is a tribute to the systems and management approach the Mr Billing developed. Reviews by the Auditor General have endorsed the quality of his work. In addition, his management of the fire weather program has seen a considerable improvement in the quality and availability of fire weather information. The development of the fire weather outposting service and smoke management service has resulted from his vision and the programs have spread to other states. Mr Billing's exceptional knowledge of fire behaviour has also provided essential information for the development of strategic planning during incidents within Victoria.

Mr Jeffrey William BURZACOTT, 7 Inverness Court, Somerville Vic 3912

Mr Burzacott has provided the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) with outstanding service and leadership, particularly in the field of professional development and well-being of firefighters and his contribution to municipal fire safety programs. Upon completing his recruit training course in the late 1970s, Mr Burzacott embarked on a path of personal development by studying for the Graduate Diploma of the Institute of Fire Engineers. This advanced level of study was well above the normal level expected of a recruit firefighter. Following the introduction of the Fire Technology Course by Swinburne University, Mr Burzacott then studied for and gained the Graduate Certificate in Fire Technology. It was during this period that he identified the opportunity for improvement in the delivery of the mathematics, chemistry and fire science pre-course components of the Senior Firefighter and Officer promotional courses. With the support of MFB management Mr Burzacott reviewed and redeveloped these courses and then delivered the training. Following the success of this initiative, Mr Burzacott was seconded to the MFB Training College to assist with the development and delivery of a *Special Hazardous Risks* component that was then incorporated into the Station Officer and Senior Station Officer promotional courses. In addition to his current duties at the Hihett Fire Station, Mr Burzacott represents the MFB on both the Bayside City Council and Kingston City Council Emergency Management Planning Committees. He is also a member of the Bayside Liquor and Licensing Accord, and an active presenter of the MFB's Community Safety programs.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Edward Alan CLAY, 81 Station Road, Tooradin Vic 3980

Mr Clay has been an active volunteer with the Country Fire Authority (CFA) in the CFA's busiest operational area for over 50 years, and has been a leader at Brigade and Group level for over 30 years. Mr Clay was instrumental in developing and leading the Cranbourne Group of fire brigades some 20 years ago, and continues to be at the forefront of change. His leadership in aligning Cranbourne Group with the City of Casey and recently changing his Group's name to the Casey Group is testimony to his leadership qualities and ability to think and operate strategically. Mr Clay is a Founding Member and the father of the Casey Group and also Founding Member and former Chairman of Westernport's Regional Planning Committee. He has made an outstanding contribution to the CFA and to the community of Victoria.

Mr James Coleman DALTON, 121 King Street, Bendigo Vic 3550

Mr Dalton's career in the Forests Commission in Victoria began in 1972 and he is currently the Assistant Manager Fire for the North West Region within the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) where he is responsible for a range of operational and planning activities. Mr Dalton has made a major contribution to the Planning function at fire incidents. He has developed, revised and conducted training courses for Planning Officers that have been instrumental in improving the recognition and standards in the Planning Officer role. These courses also provide a basis for the accreditation of Planning Officers. He has also been active in developing and improving the tools and processes used by Planning Officers. He has also acted as Incident Controller on numerous occasions at several major incidents, including the Alpine Fire of 2003, the Mount Lubra Fire in the Grampians in 2006 where he was mentoring another Incident Controller, and most recently the Great Divide Fire of 2006/2007. Mr Dalton's attention to detail and thoughtful review of the functioning of the Planning Officer role has improved the operation of this position at incidents considerably. His work has enhanced the professionalism and quality of the Planning function and further embedded the planning function in DSE and state incident management arrangements. He has shown outstanding leadership in the encouragement and development of staff, particularly in the planning role, both through his role in training and mentoring and as an Incident Controller. He has provided distinguished service and leadership in fire suppression planning and operations in Victoria.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Maxwell John McLEAN, 157 Morocco Hill Road, Moyston Vic 3377

Mr McLean has provided outstanding service to the Country Fire Authority (CFA), particularly as Captain of the Plenty Fire Brigade where he demonstrated creativity in the development and implementation of a number of innovative changes that made a significant contribution to fire service operations. Mr McLean was instrumental in establishing a Road Accident Rescue capacity at the Brigade which developed into a fully accredited and highly respected unit. Further, as Group Officer of the Whittlesea/Diamond Valley Group of Fire Brigades from 1999 to 2002, he introduced a highly regarded IT resource management system, used for the deployment of operational personnel to local, intrastate and interstate events. Mr McLean was also instrumental in the development of the Plenty Gorge Fire Prevention Plan, providing a blueprint for fire prevention measures, and in securing a partnership arrangement between Parks Victoria and the CFA. In 2003, Mr McLean moved to the Moyston area where he has played an active leadership role in the fighting of major fires in the Grampians region and is currently a Deputy Group Officer with the Ararat Fire Brigades Group.

Mr Brian James NEAL, 51 Leonard Street, Upwey Vic 3158

Mr Neal has displayed outstanding leadership qualities as a volunteer firefighter and Fire Officer in the Country Fire Authority (CFA), particularly in the development of training courses involving hazardous materials (Hazmat) and fire investigation. He started his service as a volunteer at Springvale Fire Brigade and he has worked in all areas of the CFA, including with the Emergency Training Services project which has involved the development and formatting of the training packages and the marketing, pricing, quoting and conducting industrial training. In 1984 the Hazmat Management Team was created to review the fire service Hazmat response capabilities and develop an emergency procedures and training package. Mr Neal played had a major role in the conducting of a Victorian Dangerous Goods Survey, assisting with research, reviews of procedures and legislation. He assembled and distributed specialised Hazmat vans fully equipped with video, and developed and conducted the national training program. He also produced the *Hazardous Materials Incident Management Guide Book*. Mr Neal is also a qualified Fire Investigator and has been involved in investigations for almost 20 years. He was the CFA's Fire Investigation/Hazmat Officer from 1988 to 1991, during which time he developed procedures and training for the CFA. His duties included the development of proposals and/or policy and representation on many related committees. Upon returning to station duties, Mr Neal has developed regional procedures and carried out investigations and promoted fire investigation through brigade presentations which have been subsequently developed into the Fire Investigation Brigade Awareness Program.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Jurgen Werner SILDATKE, 4 Downham Way, Wyndham Vale Vic 3024

Mr Sildatke joined the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) in 1978 and has provided distinguished service and outstanding leadership, particularly in the development and delivery of fire safety training for child care centres and kindergartens and in the development of the Public Safety Officer Course and competency-based training. During 1998 the MFB's Community Education Department identified the need for an easy to use manual for kindergartens and child care centres to be able to create and implement emergency and evacuation procedures. Mr Sildatke willingly undertook this task. The resultant success of the manual and its acceptance as a guide by the Department of Human Services are a reflection of his outstanding commitment. The Country Fire Authority has also accepted this manual and endorsed its use within its jurisdiction. The manual is currently being developed into an electronic format and is sought after by other related organisations. The MFB also recently undertook the development of a new course, *Public Safety Officer in a place of Entertainment*. Mr Sildatke was again responsible for the course's creation, development and implementation. He worked tirelessly to bring it to fruition, spending many hours to ensure its successful implementation and accreditation with the State Training Board. The course has set new industry standards. Mr Sildatke has provided a substantial contribution to public safety and education within the community of Victoria.

Mr Michael Anthony WALKER, 267 Church Road, Templestowe Vic 3106

Mr Walker has provided distinguished service and leadership in the development, delivery and improvement of emergency and incident management knowledge and competence within the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) and wider emergency service community. He has an outstanding record of achievement working in a range of portfolios, and has made a significant contribution to the emergency management industry. He was seconded to the Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner in 1995, and was instrumental in raising the knowledge and skill levels of MFB officers relating to the arrangements for managing emergencies in Victoria. In addition, Mr Walker was the architect in forming strong alliances with a range of other emergency service organisations including Victoria Police, Country Fire Authority and State Emergency Service. He was also a leader on the Emergency Management Training and Development Committee and played key roles in exercise writing and the development of a range of training packages reaffirming principles of command, control and coordination in an emergency management context. Through his leadership, Mr Walker has driven cultural change across a range of emergency service organisations, increasing their emergency management knowledge and expertise.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Leon Roy WILLIAMS, 89 McLennan Street, Mooroopna Vic 3629

Mr Williams has been the Secretary for the Mooroopna Urban Fire Brigade for 42 years and a volunteer firefighting officer; in total, he has been an active member for over 51 years. His administrative capabilities and devotion to the Brigade has made him the driving force in the development of many of the Brigade's projects. Mr Williams' commitment and dedication to the Brigade is unparalleled. He has been the Brigade's delegate to the Goulburn Valley's Urban Fire Brigade Association for the past 35 years; a member of the Municipal Fire Prevention Committee for local council for over 22 years; the Region 22 Victorian Urban Fire Brigade Association delegate for over 30 years, including serving as President for the past 15 years; and the Brigade's PFA-FEM Officer for over 35 years. In addition, over the past 25 years Mr Williams has organised activities and various competitions and encouraged local kindergartens and schools to visit the fire station for educational excursions. He has also been responsible for organising the fire brigade march during the annual Fire Prevention Week, and was Secretary for the CFA-VUFBA Senior State Championships in 1988, 1992, 1998 and 2005, and the Junior State Championships in 1984.

QUEENSLAND

Mr Mervyn Roy GIBSON, 159 Enterprise Road, Veteran via Gympie Qld 4570

Mr Gibson has demonstrated exceptional, dedicated and outstanding volunteer contribution to the Veteran Rural Fire Brigade over three decades. He has been responsible for the establishment of the Incident Control Room at this local brigade and continues to implement new initiatives with strong support from the local community. He effectively and passionately contributes to Fire Management in the Cooloola Region by providing sound effective advice at Shire and Regional Fire Management Meetings, ensuring the safety of communities and firefighters alike. Mr Gibson has also been deployed interstate on numerous occasions as a Strike Team Leader.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Mr Philip Joseph BROWN, 7 Langridge Crescent, Orelia WA 6167

Mr Brown has been a member of the Kwinana Volunteer Fire Brigade for over 32 years and is an excellent example of a volunteer firefighter who actively engages in community activities and who, through education, prevention, response and youth development activities, has striven to improve the safety of his community. In addition to attending operational incidents, he has been a tireless worker in the implementation of community safety initiatives in the Kwinana area. A retired Fire and Safety Officer at the Western Power Kwinana Power Station, Mr Brown remains heavily involved in youth development initiatives with continued commitment as a Unit Leader with the Rockingham/ Kwinana Emergency Services Cadets, and involvement with the Scouting movement. He developed a School Education program for the Kwinana area several years before the Fire and Emergency Services Authority's Schools Education Package initiative. With the introduction of the FESA package he has been a driving force in the coordination of school education and other community safety initiatives in the Kwinana district. He has actively embraced the development of fire management planning in areas of high environment values to ensure environmental considerations are maintained during firefighting operations. Mr Brown has also been a committed member of the Fire Protection Association Australia and the Institution of Fire Engineers at state committee level for many years.

Mr Robert William MURPHY, 156 Telephone Lane, Baldivis WA 6171

Mr Murphy has provided over 25 years' dedicated commitment to the bush fire brigade movement in the Rockingham area, initially through his involvement through the Baldivis Bush Fire Brigade where he is a life member and, more recently, as the City of Rockingham's recently retired Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, a position he held with distinction for 16 years. He has held various ranks and undertaken many roles and has been actively involved in training initiatives and community safety programs. He has been an outstanding leader and a member of various regional committees associated with improving the effectiveness of bush firefighting operations. Mr Murphy is well respected within the fire management community and local government circles, and has played a pivotal role in increasing the effectiveness of major bush fire operations through his countless hours of planning and organising strike teams from Perth's southern local government bush fire brigades. In addition to his fire service commitments, Mr Murphy has been actively involved in other community-based organisations over many years.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Donald Charles STEWART, 47 Stanton Street, Eaton WA 6232

Helping others within the community and volunteering has always been a significant part of Mr Stewart's life. Initially a member of the Dardanup and District Bush Fire Brigade from 1968 to 1972, he became a Foundation Member of the Eaton/Australind Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) in 1972, and has been an active and dedicated member of the Bunbury State Emergency Service (SES) since 1978. He has been awarded Life Membership of the VFRS and the SES. He was also a scout leader between 1967 and 1972. Mr Stewart has provided many years of distinguished service to the the Fire and Emergency Services Authority in Western Australia and to his local community.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mr Gregory Keith BUTLER, 2 David Street, Yorketown SA 5576

Mr Butler joined the Yorketown Fire Brigade within the South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS) as a firefighter in 1978. In 1989, he was elected Brigade Captain and has continued to hold a position either within the Brigade or within the Group. He is currently a valued member of the Region 2 AIIMS Team and Regional Management Committee, as well as a Fire Prevention Officer with the District Council of Yorke Peninsula. Instrumental in setting up and managing the Southern Yorke Peninsula Incident Management Centre, Mr Butler formulated many documents to ensure the smooth running of the Centre, including a 'Logistics Planning' folder which has been adopted as the standard across Region 2 and is being utilised in other regions. A founding member of the Southern Yorke CFS Farm Firefighting Unit Working Party, he assisted in getting CFS and farmers together in understanding firefighting in rural areas of Southern Yorke Peninsula, and has been instrumental in assisting South Australia to move towards a more structured and safer approach in the utilisation of farm fire units on the fireground. Not only has Mr Butler continually demonstrated the true character of a volunteer firefighter but, as a Fire Prevention Officer, he has attempted at all times to improve the service offered to CFS members and the community of South Australia.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

Mr Dean Spencer ELLIOTT, 6 Peake Terrace, Coonalpyn SA 5265

Mr Elliott joined the (then) Emergency Fire Service (EFS) in 1961 as a firefighter with the Coonalpyn Brigade. He was heavily involved in the formation of the Coonalpyn Downs EFS Association and became a Supervisor of Fire Control Officers in the Coonalpyn Downs area. He also oversaw the building of a joint EFS and ambulance station at Coonalpyn, including the purchase of several appliances for the Association, and was also Controller. When the EFS transformed into the Country Fire Service (CFS) and the Coonalpyn Downs CFS Group was formed, Mr Elliott was elected Group Officer and held that position until 2004. He also held the position of Group Equipment Officer between 1999 and 2004, was instrumental in developing Fire Prevention Committees and protocols, and was Chair of the Volunteer Fire Brigades Association, Murraylands Branch. Mr Elliott has set an exceptional example to all CFS members, encouraging all ranks to undertake training and professionalism in their roles within the CFS. His passion and commitment to the CFS and its relationship within the community have been exemplary.

Mr David Malcolm SCARCE, 17 Range View Road, Happy Valley SA 5159

Mr Scarce joined the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) in 1976 and is an exemplary Fire Officer, willing to pass on his broad-based knowledge to others, particularly in the support and organisational planning. He is an extremely valuable member and constantly strives to achieve the highest standards while promoting team spirit and support throughout the organisation. During his MFS career Mr Scarce has been a mentor to his subordinates, which has allowed these personnel to follow the same standards that he has set. His dedication and untiring support in a plethora of tasks in which he engages have benefited not only the MFS but also his fellow firefighters at all ranks. His enthusiasm for the profession of firefighting highlights his dedication to the MFS and to the community of South Australia.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Mr Graham Stuart JOHNSON, 5 Lacebark Avenue, Nhulunbuy NT 0880

Mr Johnson joined the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS) in 1979 as a Recruit Firefighter in Darwin. During his NTFRS career he has served with distinction in several areas including Operations, Community Safety and Training. He is currently serving as the Officer-in-Charge of the Nhulunbuy Fire Station in Eastern Arnhem Land where he is highly regarded by that community. While serving in Community Safety he was part of the team that raised the professional standing of that Division within the general community and building industry. Mr Johnson's expertise in fire cause investigation has been recognised by the Northern Territory Court system and he is regularly called to give evidence as an expert witness. During his time in the Training Division Mr Johnson was responsible for public education and internal firefighter training, including recruit training. The current level of professionalism within the NTFRS Training area is as a direct result of his involvement. Mr Johnson has also been the Northern Territory's representative on a number of national fire service and emergency management committees including the National Fire Service Review on the Handling of Hazardous Materials Incidents; his input into the Review had a direct bearing on the positive view that many southern brigades now have of the NTFRS. Mr Johnson has also represented the NTFRS on a number of national Community Safety and Training committees and his knowledge and expertise in these areas are highly regarded by his interstate counterparts. Mr Johnson has made a significant contribution to the NTFRS, to the fire industry and to the safety and well-being of the community.