

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)

VICTORIA

Mr Andrew Thomas VARGA, 24 Nola Sheet, Doncaster Vic 3108

Mr Varga joined the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard as a regular member in 1982 at the St Kilda Flotilla where he began his training and where he still serves today, as the Deputy Flotilla Commander and SAR skipper. Mr Varga has been a most capable and resourceful member of the Coast Guard, providing many years of dedicated and distinguished service. He was responsible along with others members for the continued service and development of the St Kilda Flotilla and its base facility and in the procurement of a number of rescue vessels. On operational aspects, he has been exemplary in his attitude and conduct towards the boating public, and dedicates much of his time to performing the tasks required of him. He has been involved in and coordinated many rescues on Port Phillip. Many of these have been by direction of the Water Police and other agencies; most have been serious or, in some cases, life threatening. Mr Varga has held the position of Training Officer on a number of occasions, being responsible for all training aspects and SAR training activities. As SAR skipper he has had the responsibility of liaison with government agencies, in particular the Water Police, and other rescue groups in order that the Coast Guard is properly represented and that coordination between groups is maintained during times of actual searches and training. He carries out this role with distinction and has gained a great deal of respect from the other groups as well as his own members.

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)

QUEENSLAND

Mr Allen William LEMON, Mitchell Qld 4465

Mr Lemon has been an active member of Queensland State Emergency Service (SES) in both operations and training activities for over 31 years. He has provided outstanding commitment and exemplary service as a volunteer in the Booringa Shire SES Unit, Mitchell SES Group, Roma Area, South West Region EMQ. He has been a stalwart of the Roma SES Area Support Unit and has travelled extensively throughout the region to assist and support his colleagues as an Instructor and Operator. He is also currently involved with the State SES Flood Boat Specification Review Group where his experience and extensive knowledge as a Flood Boat Operator/Inspector is invaluable. Mr Lemon has been involved in numerous operations, including the 1990 Charleville floods, the 1997 Roma Floods, land searches, storm damage and re-supply operations. He is highly regarded throughout the South West Region, both as an SES volunteer and through his role as the Captain of the Mitchell QFRS Auxiliary Brigade.

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mrs Cheryl Louise DALLING, 35 Merle Marten Drive, North Haven SA 5018

In 1997 Mrs Dalling became a member of Flotilla 2 of the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard at North Haven and reached the rating of Advance Crew and also trained as a Radio Operator. She served as Commander of the flotilla from 1999 until 2003 when the flotillas at North Haven amalgamated. At this stage Mrs Dalling volunteered to be Minute Secretary for the Squadron Board, a position she held for a year. In 2003, Mrs Dalling took on the role of Deputy Commodore for a period of 6 months before being elected to the position of Commodore, a position she still holds, and became the first elected female Commodore within the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard. Through her drive and positive attitude and consideration for her members and colleagues the association is well-respected within the local community and other rescue groups. She currently spends up to 50 hours a week on Coast Guard work. Not only does she meet with Government agencies and other volunteer marine rescue organisations, she also consults with members regarding their ideas for the future of the organisation. Over the past 3 years, she has implemented many innovative ideas. After a suggestion from a member and with his help, she introduced a Personal Water Craft into the Coast Guard fleet of vessels and, more recently, a Rigid Inflatable Boat. Mrs Dalling is a qualified lecturer and assessor and assists in Basic Seamanship Courses and Radio Courses. She spends many hours assisting with public courses for other organisations, many conducted in country areas. She also operates a radio base from her own home.

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL (ESM)

Ms Jennifer Maree VINCENT, PO Box 320, O'Halloran Hill SA 5158

Ms Vincent has been a member of the South Australian State Emergency Service (SASES) for over 15 years. During this time she has volunteered with a frontline rescue unit and has been at the forefront of many rescue operations including saving many lives, particularly in the area of vertical rescue. Prior to this, she was a member of the Western Australian State Emergency Service. For the past 4 years Ms Vincent has been a paid staff member of the SASES conducting high level rescue and air operations training. Throughout, she has continued with her volunteer commitment going above and beyond what would normally be expected of others in a similar position. Concurrent with her SASES service, Ms Vincent served as a volunteer Ambulance Officer with the South Australian Ambulance Service for a period of 3 years, performing emergency ambulance duties to the community of Goolwa and the greater Adelaide area. In 2000 Ms Vincent recognised the need to have a method of covering the ground quickly in the search for missing people. After consultation with SASES management she established the SASES Bike Search and Rescue Team. This was a first for South Australia and a model that has now been copied in many other states and Territories. This initiative is credited with assisting efforts to find many missing people, particularly children who tend to cover ground very quickly. Ms Vincent developed the operational procedures, training regime and specifications for the equipment.