



*NSW Rural
Fire Service*



*Awards
Ceremony*

2007

The NSW Rural Fire Service Awards

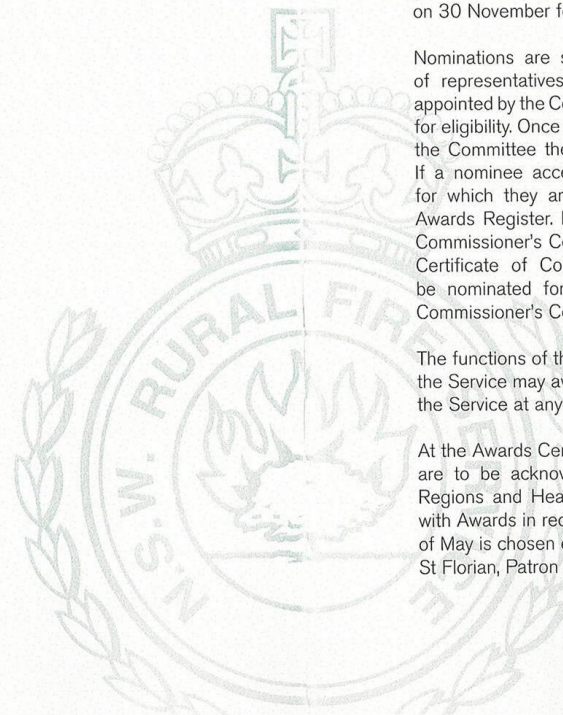
The Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service, in recognition of service and acts of bravery, has established an internal Awards System. The Awards were instituted on 1 February 1999. The establishment of an internal Awards System is authorised under the Rural Fires Act 1997 and accompanying Regulations. Eligibility for these Awards is extended to all members of the Service as defined within the Act and Regulations.

Nominations for Awards must be in accordance with the Guidelines and on the prescribed Nomination Form. Nominations for internal Awards close annually on 30 November for presentation on St Florian's Day in the following year.

Nominations are sent to the Awards Committee. The Committee consists of representatives from the volunteers and salaried staff of the Service appointed by the Commissioner and is required to fully examine each nomination for eligibility. Once a nomination has been assessed and deemed to be eligible, the Committee then makes a formal recommendation to the Commissioner. If a nominee accepts the nomination, full details of the incident or action for which they are being recognised are then officially listed in the RFS Awards Register. Individuals may be nominated for the Medal of Valour, the Commissioner's Commendation for Bravery or Service or the Commissioner's Certificate of Commendation. Brigades or formally comprised units may be nominated for the Unit Citation for either Bravery or Service or the Commissioner's Certificate of Commendation.

The functions of the Awards Committee notwithstanding, the Commissioner of the Service may award an Internal Bravery or Service Award to any member of the Service at any time.

At the Awards Ceremony on 4 May 2007, 11 individual and 9 group recipients are to be acknowledged by the Commissioner. Drawn from the Service's Regions and Headquarters of the Service, these recipients were presented with Awards in recognition of outstanding valour, bravery or service. The fourth of May is chosen each year for the Awards Ceremony as it is the Feast Day of St Florian, Patron Saint of Firefighters and International Firefighter's Day.





The Order of Proceedings

National Anthem

Welcome to Guests

Prayer

Senior Chaplain Ron Anderson AFSM

Address

Acting Commissioner Rob Rogers

Presentation of Awards

Recipients and their guests are invited to join the
Commissioner for a light lunch

*Official photographs of each recipient will be taken during
the presentation. Unit recipients can be photographed following
the conclusion of proceedings. Every recipient will receive a
complimentary photograph.*



The Commissioner's Commendation for Service

For service of a meritorious nature, or outstanding actions in relation to fire service duties, administrative leadership, or exemplary performance of a specific difficult project or task, not involving bravery.

Ian Clarke

Bourke, Headquarters RFB

Mr Ian Clark joined the Enngonia Rural Fire Brigade in June 1966 and remained an active member of that Brigade until December 1995 when he joined the Bourke Headquarters Brigade. When work commenced on the Fire Control Centre in 1998, he made himself available to assist in work on this centre and he attended daily to assist in any way he could. He then became a Duty Officer receiving triple 0 calls within the Bourke area and responding brigades to incidents and emergencies in that area. He also maintained radio contact with brigades while they were active at incidents. He voluntarily accepted the responsibilities for stores and assisting the Fire Control Officer in the allocation of equipment and stores to brigades in Bourke. His commitment to the Rural Fire Service ensured the respect of his peers and also made him a valued member of the Barwon Darling Zone.

Ray Elsey

Shoalhaven, Callala RFB

Mr Elsey joined Callala Beach Rural Fire Brigade in 1990 and was elected Group Officer in 2000. He then joined Callala Bay Brigade where he held the positions of Captain, Senior Deputy Captain, Deputy Captain and President. He is also a member of the Shoalhaven Headquarters Brigade and assists the District Office with communications, logistics and public liaison. As a qualified trainer and assessor he has regularly provided training in Crew Leader, Rural Fire Driver and Community Safety Assistant courses as well as participating in local incident management teams. In 2004 he became coordinator of the local Community Education Committee. Under his leadership and his active recruitment of volunteers, the Committee's activities have been successful and have had a significant impact upon the local community. Deputy Captain Elsey has shown outstanding dedication and leadership in the Shoalhaven Rural Fire District.



Zhenxiang (Billy) Tan

Headquarters

Dr Tan has performed outstandingly in the fields of technical research, analysis, development and design of systems that have increased the profile of the Rural Fire Service. Dr Tan's work has led to innovation within the industry resulting in an increased capacity of fire agencies to mitigate the impact of bushfires on our communities. Dr Tan selflessly undertook this work and provided invaluable input into the review of the Australian Standard relating to the construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas. His research has culminated in the development of numerous models that provide greater insight and accessibility to those seeking to understand fire behaviour and bush fire attack on buildings. Dr Tan's input has resulted in the Service forging a path as leader in the development and implementation of planning and building controls in bushfire prone areas. In applying his skills, knowledge and intellectual capacity, Dr Tan has brought great credit upon himself and the Service.

William Reid

Illawarra Team, Dapto RFB

In November 2005 Inspector Reid witnessed a serious motor vehicle accident involving a passenger vehicle that had collided with a power pole leaving the male driver injured and the young male passenger unconscious, injured and trapped in the vehicle. Inspector Reid took control of the situation, called for emergency services back-up and began immediate first aid to stabilize the condition of the passenger who was in a critical state with severe back injuries and convulsions. Inspector Reid enlisted the support of bystanders to assist him by recording his actions in order to provide the responding emergency services with essential information. The passenger suffered eight broken ribs, collapsed lungs, punctured liver, badly damaged spleen and had a suspected neck fracture. Inspector Reid's actions in reviving the passenger, stabilizing him until the arrival of paramedics and overall control of the incident were outstanding and in the highest traditions of the Service.



Greg Standen

Chifley Zone, Bathurst Headquarters RFB

In September 2006 Mr Standen noticed smoke coming from a building in Lithgow. He called "000" and was then alerted to a man trapped on the first floor of the building which was well alight and with smoke to within twelve inches of the floor. With disregard for his own safety Mr Standen broke through the front door, crawled under thick smoke to the first floor flat, forced open the door, found the man unconscious and dragged him downstairs and outside the building. Upon arrival, other emergency services provided first aid to the man who suffered from severe smoke inhalation and burns to sixty-five percent of his body. He was transported by CareFlight to Westmead Hospital in a critical condition. The selfless actions of Mr Standen in risking his own life to save another brought great credit upon himself and the Service.



The Commissioner's Certificate for Commendation

For service or outstanding actions in relation to fire service duties, administrative leadership, or exemplary performance of a specific difficult project or task.

Dean Symons

Sutherland RFD, Illawong RFB and Headquarters

Mr Symons is a salaried officer of the Rural Fire Service and has been a volunteer member of the Illawong Rural Fire Brigade for four years. Mr Symons recognised a weakness in the way in which the Service captured incoming operational information and, in his own time, designed and developed a comprehensive computer program – I Log- to make the process paperless. Mr Symons' ability to translate a theoretical concept into a practical output has not only benefited him personally but has also significantly improved Rural Fire Service service delivery. His commitment in spending his own time, skills and ability to better the Service for which he both works and represents as a volunteer brings great credit to himself and is worth formal recognition and commendation.

Glenda Anthes

Lithgow RFD, South Bowentfels RFB

Mrs Anthes lost her husband Norman Anthes during firefighting operations in 1994 and since that time has actively assisted other families that have suffered similar losses. Mrs Anthes has also regularly attended the Memorial Service in an effort not only to remember her own loss but to meet with and talk to others about their loss and the welfare programs that have been put in place by the Rural Fire Service. Mrs Anthes' efforts have been and are driven by a personal wish to contribute her own experiences for the benefit of others. For this, Mrs Anthes is to be commended.



Rosemary Page

Wingecarribee RFD, Bundanoon RFB

Mrs Page lost her husband Robert Page during firefighting operations in 1994 and since that time has actively assisted other families that have suffered similar losses. Mrs Page has also regularly attended the Memorial Service in an effort not only to remember her own loss but to meet with and talk to others about their loss and the welfare programs that have been put in place by the Rural Fire Service. Mrs Page's efforts have been and are driven by a personal wish to contribute her own experiences for the benefit of others. For this, Mrs Page is to be commended.

Michael Batty

Blue Mountains RFD, Katoomba/Leura RFB

Mr Batty joined the (then) Katoomba/Leura Bushfire Brigade upon its formation in 1965. He has held the positions of Deputy Captain, Captain, President/Treasurer and is the current Vice-President. He has been pivotal in the management and field operation of the Brigade and remains an active and committed firefighter. His skills are recognised by his peers within and beyond his Brigade – particularly his skill and tactics in “dry” firefighting. He has multiple qualifications all tempered by long experience and he is an expert trainer. At the Brigade's 40th Anniversary celebrations Mr Batty was presented with an Appreciation Award by the then Minister for Emergency Services. Mr Batty is commended for his tireless and consistent dedication to community safety.



Frank Vincent

Blue Mountains RFD, Blackheath/Mt Victoria RFB

Mr Vincent joined the Mt Victoria Bushfire Brigade in 1968 was elected Deputy Captain in 1974 and then Senior Deputy Captain and Captain in 1976. He was Captain until 1995 when he was appointed Group Captain of the West Sector – a position he holds today. Mr Vincent is currently President of the Mt Victoria Rural Fire Brigade and also a member of the Jenolan Caves Rural Fire Brigade. He holds all mainstream qualifications from Bush Firefighter, Advanced Firefighter, Crew Leader and Group Leader. Mr Vincent has been involved, with others, for many years in assisting the community. He is commended for his commitment to community service through his work with the NSW Rural Fire Service.

Roy Pinch

Blue Mountains RFD, Katoomba/Leura RFB

Mr Pinch joined the (then) Katoomba/Leura Bushfire Brigade in 1970 and is currently Deputy Captain. His enthusiasm for fire prevention together with his extensive local knowledge of the Blue Mountains and surrounding area made him an invaluable asset. Various he has held the positions of Captain, Secretary and Treasurer and he remains an active firefighter with the rank of Deputy Captain. Despite his senior years he has maintained exceptional fitness and zeal, providing an excellent role model for younger members of the Brigade. His belief in and commitment to the work of the Rural Fire Service is unwavering and worthy of commendation and approbation.



The Commissioner's Unit Certificate of Commendation

For a unit or brigade providing service or outstanding actions in relation to fire service duties, administrative leadership, or exemplary performance of a specific difficult project or task.

Region West Staff

Cobar and Young Offices

The staff of Region West of the Rural Fire Service have provided the highest standard of leadership and support to the Zones, Teams and Districts and volunteers within the Region. Their strategic, professional and caring approach has generated significant projects which provide long term and significant benefit to staff and the wider community which they serve. The staff are leaders in the promotion of positive change within the Service. The enthusiastic manner in which they carry out their work supporting the Region is a leading example to others and well worthy of recognition and commendation.





Nominations

Nominations must be lodged in accordance with the guidelines and on the prescribed Nomination Forms. The Guidelines and Nomination Forms are available on the Rural Fire Service Intranet and Public Websites. Copies of the Guidelines and Nomination Forms are also available from Region and District Offices.

The nomination sequence encompasses all levels of management or command. For example, in the case of a nomination being generated by a brigade, the captain of the brigade must endorse the nomination form. The nomination must be forwarded to the next level of command, being the District/Team/Zone Manager who must also endorse the nomination and then forward it to the Region Manager. This final endorsement of the Region Manager allows the form to be sent to the Rural Fire Service Awards Committee for evaluation and recommendation to the Commissioner. If a nomination is not endorsed, a full explanation is forwarded to the next level of command by the officer responsible and then to the Awards Committee.

All nominations are held in strict confidence. Nominees are advised in writing once a nomination has been approved by the Commissioner, though at no time is the nominee advised of the origin of nomination. The Executive Officer of the Awards Committee will also acknowledge to the nominator the receipt of the nomination for an award by the Awards Committee.



St Florian's Feast Day, the Fourth of May

Firefighters in most European countries celebrate 4 May as St Florian's Feast Day as well as International Fire Service Day. This has been a tradition in central Europe for more than 150 years.

Born about 250AD in Cetium (now in Austria), Florian joined the Roman army and angered the Emperor Diocletian when he refused to persecute Christians in the area. Florian gave himself up to the soldiers of Aquilinus, the governor, when they were rounding up the Christians. He was twice scourged, half-flayed alive and sentenced to be burnt alive. While being set on fire he challenged the Roman soldiers to light the fire, saying "If you do, I will climb to heaven on the flames". As the soldiers were apprehensive, they took another path and threw Florian into the river Enns with a stone around his neck.

About 600 years later, in approximately 900-950AD a monastery was built near Florian's tomb, and the village of St Florian grew around it. St Florian was adopted as the Patron Saint of Poland, following an incident when a person was saved from a fire by invoking St Florian's name. Since then, Florian has been invoked against fire and has been generally regarded in most countries as the Patron Saint of Firefighters.

*St Florian's Day
4 May 2007
Headquarters, NSW Rural Fire Service
15 Carter Street, Homebush Bay*

