

NSW Rural Fire Service
The Award of the Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM)
Honours and Awards Australia Day 2008
NOMINATION STATEMENTS

Neville Anderson

Group Captain Neville Anderson joined the Rural Fire Service as a member of the Corindi/Red Rock Rural Fire Brigade in 1968 and has been involved as a active volunteer firefighter, leader and administer in the Service over the intervening period of 39 years.

He was actively involved in the formation of the Sherwood Creek Rural Fire Brigade and later transferred to that brigade from the Corindi/Red Rock Brigade. As such, he has been an integral part of the brigade's history, leading by example and having a hand in most of the brigade's projects, including the construction of the Sherwood Creek Brigade Station which was completed in 2003.

He has been an extremely active firefighter during his service and has performed with distinction in the roles of Crew Leader, Sector Commander, Divisional Commander and Task Force Leader. He was involved extensively with most of the significant local fires including the 1994 North Coast fires and the Section 44 emergency operations in 1995, 1999 and more recently in the Christmas 2001 Bush Fire Emergency in the Clarence area. In addition, he has had extensive experience as an "out of area" Divisional Commander and Task Force Leader and has operated in key roles at major incident locations including Glen Innes, Tenterfield, Coonabarabran, Kosciusko, the Hunter Valley and Dubbo. He was also selected for interstate deployment as a Divisional Commander with the 2005/2006 Service Task Force sent to Victoria.

He held the rank of Group Captain with the former Ulmarra District and has been very active as a Rural Fire Service Instructor for over 20 years. He is a natural leader and he currently holds the rank of Group Captain in the Clarence valley District. He is an enthusiastic participant with the District's Senior Management Team and has actively contributed to a number of significant District projects and initiatives including the zoning restructure in the Clarence Valley, the establishment of the District Training Advisory Committee and his participation with the State Group Officer SOP Consultative Focus Group.

Group Captain Anderson has been very positive and successful as a mediator and has always used his skills to assist with the resolution of issues, disputes and grievances in the best possible interest of all parties.

He has previously been awarded the National Medal.

Group Captain Anderson has provided outstanding and dedicated service to the Rural Fire Service and is a most respected volunteer. His dedicated and outstanding service makes him a most worthy candidate for the award of the Australian Fire Service Medal.

Brian McKinlay

Group Captain Brian McKinlay joined the Rural Fire Service in April 1963 as a member of the Berowra Rural Fire Brigade in the Hornsby District. By 1966 he had become a Deputy Captain of that Brigade, progressing to Senior Deputy Captain in 1968 and attained the rank of Captain in 1970. In 1974 he was promoted to Deputy Group Captain and held that rank through until 1977 when he moved from the Hornsby District to the Hawkesbury District where he joined the Grose Vale Rural Fire Brigade. Due to his past experience, he was appointed as the Deputy Captain of the brigade and, in 1981 became Captain of the brigade and served in that position for the next seven years.

In 1982 he was appointed Group Captain and remains in that position today.

Group Captain McKinlay is a Life-Member of both the Berowra and Grose Vale Rural Fire Brigades and has been awarded a National Medal and First Clasp along with Rural Fire Service Long Service Awards for 25 and 35 years of Service.

Throughout his long service in the Hawkesbury District, he has been an integral part of the Incident Management Team for all Section 44 Emergencies in that area. Because of his intimate knowledge of the area, during the serious fire emergencies of 1994 and 1997, his main role was as an aerial observer.

During the serious bush fire emergencies of 2001, 2002 and 2006 where aerial observation had become a specialist role, he was heavily involved in the Incident Management Teams as Deputy Incident Controller and Planning Officer. During these emergencies, he worked tirelessly at night for up to several weeks at a time, whilst still maintaining his business during the day time.

In addition to his commitment to his roles in fire management, Group Captain McKinlay has also committed himself to other Rural Fire Service roles. These include:

- Chairman, Hawkesbury Rural Fire District Disciplinary Committee
- Chairman, Hawkesbury Bush Fire Management Committee
- Member, Rural Fire Service Corporate Executive Group
- Member, Fire Services Joint Standing Committee
- Member, State Assessment Panel Bush Fire Mitigation Program
- Member, Rural Fire Service Internal Awards Committee
- President, NSW Rural Fire Service Association Inc

Group Captain McKinlay has provided dedicated, committed and distinguished service to the roles and functions of the Rural Fire Service and he is a most fitting nominee for recognition through the award of the Australian Fire Service Medal.

Stephen Weyman

Group Officer Weyman was instrumental in the formation of the Orchard Hill Rural Fire Brigade on 19 August 1970 at which time he was elected President and Senior Deputy Captain. He was elected Captain in the following year, a position he held until 1985 upon his promotion to the position of Deputy Group Captain in the Penrith area, Group Captain (Group 4) in 1991 and subsequently Group 2 in the Cumberland Zone, a position he currently holds. He remained President of the Orchard Hills Rural Fire Brigade until 1996 and he was made a Life-Member of that brigade in 2000.

Whilst with the Orchard Hills Brigade, he worked tirelessly developing the brigade into an effective fire fighting unit that progressed from a 6 x 4 box trailer with knapsacks and beaters in 1970, an old ex-military Chevrolet Blitz tender in 1971 followed by a Bedford Fire Tanker in 1975 to the modern fire fighting vehicles that exist today. During this time, he played a leading role in the push to implement diesel powered fire tankers and fire fighting water pumps as recognised safety requirements for all fire fighting vehicles. He has promoted work safety practices and training and has been involved with the Penrith and Cumberland training groups imparting valuable knowledge and acting as the Module Testing Officer.

Group Officer Weyman was also actively engaged in the Amalgamation Committee for the zoning of Penrith, Blacktown and Fairfield during 2002/2003. He is also currently involved with the Cumberland Zone Senior Management Committee, Liaison Committee and the NSW Rural Fire Service Association Inc. He is highly regarded as a valued mentor to members of the Penrith/Cumberland units of the Rural Fire Service providing them with the opportunity to learn from his substantial experience along with the scope to advance within the organisation.

As a self-employed viticulturist, Group Officer Weyman has given freely of his time for the protection of the local community and his leadership has seen the community become involved and supportive of the Rural Fire Service. During this time, he has attended many local and out of area incidents whilst continuing with his business and maintaining the position of Honorary Treasurer with the Orchard Hills Fruit Growers and Progress Association, where his was an active organiser and fund raiser for the betterment of the Orchard Hills District.

As a current serving member with in excess of thirty-six (36) years voluntary service with the Rural Fire Service, Group Officer Weyman is highly respected for his knowledge, valuable commitment and distinguished service to the community and is a most worthy and commendable candidate for the award of the Australian Fire Service Medal.

Clive Maxwell Linnett

Group Captain Linnett joined the Ivanhoe Rural Fire Brigade in 1961 when he returned to the Ivanhoe District following a stint at boarding school. As a child in the district he had assisted his father at fires in earlier years and joining the brigade was a natural progression as part of rural life.

In 1969 he was elected Captain of a “zone” within the Ivanhoe Brigade’s area of responsibility. Due to a keen sense of responsibility to his community and brigade he took on a number of other positions throughout the following years, these included the position of Secretary which he took on in April 1972, a position he continues to hold, Deputy Group Captain from 1989 to 1998 and Group Captain from 1998 to the present day.

Whilst his brigade activities have been beyond compare over the years it has been his promotion of the aims and values of the Rural Fire Service that has distinguished his service from that of others, he has fought long and hard to ensure that the Ivanhoe Brigade along with all other brigades within the Central Darling Shire have continued to survive and flourish in far western New South Wales, often in difficult circumstances and facing many obstacles along the way. As a Councillor on the Central Darling Shire Council he has been able to provide guidance to Council on the strategic direction of the Service locally. In later years he has been a very active and supportive member of Rural Fire Service consultative committees, including the Senior Management Committee and Bush Fire Management Committee. During his participation with these committees, he has always been willing to consider options for improvement of the local response to emergencies of all types. His willingness to accept change and yet be true to his own beliefs has provided the leadership to Ivanhoe Brigade which has enabled them to move forward and grow through adversity.

He is a true example of what it means to be a volunteer in remote areas of the State, willing to travel many hundreds of kilometres to attend meetings, always willing to support Service staff by providing support and guidance in areas as diverse as fire trail planning and inspections, equipment resourcing, management and maintenance, active participation in community education and with a keen sense of history, he has managed to maintain accurate records of all membership, response and resourcing of his brigade over the years.

Over the period of his 46 years of service, Group Captain Linnett has remained an active fire fighter whose leadership style has won the approval of many rural fire fighters. He continues to be an avid supporter of his brigade, community and the Rural Fire Service; all of which make him a most worthy nominee for receipt of the Australian Fire Service Medal.

Peter Murphy

As a professional, highly respected member of the NSW Rural Fire Service, Mr Murphy's vast knowledge, skills level and talents, not only on the fireground but also in every area of his life are unparalleled. He instils a distinguished ethos through his leadership, dedication, achievements and commitment to the promotion of the Rural Fire Service.

Due to his discreet nature, neutral leadership and thorough knowledge of Service policies and procedures, his ability to guide, influence and direct his colleagues and the public is exemplary, as demonstrated when leading small or large groups through training exercises, fireground incidents and task force deployments.

There are no limits to the amount of time and energy that he dedicates to the Service and to its members. He has struggled through great adversity in his life and has earned the respect of all in the Rural Fire Service where his commitment and his enduring comradeship exceed all expectations. His intellectual nature is committed to the advancement of existing and new techniques and resources to aid in protecting life and property.

Beginning his service in 1982, he demonstrated an enthusiastic commitment to brigade life with Wakefield Rural Fire Brigade, rapidly excelling to support his community. Eagerly learning with a definitive professional attitude, his leadership skills shone through gaining Deputy Captain at the age of twenty. With the advancement of his skills and knowledge seven years later he was Captain of the Brigade. He was responsible for coordinating the building of the new and current Wakefield Station, leading and managing this project with fellow field officers and brigade members. This was just one of the many projects that display his high level of contribution to the Service. Maintaining a high professional attitude whilst developing his leadership and training skills, Mr Murphy was voted in by all his peers from numerous brigades to the position of Group North and left behind such a legacy that he was honoured as a life member of the Wakefield Brigade.

During a large fire starting on the Freeway in 2001/2002, his local knowledge minimised property loss and his awareness of community needs was beyond what was expected of a Group Captain. He moved disabled community members knowing exactly where to find them, diverted hydrant usage for dialysis machines, set up a command base with a functioning structure of high integrity and did not falter when red messages were being called in. His knowledge of local needs excelled to join together a team of agencies managed accurately with minimal effort.

Mr Murphy is a trusted officer on the fireground and is always available at any time foregoing the rigors of his own life. His work relationships and leadership skills are powerfully dynamic and he serves with high distinction. His uniquely typifies the essence of distinguished service and combined with his many traits makes him a most worthy candidate for the award of the Australian Fire Service Medal.

Clinton Jessop-Smith

Clinton Jessop-Smith joined the Berkshire Park Rural Fire Brigade in 1973. In 1983 he was elected as Captain, a position he held until 1994. In 1990, he was also elected into the position of Deputy Group Captain and then to Group Captain in 1996. He remains a Group Captain.

During the last ten years as a Senior Group Captain, he has been directly involved with the mobilisation and organisation of volunteer fire fighters combating many local campaigns. His proven ability as a leading fire technician is second to none; this had been demonstrated on many occasions in the Cumberland Zone during major wildfire campaigns. Through his leadership at major incidents the number of properties and possibly lives saved are too many to count.

An example of Clinton's fire fighting leadership abilities was during the 2001 Christmas Day fires which consisted of some of the worst fire behaviour witnessed in the western Sydney area of Penrith. On this particular day due to his quick thinking, tactical ability and task prioritisation skill, many properties were saved from the on-set of fire.

He has also been involved in the State responses to assist in major campaigns and out of area commitments on many occasions including the recent Blue Mountains campaign. Additionally, he has also committed to interstate assistance including the recent Victorian bush fires.

In addition to his superior fire ground leadership he has also proven himself as an integral part in bringing together the three local government areas of Blacktown, Fairfield and Penrith during the zoning process of 2001. The zoning process being a reasonably new initiative by the Rural Fire Service at that time and required bringing districts together. In this case, the districts concerned had major operational and managerial barriers to overcome and Clinton managed this while demonstrating superior qualities in leading approximately 1000 volunteers, including other Group Captains and Captains. His enthusiasm and ability to motivate proved essential in moving the brigades forward into what is now known as the Cumberland Zone.

He has organised many local field days and assisted and judged at numerous Regional and State Field Days and has also demonstrated interest and participation in the Cadet Rural Fire Service Program, particularly in the Cumberland Zone. He is a well respected senior volunteer with the zone and is held in high regard by local Captains, Rural Fire Brigade members and Rural Fire Service salaried staff. He is an inspiration to all who serve with him and he demonstrates on a regular basis the ideals that all volunteers should aspire to.

Clinton has given 35 years of dedicated service in a voluntary capacity and comes from a long family association with the Rural Fire Brigades and his long and distinguished service make him a most worthy candidate for the award of the Australian Fire Service Medal.
