

Rural Fire Service Internal Awards 2005

The Commissioner's Commendation for Bravery			Awarded to recognise an act of courage under hazardous circumstances where the risk to life has not been significant as to warrant the Commissioner's Medal for Valour but is worthy of recognition.	
	Accept/ Decline	Rank and Name	District/Title	Citation
1.	✓	Barry McNeil Medal & Citation	Helensburg RFB	On 18 January 2003 Mr McNeil was located at the Rural Fire Service basecamp at Stromlo in the Australian Capital Territory. The camp was threatened by a large firefront moving under ferocious weather conditions and the call to evacuate was sounded. Mr McNeil and two colleagues elected to stay, manning the Horsley Park 7 tanker, to protect the lives of many civilians who stayed, and the basecamp itself. Mr McNeil and his colleagues, joined by two others, acted at great risk to themselves assisting injured civilians and extinguishing spotfires. Many properties were destroyed, there was a civilian fatality and a number of civilians were injured. The actions of Mr McNeil and his colleagues saved a number of properties and the lives of many other civilians. Through his selfless actions Mr McNeil brought great credit upon himself and the Service.
2.	✓	Steven O'Callaghan Medal & Citation	Candlagan RFB	On 18 January 2003 Mr O'Callaghan was located at the Rural Fire Service basecamp at Stromlo in the Australian Capital Territory. The camp was threatened by a large firefront moving under ferocious weather conditions and the call to evacuate was sounded. Mr O'Callaghan and two colleagues elected to stay, manning the Horsley Park 7 tanker, to protect the lives of many civilians who stayed, and the basecamp itself. Mr O'Callaghan and his colleagues, joined by two others, acted at great risk to themselves assisting injured civilians and extinguishing spotfires. Many properties were destroyed, there was a civilian fatality and a number of civilians were injured. The actions of Mr O'Callaghan and his colleagues saved a number of properties and the lives of many other civilians. Through his selfless actions Mr O'Callaghan brought great credit upon himself and the Service.
3.	✓	Robert Pyers Medal & Citation	Moruya RFB	On 18 January 2003 Mr Pyers was located at the Rural Fire Service basecamp at Stromlo in the Australian Capital Territory. The camp was threatened by a large firefront moving under ferocious weather conditions and the call to evacuate was sounded. Mr Pyers and a colleague safely evacuated civilians from the camp but elected to return to assist three colleagues who had remained to protect civilians and the basecamp itself. Mr Pyers and his colleagues acted at great risk to themselves assisting injured civilians and extinguishing spotfires. Many properties were destroyed, there was a civilian fatality and a number of civilians were injured. The actions of Mr Pyers and his colleagues saved a number of properties and the lives of many civilians. Through his selfless actions Mr Pyers brought great credit upon himself and the Service.

The Commissioner's Commendation for Bravery (cont.)			Awarded to recognise an act of courage under hazardous circumstances where the risk to life has not been significant as to warrant the Commissioner's Medal for Valour but is worthy of recognition	
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4.	✓	Ronald Shaw Medal & Citation	Batemans Bay RFB	On 18 January 2003 Mr Shaw was located at the Rural Fire Service basecamp at Stromlo in the Australian Capital Territory. The camp was threatened by a large firefront moving under ferocious weather conditions and the call to evacuate was sounded. Mr Shaw and a colleague safely evacuated civilians from the camp but returned to the camp to assist three colleagues who had remained to protect civilians and the basecamp itself, Mr Shaw and his colleagues acted at great risk to themselves assisting injured civilians and extinguishing spotfires. Many properties were destroyed, there was a civilian fatality and a number of civilians were injured. The actions of Mr Shaw and his colleagues saved a number of properties and the lives of many civilians. Through his selfless actions Mr Shaw brought great credit upon himself and the Service.
5.	✓	Roger Benjamin Medal & Citation	Glenellen RFB	On 18 January 2003 Mr Benjamin was located at the Rural Fire Service basecamp at Stromlo in the Australian Capital Territory. The camp was threatened by a large firefront moving under ferocious weather conditions and the call to evacuate was sounded. Mr Benjamin and two colleagues elected to stay, manning the Horsley Park 7 tanker to protect the lives of many civilians who stayed, and the basecamp itself. Mr Benjamin and his colleagues, joined by two others, acted at great risk to themselves assisting injured civilians and extinguishing spotfires. Many properties were destroyed, there was civilian fatality and a number of civilians were injured. The actions of Mr Benjamin and his colleagues saved a number of properties and the lives of many other civilians. Through his selfless actions Mr Benjamin brought great credit upon himself and the Service.

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.		
	Accept/ Decline	Rank and Name	District/Title	Citation
1.		Phillip Jarick Medal & Certificate	Glenellen	On the evening of 21 June 2003 Mr Jarick's house caught alight. Mr Jarrick who was outside at the time entered the house in an attempt to save his mother who was inside. He crawled through the house, found his mother and carried her from the house. He then summoned help from his local brigade, called for an ambulance and then proceeded to fight the fire with his brigade. Mr Jarick's disregard for his own safety and his presence of mind during this emergency are in the best traditions of the Service and are to his credit.
2.	✓	Leonard Carter Medal & Certificate	Group Officer	On 8 January 1994 Group Officer Carter was Service Commander for the bushfires at Jannali/Como in the south of Sydney. Fire conditions were most extreme. The ferocity of fire activity in Lincoln Crescent had made it impossible for emergency services personnel to access the scene except for two members of the Heathcote Rural Fire Brigade and two NSW Ambulance rescue personnel. Group Officer Carter directed the ambulance officers to the scene enduring life-threatening conditions of fallen power lines and blistering radiant heat. The fire resulted in the death of one resident and severe burns injuries to two others. Group Officer Carter carried out his tasks in a most expeditious, caring and professional manner that brought great credit upon himself and the Service.
3.	✓	David Hoadley Medal & Certificate	Superintendent	Following the recommendations of a coronial inquiry into the 2001/2002 Goobang fire Superintendent Hoadley on his own initiative established the Central West Bushfire Management Project team. Over the 15 months of the project Superintendent Hoadley, assisted by an officer of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, organised 81 separate community consultation meetings and personally attended 75 of them. Through Superintendent Hoadley's stewardship of the project the team was able to meet its primary objective of developing a landscape approach to bushfire management across the Canobolas Zone and neighbouring districts. Superintendent Hoadley's leadership, commitment and dedication to this project, coupled with his problem solving skills, reflect the professionalism and competence of this officer.

The Commissioner's Commendation for Service (cont.)			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.	
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4.	✓	Roger Pearce Medal & Certificate	Fire Investigator	Mr Pearce joined the Service in 1973 and became an authorised fire investigator in 1998 since when he has given much of his time as a volunteer to this area of fire operations. Mr Pearce was heavily involved with the investigation into the cause of the Ellis Trig fire in Ku-ring-gai National Park with many hours committed to the four days of the fire. He was similarly involved in the 2002 Mt Carmel (Engadine) fire where the loss of many properties demanded investigation into the cause to be undertaken and completed as a matter of urgency. Mr Pearce has recently been appointed to a Fire Investigation Focus Group Committee that will oversee fire investigation statewide. Mr Pearce's commitment in this important area has been exceptional and his results outstanding - all reflective of his professionalism, competence and dedication.
5.	✓	David Gifford Medal & Certificate	Paterson RFB	A Service member since 1972 Deputy Captain Gifford has, for the past 20 years, been the mainstay of community education in the District and is an active member of the Zone's Community Education Committee. An exceptional model maker he has spent numerous hours making intricate replicas of buildings and landscapes that have been ravaged by fire. His displays are always informative and interesting being professionally prepared and presented. He was instrumental in the acquisition and development of Dungog's first community education trailer. A tireless worker for the Service and the staunchest of supporter of community education, Deputy Captain Gifford brings great credit upon himself and the Service.

The Commissioner's Certificate of Commendation			For service or outstanding actions in relation to fire service duties, administrative leadership, or exemplary performance of a specific difficult project or task.	
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1.	✓	Mark Lewis Certificate	Operations Officer	Superintendent Lewis, the Service's Operations Officer within the Great Lakes Rural Fire District, has worked very closely with members of the Zone senior management team gradually improving operations management within the District and winning back the trust and respect of the volunteers. This was always recognised as a challenging and difficult role. He implemented and managed a series of audits and programs and demonstrated a high level of professionalism and leadership that ensured project goals, timetables and budgets were all met. His dedication to and support of change resulting from zoning together with his achievements are testimony to his competency, commitment and professionalism as an officer of the Service.
2.	✓	(Steve Smith) Certificate	Woronora RFB	The Woronora (Fire Boat) Brigade was first brigade on scene at the fires on the Como Peninsula on 8 January 1994. It assisted in the evacuation of residents under the most dangerous and volatile of conditions and started operations to protect life and property. Visibility was very poor, eight homes were fully involved with fire, five more were emitting smoke and a number of motor vehicles were alight. Notwithstanding, the Brigade immediately began firefighting operations to ensure the safety of residents and the protection of property. At great personal risk to its members the Brigade performed above and beyond Service expectations.
3.	✓	(Lindsey Flynn) Certificate	Maianbar RFB	On Tuesday, 2 December 1997, the Maianbar 81 tanker of the Maianbar Rural Fire Brigade was situated in Barnes Crescent, Menai as part of a larger firefighting operation that was taking place in the Sutherland Shire. Intense fire impacted Barnes Crescent accompanied by gale force winds. A hoseline water curtain provided no refuge and the crew were surrounded by heat and flame that also filled the tanker's interior. The crew abandoned their laid hose and under severe fire relocated to a safer area where, using more hose and a standpipe the crew recommenced their property protection firefighting. They fought the fire for forty-five minutes and, though exhausted and with some injuries, did so until relieved by another Maianbar unit that continued the firefighting operations. The actions of the crews were consistent with the highest standards of the Service and brought great credit upon themselves, their Brigade and the Service.

The Commissioner's Certificate of Commendation (cont.)			For service or outstanding actions in relation to fire service duties, administrative leadership, or exemplary performance of a specific difficult project or task.	
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4.	✓	(Stephen Hopkins) Certificate	Loftus RFB	On Tuesday, 2 December 1997, the Loftus 81 tanker of the Loftus Rural Fire Brigade was responding to Barnes Crescent, Menai in answer to a call for urgent assistance. Under the severest of conditions, with heavy smoke and intense heat, and at great danger to themselves the Brigade's volunteers engaged in property protection and suppression of bush alight and numerous spotfires. Despite the effects of smoke and toxic fumes on some of the Brigade members all those present acted professionally, with dedication and commitment and through their efforts saved at least seven houses. Their tenacity, determination and skills were of the highest levels and those present deserve the utmost credit and respect of the Service.
5.	✓	(Don Carter) Certificate	Menai RFB	On Tuesday, 2 December 1997 the Menai 81 tanker was located in Rosewall Drive, Menai monitoring the progress of a fire impacting on the Menai area when a change of wind caused the fire to change direction and overrun the Menai tanker and threaten homes in Rosewall Drive. The Menai crew took shelter until the fire passed over, then they recommenced saving homes, five of which were on fire. All homes in Rosewall Drive were saved although ten homes in Barnes Crescent were destroyed. Previous thorough training in safety procedures plus confidence in each other resulted in actions being carried out without panic.
6.	✓	(Bill Clarke) Certificate	Menindee HQ	This remotely located Brigade has proven to be a significant asset to the local community and the far west of the state in general. Brigade members work continually to improve the safety and security of their isolated township and its surrounds through actively undertaking initiatives including community education, hazard reduction and fund raising. They also actively assist in the training and support of other remote brigades as well as enthusiastically responding to out-of-area-activities when requested to do so. Through their commitment, contribution to District achievements and overall teamwork the members of the Brigade have shown themselves to be an outstanding credit to the Service.
7.	✓	(Susan Courtney) Certificate	Shoalhaven Community Education Committee	Formed in January 2004, the Shoalhaven Community Education Committee has achieved significant results in areas of unsupervised child related activities, development of the Rural Firewise program, community liaison, recruitment of Firewise facilitators, presentation of community education forums and workshops, as well as the presentation of fire related community education to nearly 10,000 residents of the Shoalhaven. Although the Committee is still in the developmental stage, the efforts and achievements of its members in such a short time are worthy of approbation and recognition.

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8.	✓	Tim Anderson Certificate	Manager Projects Office	In 2004 the Service relocated its headquarters from Rosehill to Homebush Bay. Mr Anderson co-project managed the entire design construction of the building and project managed the relocation of all staff. During the three years of his involvement with the projects Mr Anderson exhibited a high level of professionalism and dedication during times of high pressure consistent with projects of this nature. Without Mr Anderson's project management skills and commitment the project would not have been the success it was.
9.	✓	Jim Elliott Certificate	Manager Administration Services	In 2004 the Service relocated its headquarters from Rosehill to Homebush Bay. Mr Elliott co-project managed the entire design and construction of the building and project managed the relocation of all staff. In carrying out these tasks over a period of two years Mr Elliott exhibited a high level of professionalism and dedication during times of high-pressure consistent with a project of this nature. Without Mr Elliott's project management skills and commitment the project would not have been the success it was.
10.	✓	Liz Mead Certificate	Projects Officer	In 2004 the Service relocated its headquarters from Rosehill to Homebush Bay. Ms Mead was instrumental in managing the organisational communications framework of the new headquarters. In carrying out a related range of difficult and arduous tasks over a long period of time Ms Mead exhibited high levels of professionalism and dedication during times of high pressure consistent with a project of this nature. Without Ms Mead's project management skills and commitment the project would not have been the success it was.

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11.	√	Trevor Fletcher Certificate	Group Captain Eurobodalla	Trevor Fletcher has been a volunteer with the Service since 1972. He has made a significant contribution in a wide variety of roles, especially on State Committees, in out-of-area operations and as a senior instructor at district training activities. He is highly regarded within the whole district for his professionalism, wisdom, and leadership has brought great credit to himself for his dedication to the community.
12.	√	Jack French Certificate	Group Captain Corowa/ Berrigan	Group Captain Jack French has made a significant contribution to the management of the Corowa/Berrigan District in support of the Fire Control Officer. Because of his background as a former CFA officer and as a farmer, Group Captain French has a close affiliation with his community and a good understanding of the organisation that is need to make a district work together as an effective firefighting tea. He is particularly highly regarded for maintaining effective operations in the district when the FCO was unavailable due to ill health. Group Captain French is a fine example of the qualities that make volunteer firefighters so valued within their communities.
13.	√	Barry Cornell Certificate	Deputy Captain Eurobodalla	Deputy Captain Barry Cornell is a foundation member of the Bingie Brigade in Eurobodalla District. While his wider contribution to operational firefighting is well known, it is through his energy and enthusiasm on behalf of Bingie Brigade that he has attracted such widespread commendation. Working as one-man task force, and in an environment of virtually no outside funding support, Deputy Captain Cornell has overseen and helped to construct a new fire station and training room for his Brigade. His individual efforts were instrumental in the successful completion of this project. Deputy Captain Cornell truly exemplifies the volunteer spirit and has made an outstanding contribution to his community, of which are all justifiably proud.