

Australian Police Medal (APM) – NSW Police Force

Superintendent Paul Joseph Fehon Commander – Mid North Coast Local Area Command

Superintendent Paul Joseph Fehon joined the New South Wales Police Force in 1979. He was promoted to his current rank in 2006 and posted to his current command in 2012.

Superintendent Fehon has had a diverse policing career spanning over 35 years which includes an extensive background in the criminal investigation field. He has led many successful investigations in relation to drug trafficking and organised crime. He also led the Forward Command Operations in the successful manhunt for Australia's most wanted fugitive, Malcolm Naden, where his commitment, professionalism, drive and innovations gained the greatest of respect and admiration by his superiors and peers.

Superintendent Fehon has managed many significant emergencies including major flood disasters, impact of cyclonic weather conditions, major heavy vehicle collisions and other rescue operations.

Superintendent Fehon was awarded the National Police Service Medal in 2013, the National Medal in 1995; 1st Clasp to the National Medal in 2005 and the NSW Police Medal in 2003 (including 4th clasp to the NSW Police Medal in 2011). In 2012, he received the Commissioner's Sesquicentenary Citation.

His distinguished service in policing now sees Superintendent Fehon at the Mid North Local Area Command, serving the state of New South Wales.

Detective Superintendent Michael John Willing Commander – Homicide Squad – State Crime Command

Detective Superintendent Michael John Willing joined the New South Wales Police Force as a Trainee in 1990. He was promoted to his current rank in 2007 and posted to his current command in 2011.

Detective Superintendent Willing has dedicated a majority of his policing career to the criminal investigation field where he is one of the longest service Homicide Squad Commanders in the history of the NSW Police Force. He has been responsible for the oversight of numerous high profile investigations, suspicious deaths and critical incident investigations including (but not limited to); Quakers Hill Nursing Home Fire, Lin Family Murders, murders of Senior Constable David Rixon VA and Detective Inspector Bryson Anderson VA, Family Law Court bombings, Lindt Cafe Siege and the disappearance of William Tyrrell. As senior member of the NSW Police Force, he has gained the greatest of respect of admiration by his superiors, peers and those he leads.

Detective Superintendent Willing was awarded the National Medal in 2008, the NSW Police Medal in 2004 (including 2nd clasp to the NSW Police Medal in 2014). In 2007, he was awarded the Commissioner's Commendation – Courage for outstanding courage and devotion to duty in the attempted rescue of a young person from the Macquarie River, Dubbo on 16 September 2003. In 2003, he was awarded the Commissioner's Unit Citation for Operation 'Gymea' in recognition of commitment, dedication, investigative skill, leadership and tenacity during complex and detailed investigations into criminal activity and corruption.

His distinguished service in policing now sees Detective Superintendent Willing at the State Crime Command Homicide Squad, serving the state of New South Wales.

Senior Sergeant Kevin Charles Allard
Team Leader – Sex Crimes Squad – State Crime Command

Senior Sergeant Kevin Charles Allard joined the New South Wales Police Force as a Trainee in 1984. He was promoted to his current rank in 2001 and posted to his current command in 2008.

Senior Sergeant Allard has dedicated a majority of his policing career to the surveillance field. In 2002, by his own initiative, Senior Sergeant Allard began researching digital cameras as result of the expense and limitations of wet film technology in capturing the illegal activities of offenders. He has provided training to other police units of the NSW Police Force and externally to members of our Defence Forces and to other interstate Police jurisdictions.

In 2008, he was approached by the Western Australian Police to assist them in matters pertaining to both camera and software acquisition. He provided their software, wrote their training manuals and provided their training, in his own time. His initiative has allowed the NSW Police Force to remain at the forefront of surveillance operations in Australia and he is recognised as a leading expert in the field of Digital photography by other law enforcement agencies.

Senior Sergeant Allard was awarded the National Police Service Medal in 2014, the National Medal in 2000; 1st Clasp to the National Medal in 2011 and the NSW Police Medal in 2004 (including 3rd clasp to the NSW Police Medal in 2010). In 2007, he was awarded the Commissioner's Unit Citation for outstanding service and devotion to duty during Operation Pendennis/Strike Force Hammerli.

His distinguished service in policing now sees Senior Sergeant Allard at the State Crime Command Sex Crimes Squad, serving the state of New South Wales.

Superintendent Stephen Harry Egginton
Commander – Hawkesbury Local Area Command

Superintendent Stephen Harry Egginton joined the New South Wales Police Force as a Trainee in 1988. He was promoted to his current rank in 2008 and posted to his current command in 2013.

Superintendent Egginton has been a dedicated operational police officer for a majority of his policing career. He now leads one of the largest Command's in the State of New South Wales.. Superintendent Egginton maintains and fosters a strong working relationship with the Royal Australian Air Force as his command is home to one of the largest air force bases in Australia.

Superintendent Egginton was awarded the National Police Service Medal in 2014, the National Medal in 2004; 1st Clasp to the National Medal in 2014 and the NSW Police Medal in 2004 (including 3rd clasp to the NSW Police Medal in 2015).

His distinguished service in policing now sees Superintendent Egginton at the Hawkesbury Local Area Command, serving the state of New South Wales.

Superintendent David George Eardley
Commander – Bankstown Local Area Command

Superintendent David George Eardley joined the New South Wales Police Force 1981, He was promoted to his current rank in 2008 and posted to his current command in 2010.

Superintendent Eardley has served the community of New South Wales for 35 years and is a highly dedicated and respected officer. In addition to his responsibilities as the Commander of the Bankstown LAC, he is also a member of the steering committee, State Crime Command Robbery Advisory Council and a member Witness Security Assessment Committee. He has extensive experience in Command and Emergency Management, where he was the Police Forward Commander for Operation Contego – APEC 2007 and was the Forward Commander for the Lindt Cafe Siege. As senior member of the NSW Police Force, he has gained the greatest of respect of admiration by his superiors, peers and those he leads.

Superintendent Eardley was awarded the National Police Service Medal in 2014, the National Medal in 1999; 1st Clasp to the National Medal in 2006 and the NSW Police Medal in 2003 (including 4th clasp to the NSW Police Medal in 2014). In 2012, he received the Commissioner's Sesquicentenary Citation. In 2005, he was awarded the Royal Life Saving Award – providing CPR and first aid to a person at Bonnet Bay with the assistance of Inspector Shayne Woolbank whilst both officers were off duty.

His distinguished service in policing now sees Superintendent Eardley at the Bankstown Local Area Command, serving the state of New South Wales.

Superintendent Mark Raymond Elliott Noakes
Commander – Aviation Support Branch – Special Services Group

Superintendent Mark Raymond Elliott Noakes joined the New South Wales Police Force in He was promoted to his current rank in 2006 and posted to his current command in 2013.

During his tenure as the Commander of the State Surveillance Branch, Superintendent Noakes orchestrated a comprehensive change of management process where the authorised strength of the command was increased and more significantly, the structure and focus of the command was reformed. In 2011, Superintendent Noakes was seconded to the Aviation Support Branch where he is endeavouring to reform a command which is one of extreme risk, highest value and high profile within the NSW Police Force to one that displays the distinguished standards of professional conduct and expertise.

Superintendent Noakes was awarded the National Medal in 2001; 1st Clasp to the National Medal in 2012 and the NSW Police Medal in 2004 (including 3rd clasp to the NSW Police Medal in 2012). In 2013, he received the Commissioner's Sesquicentenary Citation. In 2005, he was awarded the Commissioner's Commendation for Service, in recognition of the outstanding achievement of managing and leading the Vikings Street Crime Unit. In 2007, he was awarded the Commissioner's Unit Citation in recognition of outstanding bravery and devotion to duty at a major civil disorder incident at Macquarie Fields in February 2005. In 2008, he received a further Commissioner's Unit Citation in recognition of outstanding bravery and dedication to duty as a member of the NSW Police response to civil disorder within the Miranda, Eastern Beaches, St George and Campsie Local Area Commands between 11 -13 December 2005.

His distinguished service in policing now sees Superintendent Noakes at the Aviation Support Branch, serving the state of New South Wales.

Chief Inspector Michael Raymond Sheehy
Coordinator – Robbery & Serious Crime Squad – State Crime Command

Chief Inspector Michael Raymond Sheehy joined the New South Wales Police in 1986. He was promoted to his current rank in 2002 and posted to his current command in 2013.

Chief Inspector Sheehy has dedicated a majority of his 30 years of policing to the criminal investigation field where he has a reputation as a professional criminal investigator. He has been responsible for the oversight of numerous high profile investigations and critical incident investigations including (but not limited to); Gonzales family murders, Anthony Zervas murder at Sydney Airport, murder of Michael McGurk, murder(manslaughter) of Thomas Kelly at Kings Cross and the murder of Senior Constable William Crews VA. His knowledge in the field of criminal investigation is often called upon by others for advice and guidance.

Chief Inspector Sheehy was awarded the National Police Service Medal in 2014, the National Medal in 2002; 1st Clasp to the National Medal in 2014 and the NSW Police Medal in 2004 (including 3 clasp to the NSW Police Medal in 2014).

His distinguished service in policing now sees Chief Inspector Sheehy at the State Crime Command Robbery & Serious Crime Squad, serving the state of New South Wales.

Senior Sergeant Donna Maree Murphy
Licensing Coordinator – Kings Cross Local Area Command

Senior Sergeant Donna Maree Murphy joined the New South Wales Police Force in 1985. She was promoted to her current rank in 2009 and posted to her current command in 2009.

Senior Sergeant Murphy has dedicated 20 years to the licensing field. Since 2009, with great courage and determination she has directed licensing investigations into the 276 licensed premises in the two and half kilometre block that makes up the Kings Cross Command. Organised crime figures and outlaw motor cycle gangs had infiltrated the ownership within licensed premises and she was subject to threats and intimidation during her quest to rid these individuals out through zero tolerance approach to licensing infractions.

Senior Sergeant Murphy took ownership of the project to implement the ID scanning devices which was the first Local Area Command in NSW to have to manage this legislative requirement. In her commitment and expertise following the introduction of the ID scanners and the 'Lock Out' Legislation, the Kings Cross Local Area Command has experienced a significant decrease in steal from person's offences and alcohol related assaults within the High Risk Licensed Premises. Senior Sergeant Murphy has been exemplary in her role and is an inspiration and role model to all police.

Senior Sergeant Murphy was awarded the National Police Service Medal in 2014, the National Medal in 2001; 1st Clasp to the National Medal in 2011 and the NSW Police Medal in 2004 (including 3rd clasp to the NSW Police Medal in 2015). In 2012, she received the Commissioner's Sesquicentenary Citation.

Her distinguished service in policing now sees Senior Sergeant Murphy at the Kings Cross Local Area Command, serving the state of New South Wales.

Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM) – NSW Rural Fire Service

Joseph Brown

In 1936, the Hobby's Yards Bush Fire Brigade (now Barry Hobbys Rural Fire Brigade) was established with 15 members and its first equipment allocation consisted of six beaters and six knapsacks.

During the war years, all meetings were held in conjunction with other local events to save on travel for its members. In 1947, when the President was away, Joe was asked if he would like to chair the meeting. He had just finished school and had some experience on how to run a meeting so reluctantly agreed. Soon after, Joe was voted in as President and to this day remains the President of the Barry Hobbys Rural Fire Brigade. At the Brigade's next annual general meeting, it will be 70 years that Joe has been President which is quite an achievement.

Joe had held several other positions within the Brigade, including being voted in as Brigade Captain in 1972, a position which he held for 22 years. Whilst in the Captain's position, Joe designed and built a fire truck out of a 1950's seven ton Commer, complete with two 1,500 litre water tanks; pressure, transfer and fast fill pumps; fire extinguishers; safety rails and front cabin jets for grass fires. This truck was ahead of its time and served the community for many years until privately owned trucks were phased out.

Joe has attended numerous incidents over his 70 years but the one that really stands out is the fire which started on his property in 1965 due to a lightning strike. Due to the bad conditions on the day, the fire spread quickly heading north east towards Bathurst. Many locals came to assist but as there was limited fire fighting equipment, it was a matter of getting stock out of the path of the fire and a neighbour took his orchard sprayer over to assist which saved sheds and other property. Joe thought the sprayer was just fantastic and was the catalyst for him designing and building the brigades first fire truck not long after. The fire burnt out 2,000 acres before being controlled and extinguished when it reached already burnt ground from a fire that had occurred a week earlier.

Due to Joe's extensive fire related skills and experience, he was appointed as a Deputy Fire Control Officer for the Blayney Shire Council in the late 1980's and remained in that position for over 10 years. Joe remained an active fire fighter until he turned 80 when he decided it was time to take a step back and found another role within the brigade looking after equipment and also completed the RFS aircraft radio controller course. Even though Joe is approaching 90, he is still very fit and active and has been a mentor and inspiration for the many members of the Barry Hobbys and neighbouring Brigades.

Joe is a well respected and trusted member of the Barry Hobbys Brigade.

Alec Byers

Mr Alec Byers joined the Ashley Rural Fire Brigade in 1997 and has remained an active member of this brigade throughout his service. From 1997 until 2007, Mr Byers was Captain of this brigade and in this time was involved in all aspects of the brigade, from attending incidents to issuing permits. Mr Byers is also a current permit issuing officer for the brigade, a position which he has held since 1997.

In 2006, Mr Byers was elected as a Deputy Group Captain, then Group Captain in 2007, a position which he still holds today. In this role, Mr Byers is active in all aspects of the Service, from attending incidents as Incident Controller and Divisional Commander, to attending Service Level Agreement meetings and Senior Management Team meetings. Mr Byers also regularly assists with training in the team area, including running the local pumping scenarios and assisting with the Rural Fire Driver courses.

Mr Byers contributed to the design of the new Category 6 tankers and has assisted with their induction into the local area. During Mr Byers' time with the Service, he has conducted an extensive overhaul of the Moree Tanker fleet, a role he still assists with as required. Mr Byers has attained high level qualifications, including Group Leader and is a mentor to members of the service throughout the Namoi/Gwydir Team area.

Mr Byers received the 10 year RFS Long Service Medal in 2012 and it is the view of the Namoi/Gwydir Team of the NSW Rural Fire Service that Alec Byers is a worthy recipient of the Australian Fire Service Medal for his 18 years of diligent service to the community.

Patrick Linnane

Patrick Linnane joined the Raglan and Jenolan Caves Brigades in 1984. Patrick was the founding member of the Oberon support brigade and held the position of Captain in that brigade for nine years. He held the rank of Deputy Group Captain for four years, Group Captain for six years of the Chifley Zone Group 4 area and he retired with the rank of Group Captain.

Patrick has always been a highly active member of the RFS and has only missed one Rural Fire Driving course as an instructor since it started in Chifley in the early 1980's when he started the Training Committee in the Oberon area. Patrick is a well respected member of Chifley/Lithgow and is held in high regard by both volunteers and staff across the Districts. The majority of volunteers in the Chifley Zone can accredit their training in firefighting to Patrick and can attest to the guidance and support he has given them throughout their RFS careers.

Although it's not officially recorded, Patrick started out his service fighting fires with the Neville Bush Fire Brigade in his late teens around 1954. This was how Patrick put in his service up until official records started in 1984. He continued to help his local brigades where he lived at the time unofficially in the Mangrove Mountain and Badgerys Creek areas. Patrick to this day still remains dedicated to the training standards of the RFS members in his area and the district as a whole by being a key member of the training committee and in the organisation of training events for his group area. At the last count, it is estimated that Patrick contributed nearly 300 hours a year to just training volunteers. The current Chifley Zone and Lithgow District cadet programs were set up by Patrick in 2006 and without his dedication to the program, it would not be the success it is today. He also ensured that before moving out of the District, that he trained and mentored the current cadet program coordinators to ensure its ongoing success.

Patrick's guidance and mentoring has been invaluable for several senior officers in the Chifley Zone which includes two Group Officers and several Captains. Without Patrick's foresight and succession planning, the Chifley Zone Group 4 would not have the current command structure in place. In 2006, Patrick Linnane received the National Medal for his dedication and tremendous contribution to the Chifley Zone and Lithgow District.

Christopher Nesbitt

Chris Nesbitt joined the Baulkham Hills Headquarters Brigade in Castle Hill in 1975, just a couple of years after the Brigade was formed. He quickly gained the support and respect of the members of the Brigade and was appointed Captain in 1977, holding the position until 1990 and then moving to the position of Deputy Group Captain for the next 10 years.

Under his leadership, the Brigade grew into a most effective support arm of the District, with a membership of over 60, which provided crews of well trained firefighters, bulk water support, the original District Canteen and Communications group, as well as transport and

logistics roles. Under his management, the Brigade provided a wealth of support, not only within the District, but campaign incidents across the State.

With a background in training with Qantas, Chris took on the role as Lead Instructor for the original Basic Training Courses developed by the Service in the early 1980's, developing lesson plans and supporting materials and these were presented across the Shire, to the then 800 plus members. He further developed this into an ongoing program of formal training within the District, which eventually led to him being appointed a full time employee of the Service, specialising in the Learning and Development area.

Throughout his time as a Group Officer and full time employee, he has made himself available, presenting many facets of Brigade training, both at Regional and State level. Chris also has a very extensive information technology background and during these times, was heavily involved in the development of software programmes which were used by many Districts, particularly for membership details, equipment recording and so on which help set the direction for the extensive systems of today. This experience continues to provide the District with a wealth of information technology support for the staff.

His empathy with members, is well recognised, as he also co-ordinates membership issues and has developed systems within the District that in the event of injuries, the welfare of members is given the highest priority which also carries over to dealing with the workers compensation and recovery back to active membership. Having devoted immeasurable time and energy to the Service across the State, with the full support of his family, Chris is held in the highest regard by all and is more than worthy of being considered for the Australian Fire Service Medal.

Alfred Snowden

Alfred Snowden commenced service with the Tinonee Bush Fire Brigade in May 1971 and has been an active fire fighter and field officer. He retired from his position as Group 3 Captain with the rank of Group Captain in May 2015 after a total of 44 years service. His service as a brigade member continues.

He was Group Captain Tinonee Brigade in 1986 and held this role until the reorganisation and commencement of the Rural Fire Service in 1998. Bill was subsequently re-elected Group Captain and has served continuously until retirement from that position.

Throughout his service, Bill has taken a personal interest in all aspects of brigade management and administration. His training interests included rural fire off road driving, fire ground safety, mentoring and the operational fire fighting capability of the Manning District brigades he was responsible for.

In recent years, he was instrumental in the reconstruction of Krumbach Brigade. He was an integral part of a Senior Management Team responsible for the training and deployment of 800 volunteer fire fighters comprising 26 brigades to service 3,753 square kilometres of the Greater Taree District. From an RFS point of view, this includes the safety and welfare of a permanent population of 50,000 which increased markedly during holiday periods coinciding with the bush fire season.

In an outstanding career, Bill has made a substantial and sustained contribution to the security of the general public by his operational expertise and as a member of the local Incident Management Team responding to countless local and interstate fire events from mundane to catastrophic; and by providing considerable support for community safety and approved pro-active fire fighting initiatives to reduce the impact of those events on society in general. In fact, public safety, their welfare and preparedness to cope with and survive the

regular extraordinary bush fire events occurring within this country has been the motivation behind his volunteer service.

Consequently, he has willingly served intra and interstate when required in accordance with the various Disaster Plan activations and in 2009 Bill attended the Victorian Bushfires. He was recently awarded Life Membership of Tinonee Brigade.

Bill has held the rank of Group Captain, the highest RFS elected volunteer rank, for approximately 30 years. This is an exceptional personal achievement and a leadership example with few precedents. It is testimony to his enduring commitment and dedication to the NSW RFS and to public safety. Equally, it is indicative of the confidence and esteem with which he was held by present and former brigade members.

Bill was conscripted into the Australian Armed Services in accordance with the then existing National Service Act, reported as directed for military training in April 1955 and was honourably discharged on the April 1960 having fulfilled those obligations. His combined military and volunteer service to the State and the Nation is approaching 50 years.

The brief facts enumerated herein, emphasise the inestimable value and significance of Bill's contribution which has been given voluntarily and without hesitation to community service locally and nationally when required.

Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM) – Fire & Rescue NSW

Barry Cleary

Station Officer Barry Cleary has served Fire & Rescue NSW for 26 years after joining in 1987. During his time with Fire & Rescue NSW, he has served at Crows Nest fire station, Newcastle fire station and Hamilton fire station and numerous stations as a relieving officer.

He has attended many major incidents during this time including the Newcastle earthquake in 1989 and the Brescia furniture factory fire in 2005.

Station Officer Cleary was awarded the National Medal on 28 November 2003 and Long Service and Good Conduct Medal on 22 April 2005.

During his service in Newcastle, Barry has been a member of the Newcastle Ball Committee for the past 10 years. He has spent countless hours working on the introduction videos for the annual Fire Brigade Ball and many hours of his own time selling raffle tickets and organising prizes to raise funds for the John Hunter Hospital children's burns unit. As a result of this, much needed funds have been raised.

Station Officer Cleary was a builder previous to joining the NSWFB and also has had a great deal of experience in CAD drafting. He has continually improved general operation of the station by assisting in the design of new fire stations and implementing a database for managing premises keys.

When Barry is not working, he spends many of his days at Nelson Bay, where he cares for his brother, Anthony, who is a quadriplegic as a result of a sporting accident at a young age.

Station Officer Cleary is widely respected within and outside Fire & Rescue NSW and his distinguished service is of the highest order.

Alexander Scott

Mr Scott joined the NSW Fire Brigades (NSWFB) in 1980. During his progression through the firefighting ranks, he demonstrated passion, enthusiasm and commitment for the work he performed and the community he served. He progressed to the officer ranks in 1996 and now holds the rank of Superintendent and the position of Zone Commander Metropolitan West 1.

During the past seven years as a senior officer with NSWFB and now Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW), he has consistently demonstrated professional and exemplary leadership to those that report to him and the people he reports to. He has also displayed a willingness to go beyond what is expected and do what is ever required to achieve the very best outcomes.

Throughout his career, Mr Scott has been involved in a number of initiatives which have had a positive influence on the organisation and the community of NSW. Mr Scott has always displayed a real desire to ensure that the firefighters within his command realise their full potential. In recent times, he has played a significant role in developing and implementing a new incident command model for all officers within Metropolitan West Command. This model incorporates an integrated command training system which uses the Adashi Command Software, an online training package and practical application through an intensive program based on a range of simulated computer scenarios. This model was developed to improve the way officers and their crews in Metropolitan West respond to and manage emergency incidents. It also ensures the highest standards of safety are applied.

Mr Scott has also been very proactive in the western Sydney area with the facilitation, development and trial of several new community preparedness and prevention measures designed to improve the safety of people living in western Sydney. Examples of prevention and preparedness initiatives Mr Scott has been involved with include the 'Bushfire Emergency Must Have Bag' designed for people living in the urban interface and the trial of the home safety audits which are currently being conducted within his command.

Throughout his career, Mr Scott has been required to respond to and manage numerous large scale emergency incidents. One of particular significance was the Quakers Hill Nursing Home fire where he was the first senior officer on scene. He has also been the Deputy Incident Controller at several major bushfires in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Throughout his career, Mr Scott has established a reputation both within the organisation and externally as a very competent and capable incident commander.

Mr Scott consistently models the values of FRNSW to the highest standard and is recognised as a leader who to this day maintains that same passion, enthusiasm and commitment for his work and the people he serves, that he did when he joined the organisation over 34 years ago.

Mr Scott has also been active in his local community with a long association with local sporting clubs and community groups. Mr Scott is a life member of the NSW Hockey Association.

Timothy Fox

After serving as a nurse, Inspector Timothy Paul Fox was appointed to the permanent firefighter ranks on 11 January 1985 and has selflessly served the community of New South Wales and Fire & Rescue NSW for 31 years.

As both a firefighter and an officer, Inspector Fox has ensured the preservation of life, property and the environment and has always placed the safety of the community as the highest priority.

Early in his career, Inspector Fox developed a keen interest in the highly specialised rescue operations and he has served as a rescue operator at busy Sydney fire stations and as a Senior Rescue Instructor at the specialised Rescue Unit as both a Firefighter and as an Officer.

Inspector Fox's experience and dedication is evident through his deep level as a subject matter expert in all facets of rescue but specifically road rescue and rope rescue. During his time as a senior rescue instructor, Inspector Fox was responsible for researching, developing and implementing new rescue techniques that are now used across the organisation.

Inspector Fox has specifically pioneered advances in rope rescue at a national level and has been instrumental in the introduction of rope rescue equipment in Fire & Rescue NSW and represents fire services and other end users on the Australian Rope Standards.

As well as developing improvements in Fire & Rescue NSW's capability, policy and procedures, Inspector Fox has represented Fire & Rescue NSW with distinction as one of the first Urban Search And Rescue (USAR) Instructors and was responsible for training a number of Fire & Rescue NSW and NSW Ambulance USAR operators.

Inspector Fox has been part of a number of Fire & Rescue NSW rescue teams and has competed successfully in both the national and international competitions winning a number of championships at these levels. Inspector Fox has also been a member of the Australasian Road Rescue Organisation (ARRO) attending numerous national and international competitions. He has fulfilled a number of roles at these events including chief assessor and chief safety officer. Inspector Fox has also represented Fire & Rescue NSW on both the technical and executive committees of ARRO. Inspector Fox has also played a critical role in mentoring Fire & Rescue NSW teams at ARRO events.

Inspector Fox attended the 1997 Thredbo landslide as part of the emergency response team and played an instrumental role in the rescue of Stuart Diver. Inspector Fox was awarded a Unit Commendation for Meritorious Service for his efforts at that incident.

Inspector Fox was one of the first Fire & Rescue NSW officers to deploy internationally and provided logistical support to a small medical team deployed to provide assistance to the people of Sri Lanka after the devastating 2004 South East Asian Tsunami. Inspector Fox received the individual medal for meritorious service as a consequence of this deployment.

Tim also deployed as part of the USAR Team deployments to New Zealand for the Christchurch Earthquake response and the Japan Tsunami, both in 2011 fulfilling management roles in both deployments. He received the Canterbury Earthquake citation and the Overseas Humanitarian Service Medal Clasp for his work in New Zealand and also for his work in Japan.

Throughout his distinguished career, Inspector Fox has displayed exceptional professionalism, unwavering commitment and unquestioned integrity. While his specialisation in the technical rescue operations and disaster relief has seen him undertake some of the most challenging and technical roles within operations, he has consistently performed to the highest possible level, to the benefit of Fire & Rescue NSW and the community which he serves.

Michael Brettschneider

Captain Michael Brettschneider has been a member of Hillston Fire Brigade since 15 September 1979 and became Captain in 1996. Captain Brettschneider has provided continuous service and leadership to Fire & Rescue NSW for over 36 years. He leads by example and is an advocate for diversity.

The nature of firefighting and the community that Hillston Fire Station serves has changed over the years. Michael has been Captain for over 20 years and has mentored and fostered positive working relationships with his firefighters and developed close bonds with the Hillston community.

Captain Brettschneider has a wide influence through his active participation on the zone Health and Safety Committee as a representative. He is proactive with community engagement programs, through Open Day, pre-school and school education programs, he presents safety lectures to individuals and groups and ensures a FRNSW presence at most community events as well as supporting smoke alarm battery replacement programs for the elderly.

Michael's dedication to serve is best illustrated through his involvement on the Carrathool Local Emergency Management Committee and he has also been an Honorary Ambulance Officer for 30 years.

Captain Brettschneider is a recognised leader in his community and leads local recruitment campaigns supporting diversity in the workforce.

Christopher Kane

Captain Christopher Kane has dedicated 40 years of service to Fire & Rescue NSW, serving and protecting his community of Muswellbrook and surrounding districts.

As Captain of Muswellbrook Fire Brigade since 1993, he has the added responsibilities of leadership together with his crew minimising the impacts of emergency incidents within his community. He has strong ties within his community and has conducted countless educational visits promoting safe communities.

During his time at Muswellbrook Fire Station, there have been many changes to Fire & Rescue NSW as well as the community he serves. Chris has been Captain for over 22 years and has provided constant support, encouragement and guidance to all those who have served with him. This is best demonstrated through his competing in State championships in 1984 and subsequently in every State championships until 2010. Muswellbrook brigade were the recipients of many medals over the years which reflects on the leadership and mentoring process that Captain Kane displays.

Chris's athletic feats were also demonstrated when he competed at the World Firefighter Games in Sydney in 2012 winning gold medals in 400m, 800m and 1500m. During his service with Fire & Rescue NSW, Chris has always made time to attend schools, pre-schools and other events to promote Fire & Rescue NSW and has been a constant source of support to the small, close knit town, whilst attending nearly 5000 calls for assistance.

Captain Kane's standing in the community was reflected when he was named as the Muswellbrook Shire Citizen of the year in 2016 for his service to the Muswellbrook community.

Emergency Services Medal (ESM) – NSW State Emergency Service

Dennis Buck

Dennis (Den) Buck has been a member of the NSW SES for over 18 years. During his 18 years of membership, Den has maintained a very high level of engagement and activity within the NSW SES.

Den Buck is a former Royal Australian Navy sailor, submariner, boilermaker and adult education teacher (TAFE) who has in a most positive way readily shared the benefit of his lifetime experience in these areas and the NSW SES with all of those that he comes into contact with.

Den's contribution has been across many areas but his contributions in the areas of training and leadership have been the most outstanding. He is an individual who has been prepared to utilise his skills in support of the NSW SES whenever and where ever a need has been identified that he has felt capable of fulfilling, regardless of rank or perceived status.

Shortly after joining the NSW SES, Dennis became proficient in a large number of SES related skills and commenced training these at his Unit (Gunnedah) and from a very early stage was also supporting training at other units throughout Namoi Region. For many years, Dennis was the Training Coordinator at the Gunnedah Unit. Under his guidance, a very high level of competence and proficiency was maintained at the unit.

Den has maintained his proficiency in a large number of SES skills and is an endorsed trainer and assessor in Beacon (the NSW SES Operations Management System), SES Fundamentals, Road Crash Rescue, PIARO (Participate in a Rescue Operation), First Aid and Storm and Water Damage. He has, up until the past two years, also been an active Flood Rescue Boat and Chainsaw trainer.

Over the years, Den has organised, delivered or assisted to deliver numerous SES courses, willingly giving up many weekends as he did this.

In May 2015, Dennis agreed to accept the role of Unit Controller of the Namoi Region Headquarters Unit with a brief to rebuild this unit. In addition to his new role, Dennis has recently agreed to provide his support to a new concept adopted in Namoi Region by being one of several "Cluster Mentors". In this role, Dennis will be a mentor for the Controllers and Unit Leadership Teams of four units within the region.

Dennis has maintained his membership of the Gunnedah Unit participating in numerous flood and storm responses as well as being a key member of its road crash rescue team. Dennis has played a key role in numerous rescues over the years.

Dennis has played a significant role throughout his entire SES career in out of area operations. He has participated in nearly all major operations in the State and in interstate deployments. These out of area deployments have included being a member of field teams, a leader of field teams and as a member of Incident Management Teams. Deployments over the years have included to Illawarra, Richmond Tweed, Clarence Nambucca, Mid North Coast, Hunter, Sydney Northern, Sydney Western, Macquarie and Far West regions. Interstate deployments have included as team member of a NSW SES Task Force for Cyclone Yasi in February 2011 and as a member of a NSW SES Task Force to the Brisbane Storms of November 2008.

Dennis has provided exemplary service and continues to meet new challenges for the NSW SES every day.

Emergency Services Medal (ESM) – Marine Rescue NSW

Leslie Threlfo

Les Threlfo has been at the forefront of the emergency services sector in the Monaro area for over 15 years.

He has been highly decorated by the NSW SES for his service and received numerous awards during his time as a volunteer. He became Local Controller of the Snowy River SES Unit in 2001 and built it up over 12 years to over 60 regular members.

While serving in the NSW SES as a Unit Controller, the NSW Police Force and Marine Rescue NSW asked if he would start up a Marine Rescue Unit on the Alpine Lakes as the State Rescue Board and Local Area Command considered that a desperate need for specialised rescue in both Lake Jindabyne and Lake Eucumbene was needed.

Les began to build the Alpine Lakes Marine Rescue Unit in 15 May 2011 and is now the Commander with 52 members.

Les is widely known for his leadership skills and his expertise and he has provided significant and outstanding volunteer contributions in the emergency services sector. His knowledge in emergency and operations management is widely respected in emergency services organisations.

Les has worked tirelessly for the benefit of the community and serves the community above and beyond the call of duty.

Les has provided commitment and professionalism at the highest level and offers endless support and encouragement to volunteers. His leadership and enthusiasm for the Alpine Lakes Unit of Marine Rescue NSW and the volunteers is exemplary.

Anthony Drover

Anthony Drover is a member of Marine Rescue Jervis Bay and has contributed in a distinguished manner to the safety of the boating communities of New South Wales and Queensland as a marine rescue volunteer, rescue vessel master, training and leader since 2003.

As an elected Director on the Marine Rescue NSW Board, he provided strategic leadership to support the new organisation's growth, development and corporate governance.

Mr Drover's contribution to the development of a professional training program to ensure the skill, capability and safety of Marine Rescue crew members is of particular note and value to the organisation and its volunteers.

This role has been complemented by his work to strengthen the operational capacity of Marine Rescue units in the Illawarra and Monaro regions and deliver practical instruction to ensure his fellow volunteers are effectively trained for their duties.

Anthony is dedicated to saving lives on the water and building the skill, competence and professionalism of the Marine Rescue NSW volunteer crews who are called on to respond to emergencies on our waterways.

Anthony is an outstanding member of Marine Rescue NSW who has provided distinguished service to the organisation in the areas of leadership, strategic development and most importantly, in training and education of its members.

He has served Marine Rescue NSW and the people of NSW with commitment and distinction, embodying the spirit of Australian volunteering.

John Lynch

John Lynch is a valued member of Marine Rescue NSW with a record of exceptional service at both operational and organisational levels over 21 years.

Mr Lynch has made a significant contribution to the safety of the boating community through his lengthy membership of the Forster-Tuncurry unit.

During his six year tenure as Unit Commander, he led the development of the Forster-Tuncurry Search and Rescue Coordination Centre. His contribution has extended beyond his own unit and indeed the marine rescue sector through his responsibilities as the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol (RVCP) Senior Regional Officer North Coast, State Rescue Board Accreditation Team member, RVCP delegate to the Mid North Coast Marine Advisory Committee and Great Lakes Emergency Management Committee member.

He has drawn on his operational expertise and professional experience to provide strategic leadership as the Mid North Coast Regional Director on the Marine Rescue NSW Board since 2011.

Mr Lynch has served with distinction to ensure the safety of the boating community, supporting his fellow volunteers and contributing to the development of Marine Rescue NSW.