



# Hon Michael Gallacher MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council  
Minister for Police and Emergency Services  
Minister for the Hunter

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST

Minister for Police and Emergency Services has congratulated NSW Police and Emergency Services Personnel who have received awards in today's Queen's Birthday Honours.

Eight Police Officers have received the Australian Police Medal, 12 Firefighters have been awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal, one of the highest honours for firefighters and five Emergency Services Personnel have received the Emergency Services Medal.

"These medals represent the important and valued contribution each of the Emergency Services Personnel make to our communities," Minister Gallacher said.

"It is recognition of the hard work they do and the dedication they demonstrate in undertaking often challenging tasks.

"I thank each and every one of today's award recipients for their tireless work and express gratitude on behalf of the NSW Government and indeed the people of NSW," Minister Gallacher said.

"We have seen in recent months the scale of disasters these men and women face on a daily basis and it has been incredibly heart-warming to see them all working together to benefit the community.

"These men and women, whether volunteers or paid officers, have shown a level of dedication and commitment to the protection of lives and property that is rarely seen elsewhere.

"Not one of the men and women receiving medals today has joined their chosen organisation for the accolades but it is certainly evident that they are all very deserving and I congratulate them for this fantastic achievement," Mr Gallacher concluded.

ENDS

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## **EMERGENCY SERVICE WORKERS QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST**

### **NSW Police Force – Australian Police Medal**

#### **Detective Inspector Greg Anthony Stier Crime Manager – New England Local Area Command**

Detective Inspector Stier graduated from the NSW Police Academy in Goulburn in 1986 and was confirmed as a Constable in 1987 after being stationed at Maroubra. He was posted to his current rank in 2003. He entered the Criminal Investigation field serving at Narrabri in 1988 and at Moree and Bourke later on. Detective Inspector Stier was awarded the National Medal in 2003 and the NSW Police Medal in 2004 and has also been awarded the Commissioner's Unit Citation for outstanding service and devotion to duty as part of the NSW Police Force response to the outbreak of equine influenza during 2007/2008 – Operation 'Gambia'.

#### **Sergeant David John Wheatley Supervisor – Brewarrina**

Sergeant Wheatley joined the NSW Police Force after attesting from the NSW Police Academy in Goulburn in 1995. He was stationed at Chatswood and promoted to his current rank in 2006 and posted to his current command in 2008. Sergeant Wheatley was awarded the National Medal in 2001 and the NSW Police Medal in 2007. He has an excellent rapport and reputation amongst the Aboriginal community in Brewarrina where he is into his second term of service. He provides a superior role model for junior police at a disadvantaged station and community.

#### **Sergeant Roger Hedley Mayer Supervisor – State Protection Group Dog Unit**

Sergeant Mayer graduated from the NSW Police Academy in Redfern in 1982 and was stationed at Campbelltown. He was promoted to his current rank in 2002 and posted to his current command in 1989. Sergeant Mayer was awarded the National Medal in 1996; 1<sup>st</sup> clasp to the National Medal in 2004 and the NSW Police Medal in 2003. In 2006 he was awarded the Commissioner's Unit Citation in recognition of meritorious actions during a civil disturbance at Redfern between 15 and 16 February 2004. In 2008 he was awarded a 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner's Unit Citation in recognition of outstanding bravery and dedication to duty as a member of the NSW Police Force response to civil disorder within Miranda, Eastern Beaches, St George and Campsie Local Area Commands.

Between 1978 and 1981, Sergeant Mayer served as a Police officer within the Northern Territory Police Force. Whilst working in the Northern Territory, he learnt the local Aboriginal dialect of Gumatj and became fluent in it. Sergeant Mayer is passionate about the right of Indigenous Australians.

#### **Inspector John Terence Lipman Commander – Traffic and Highway Patrol Command, Traffic Technology Section**

Inspector Lipman joined the NSW Police Force after graduating in 1981 and was stationed at Darlinghurst. He was promoted to his current rank and posted to his current command in 2002. Inspector Lipman was awarded the National Medal in 1997 and the NSW Police Medal in 2003. He was on the Steering Committee which was

instrumental in launching the field trials for the mobile Automatic Number Plate Recognition and In Car Video systems used by the NSW Police Force. He was also the instigator who implemented the new Breath Analysis equipment and was leader of the Steering Committee responsible for introducing random drug testing in 2007.

**Superintendent Desmond John Organ**  
**Commander – Hunter Valley Local Area Command**

Superintendent Organ joined the NSW Police Force in 1974 as a Trainee before attesting at the NSW Police Academy, Redfern in 1975. He was promoted to his current rank in 2005 and posted to his current command in 2008. Superintendent Organ has served at Wollongong, Warilla, Werris Creek, Sussex Inlet, Nowra, Narrabri, Wee Waa and Bathurst. He was awarded the National Medal in 1990 and the NSW Police Medal in 2003. Superintendent Organ has also been awarded the Commissioner's Olympic Citation in 2001 in recognition of valuable contribution to the Police Services during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

**Superintendent Mark Francis Sweeney**  
**Commander – Forensic Services Group, Crime Scene Services Branch**

Superintendent Sweeney joined the NSW Police Force after graduating from the NSW Police Academy, Redfern in 1981. He was promoted to his current rank in 2006 and posted to his current command in 2003. Superintendent Sweeney has served across a number of units including the Crime Scene Unit, Physical Evidence Unit and Prosecuting. He was awarded the National Medal in 1997 and the NSW Police Medal in 2003. He has also been awarded the Commissioner's Commendation for Courage in 1983 for outstanding courage and devotion to duty in relation to a pursuit and arrest of armed offenders in January 1982.

Superintendent Sweeney has been involved in the investigation of many high profile crime scenes and major mass fatality disasters during his 30 years of service including:

- October 1989, he conducted the crime scene investigation of the Vrlic murders at Fairfield where a father killed three of his children before being shot by Police.
- December 1989, he was part of a Response Team that attended the Clybucca tourist coach disaster on the Pacific Highway, Kempsey in which 35 people were killed.
- April 1996, he was part of a NSW Police Force Team that attended the Port Arthur Massacre, where he performed crime scene duties.
- July 1997, he was member of a team that attended the Thredbo Landslide Disaster, where he performed Crime Scene duties in extreme weather conditions.
- December 2004, he was selected as the DVI Post Mortem and Ante Mortem Commander of the Australian Federal Police Operation 'Cawdor', in response to the Indian Ocean Boxing Day Tsunami.
- February 2007, he led a small team at NSW Police Headquarters that co-ordinated the deployment of 2 x 10 person teams of NSW Police that responded to the Victorian Bushfire Disaster.
- February 2011, He formed part of the initial response from NSW with the Urban Search and Rescue Team that was deployed to the Christchurch, New Zealand Earthquake Disaster. He was also put 'on call' following

the New Zealand Disaster to respond to the Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami.

In 2010, Superintendent Sweeney was appointed Chair of the Australian Disaster Victim Identification Committee. He also holds the position of State DVI Commander and represents Australian on the Interpol DVI Steering Committee. He is a key adviser to the NSW Police Force Executive on matters of forensic Procedures.

**Superintendent Terence Joseph Jacobsen**  
**Commander – Human Resources Command, Workforce Management Branch**

Superintendent Jacobsen joined the NSW Police Force as a Trainee in 1972 and attested from the NSW Police Academy, Redfern in 1972. He was promoted to his current rank in 1996 and posted to his current command in 2011. He has served at Prosecuting Branch across a number of regions including Prosecuting Training at the Academy. Superintendent Jacobsen has served as the Commander at Harbourside LAC, Liverpool LAC, Education Services, Airport Policing, Strike Force 'Macinne', and the Transfers and Promotional Branch before being promoted to his current rank. He was awarded the national Medal in 1988 and the NSW Police Medal in 2003.

**Superintendent Elizabeth Anne Stirton**  
**Commander – Albury Local Area Command**

Superintendent Stirton attested as a probationary Constable in 1983 from the NSW Police Academy, Redfern before being stationed at Central. She was promoted to her current rank and posted to her current command in 2011. Superintendent Stirton has served across a number of areas including Sydney District Personnel, Eastern Suburbs Personnel, North Region Command, and Endeavour Region. She was awarded the National Medal in 2000 and the NSW Police Medal in 2004.

**Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW) – Australian Fire Medal**

**Inspector Wayne George Buxton**  
**Duty Commander – Metropolitan East 1 B Platoon**

Inspector Buxton joined the NSW Fire Brigades, now known as Fire & Rescue NSW in 1967. He has worked in a number of locations including Parramatta, Blacktown, The Rocks, City of Sydney, Stanmore, Fire Prevention Department and currently holds the position as the Duty Commander, Metropolitan East 1 B Platoon where he has approximately 100 firefighters and officers under his command. In his current role, Inspector Buxton is responsible for the management of all fire stations and emergency operations in the Metropolitan East 1 Command. Following several tragic fires in backpacker premises, Inspector Buxton spearheaded a taskforce charged with the investigation into these tragic events. Following his recommendations, new legislation specific to back-packer style accommodation was introduced across NSW.

Inspector Buxton is highly regarded among his colleagues and is recognised as an approachable senior officer, always ready to offer sound advice and guidance for junior staff. He has always placed the safety of his staff and the community as a priority.

**Inspector Robert Alexander**  
**Operations Officer – Fire Investigation and Research Unit**

Inspector Alexander has given over 38 years of exemplary service to FRNSW and the community. He currently has state-wide responsibility for the implementation and auditing of fire investigation training ranging from recruit level to specialist full-time investigators within FRNSW. He has frequently been the lead fire investigator at high profile or complex investigations in NSW, interstate and overseas. He led the investigation into the tragic Quakers Hill nursing home fire. His innovative investigation techniques have directly resulted in the push for changes to legislation. Inspector Alexander has travelled overseas to Indonesia and the Solomon Islands to provide fire investigation training to local authorities.

**Station Officer Bruce Cameron**  
**Station Commander – Regentville Fire Station**

Station Officer Cameron has served as a Firefighter for 32 years and has been the recipient of several commendations for action at large bushfires at Terrey Hills and Katoomba. Following the tragic 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami in Indonesia, Station Officer Cameron was deployed to Bandah Aceh where under atrocious conditions he provided logistical support to the Australian medical team. In 2011, he was the team leader of the taskforce involved in the highly publicised rescue of the only survivor from the collapsed CTV building following the Christchurch, New Zealand earthquake. Station Officer Cameron has been instrumental in developing Search and Rescue training packages for all emergency service personnel.

**Captain Robert Raymond Crawford**  
**Captain – Kyogle Fire Brigade**

Captain Crawford joined FRNSW in 1966. Of his 46 years as a Firefighter, 44 have been as captain of Kyogle Fire Brigade. He followed in the footsteps of his father Captain Tib Crawford, who was a founding member of the Kyogle 'volunteer' brigade in 1935. He was appointed captain at the age of 19, the youngest Firefighter to be promoted to the rank. Captain Crawford has been awarded the Queen's Long Service Medal with two clasps and the FRNSW Long Service and Good Conduct Medal with three clasps. He is recognised for his loyal commitment to providing countless community safety messages and local education programmes to the Kyogle and surrounding community. Under his leadership his crew regularly promotes fire safety initiatives at local businesses, schools, factories and nursing homes. He is recognised as a true mentor.

**Captain Kevin Reginald Ryan**  
**Captain – Bathurst Fire Station**

Captain Ryan joined FRNSW in 1969 and is currently in his 43<sup>rd</sup> year of service and his 26<sup>th</sup> as Captain of Bathurst Fire station, one of the busiest brigades. He has excelled in his firefighting management duties by steering the retained crews through the transition period following the recent construction of a new fire station. Captain Ryan is recognised across the state as a key driving force within the Firefighter Championships Association where he has held the position of Executive Councillor since 1990. He has attended every Championship since 1970. Captain Ryan is held in high regard among his peers for his unfailing commitment to his local Brigade and the Bathurst community.

## **Rural Fire Service (RFS) – Australian Fire Service Medal**

### **Superintendent Michael Brooks Manager – Namoi/Gwydir Team, Region North**

Superintendent Brooks joined the NSW Rural Fire Service at Narrabri in 1983. During his career with the RFS, Superintendent Brooks has held a number of positions before being promoted to his current rank. He also holds the position of Fire Control Officer. Superintendent Brooks provided leadership during the formation of the Namoi/Gwydir Team. He has been heavily involved in all manner of emergencies throughout the Namoi Gwydir region, including bushfire emergencies. Superintendent Brooks is a highly respected officer within his local area and among his colleagues.

### **Superintendent David Phillips Manager – Gloucester/Great Lakes, Region East**

Superintendent Phillips first joined the RFS in 1974. During his career he has held a number of positions and is a recognised leader and 'go to' person. He has been active in all aspects of volunteering from brigade management, training, mentoring and assistance and guidance. Superintendent Phillips has been involved in many major fire campaigns and his abilities as a fire manager are well recognised across the Service. He has provided exemplary service demonstrating dedication and leadership for the promotion of not only the districts to which he was attached but of the organisation as a whole. He considered someone younger volunteers and staff can always count on.

### **William (Bill) James Lea Group Captain – Hornsby Ku-ring-gai, Region East**

Bill Lea began his career with the NSW Fire Brigade before joining the West Pennant Hills Bush Fire Brigade before transferring to the Galston Brigade in 1984. In 2005 he was elected Deputy Group Captain for the Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai District and 2008 he became Group Captain. Bill has proven to be an outstanding leader both on the fireground and within incident management teams over many years. He has demonstrated exceptional skills and has provided District Staff valued advice on a range of issues. He was instrumental in setting up the District's breathing apparatus capability and developed the associated training including the design of the hot fire facility of the District and the coordination of structural fire fighting training and exercises.

### **John Charles Mackenzie Secretary/Treasurer – Eumungerie Brigade, Orana Team, Region West**

Mr Mackenzie has served the Eumungerie community and the wider Dubbo area with over 57 years of devoted service to the RFS. He is known to young and old alike as a 'no fuss' person who gets the job done. Mr Mackenzie joined the brigade as a volunteer in 1954 and was elected secretary in 1974 before taking on the role of treasurer in 2006. He has been involved in a number of campaign fires in the Goonoo and Beni Forests. He has shown commitment and dedication to the community in which he lives as well as to the RFS, which he is extremely passionate.

**Alan Geoffery Anderson**  
**Firefighter – Arthurville Brigade, Orana Team, Region West**

Mr Anderson started his volunteer activities when he was just 11 years old. He went on to serve in a number of capacities, including the roles of brigade captain, permit officer and president. He was one of the original Group Captains in the Wellington district. Due to ill health in the past few years, Mr Anderson has been less involved in the on ground firefighting activities, but he continues to be a great resource, providing local knowledge and acting as the brigade contact officer. He is highly respected by his peers and by the community as a quiet achiever who leads by his example of integrity, honesty and a 'can do' attitude. His commitment as a volunteer has been exemplary but due to his modest and humble nature it is often unnoticed.

**Geoffrey William Olsen**  
**Vice President – Dungog Brigade, Lower Hunter Zone, Region East**

Mr Olsen has been a member of the Dungog brigade for over 50 years. In that time he has held the position of Brigade Captain for 17 years, and President between 1984 and 2009. He is still serving as Vice President. Mr Olsen is an energetic, enthusiastic gentleman of outstanding character. His involvement in the operation and advancement of the RFS within Dungog Shire is unparalleled. He has an ability to make people feel at ease with his excellent communication and leadership skills. Members of the Dungog RFS know Mr Olsen as the most honest, reliable, dependable and hardworking gentleman that a volunteer service could wish to have in its ranks and consider it a privilege to work alongside him.

**Captain Donald Norman Langdon**  
**Captain – Rouse Hill Brigade, the Hills District, Region East**

Captain Langdon joined the Rouse Hill Bush Fire Brigade in 1964 and quickly developed excellent skills in bushfire operations and brigade management and was appointed Captain in 1977. Under his leadership, the brigade has grown and continues as a dedicated team of men and women dealing with the incidents both in and outside their District. He has engaged the community to recognise the importance of bushfire preparedness. He has devoted immeasurable time and energy to the Service and is held in the highest regard by all.

**NSW State Emergency Service (SES) – Emergency Services Medal**

**Jon Glenn Gregory**  
**Local Controller – Tumut Unit**  
**Volunteer**

Mr Gregory joined the SES in 1992 and is an electrician by trade. He has continuously demonstrated outstanding leadership, professionalism and dedication to duty and has developed an outstanding rapport with other members of the SES, Tumut Shire Council, the wider Tumut community and the local district emergency management network. As the Local Controller, Mr Gregory has led significant development of a diverse range of capabilities within the Tumut Unit. Mr Gregory is heavily involved in the development of the alpine search and survival capability to support NSW Police in the remote area land search role. He has successfully and safely led the Tumut Unit through significant emergency situations including flash flooding and the effects of heavy rainfall. He has proven outstanding leadership qualities in a diverse community

and emergency management environment. He provides a wonderful example for his community in the best traditions of the NSW SES.

**Patrick John Clague**  
**Manager Communication – SES Headquarters**

Mr Clague has worked tirelessly with volunteer members of the SES since he started in 1990. He has held the positions of Operations Controller and Operations Centre Manager which have seen him accountable for managing the response to over 100 storm incidents, totalling in excess of 100,000 requests for assistance. He has been involved in a number of major events including the Sydney hailstorm in 1999 and the flooding of Wollongong in 1998 among many others. He has also acted as invaluable support in dozens of other incidents. Mr Clague has dedicated extensive time to improving communications and operational response capability of the SES. He has always conducted himself in a highly professional manner. His forward thinking, leadership, organisational skills, technical knowledge and constructive input is valued by all members.

**Marine Rescue (MRNSW) – Emergency Services Medal**

**Bernard Gabriel**  
**Volunteer – Tweed Heads**

Mr Gabriel's involvement with volunteer marine rescue began in 1965 when he became a Foundation Member of Air Sea Rescue Tweed Heads. As a mainline skipper for more than 20 years he has taken part in many rescue operations. There has been enormous demand on marine rescue services on the Queensland/NSW boarder during Mr Gabriel's tenure. He has steered his unit through this period, attracting new members and committed sponsors, maintaining and training and vessel standards and overseeing high quality facilities. His commitment is the epitome of the service given voluntarily by members of MRNSW. At the age of 78, he is still making an active and valuable contribution.

**Robert William Herbert**  
**Volunteer Regional Coordinator – Monaro**

Mr Herbert has been the Regional Coordinator in the Monaro Region since 2010 and is responsible for the Operational deployment of all Marine Rescue vessels and radio facilities from Bateman's Bay to Eden. He has been a member of the Bateman's Bay Unit for over ten years as well as a part time lecturer in Marine Studies at Moruya TAFE. Mr Herbert has been instrumental in the commencement of a process to establish new marine rescue units on our inland waterways. He has a proven and longstanding dedication to training within his local Unit, Regional Units and Marine Rescue NSW. His delivery of service to the boating public and MRNSW has on him the highly regarded support of his peers.

**David Henry Lyall**  
**Volunteer – Broken Bay Marine Rescue Unit**

Mr Lyall is a volunteer member of the Broken Bay Marine Rescue Unit in Sydney's Northern Suburbs. He is also one of a small group of support personnel who volunteer their time and efforts to provide specific subject expertise to the management of the organisation. He is a retired chartered builder, with more than 30 years in private



enterprise in the construction industry and more than 20 years in local government asset and property management. Mr Lyall's vast experience and expertise and the extraordinary amount of time he has devoted to MRNSW has made him a worthy recipient of this medal. He devotes more of his time to advise and assist the organisation and individual units on building and development projects. He is a true example of the volunteer ethos. He makes an invaluable contribution to his state's volunteer marine rescue service by giving his time and knowledge freely without question or thought of compensation.

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