

EMERGENCY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

MEMORIAL SERVICE

11.00 am, Sunday 10th October 2021

Mrs Macquaries Road
The Domain, Sydney



About the Volunteers Memorial

On 1 January 1999 the then Premier of New South Wales, the Honourable Bob Carr MP, announced that a memorial would be established to honour the emergency service volunteers of New South Wales, particularly those who had lost their lives as a result of that service.

The fine tradition of Australians who generously serve their community has often evoked responses from artists to celebrate that service. This memorial to volunteers of the Emergency Services of the State is a collaboration of many branches of the Arts.

Master stonemason, George Proudman, proposed that a “scuntion”, a single massive piece of stone, would eloquently represent the strength and durability of the volunteers. The architect, Richard Leplastrier, embraced this concept in the elegant, simple design for the memorial, in partnership with the Department of Public Works and Services project manager, Ron Powell, and the Government Architect, Chris Johnson.

The 60 tonne scuntion bears the markings of the giant saw the ingenious Stratti Family used to cut the stone from the bedrock at the “Hellhole” Quarry in Pyrmont. A team of stonemasons from the Department of Public Works and Services, led by Alf Pires, carved a perfectly horizontal plane as the celebratory tableau.

Potter, Andrew Halford, sensitively responded with a bowl to serve as a “font” to sit upon the tableau. The bowl is stored in a special box when

not in use and can be transported to distant corners of the state to form the centrepiece of regional ceremonies. Cabinet-maker, Jeffrey Broadfield, has crafted the box from venerable red river gum timber, which has lain under the banks of the Murray River for more than 10,000 years.

The inscriptions in the stone are the work of a team of letter cutters led by Gordon Brown, who is also a volunteer firefighter. The words include Judith Wright’s poem “Landscapes”. Frail health precluded this great poet from writing a new work for the memorial. Publisher, Tom Thompson, generously granted the copyright for this poem, which she had written some four decades earlier.

Peter Sculthorpe adapted Wright’s words into a poignant musical composition, flexibly scored to allow its performance at ceremonies by a single voice or groups of performers. The original score rests on a shelf in the “Broadfield box” and will also travel for use at distant ceremonies.

All involved in the creation of the memorial have donated some of their time and labours in appreciation of the service rendered by the volunteers. It is indeed rare that in a single work so many layers of the Arts have come together to form such a strong collaboration.

The Memorial was dedicated by Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, Governor of New South Wales, at a service hosted by the Honourable Bob Debus MP, Minister for Emergency Services, on 3 of June 2001.





NEW SOUTH WALES

Message from the Minister

Across NSW our community is protected, rescued and assisted by hardworking volunteers from the NSW Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Service, Volunteer Rescue Association and Marine Rescue NSW. Today we come to reflect and honour the brave volunteers who have lost their lives while serving the community.

It's a sobering reminder that, while we do everything we can to ensure the safety of all emergency services members, tragically sometimes these men and women make the ultimate sacrifice while keeping us safe. Sadly, we have four new names to add to the Volunteers Memorial this year.

Today we pay tribute to NSW Rural Fire Service volunteer Jim Shanahan, who was the Deputy Captain of the Hill End Rural Fire Brigade. His wife Gaye was also a member of the brigade and we ask for comfort and strength for her, their children Oliver and Rebecca and all their extended family. Jim had served with the NSW RFS for more than 30 years and held the roles of President, Deputy Captain, Senior Deputy Captain and Brigade Training Officer. On 9 October 2020, Jim returned to the Hill End station after attending a vehicle fire and suffered a heart attack. Our thoughts go out to his fellow brigade members who provided emergency first aid, however Jim tragically passed away.

Our thoughts and condolences are with the family of Keith Lyons, a NSW Rural Fire Service member for more than 11 years. We remember today his wife Sue, his daughter Beth and son Sam and their families. Keith started with the NSW RFS with the Mongarlowe Rural Fire Brigade in 2009 before transferring to the Braidwood Rural Fire Brigade, where he took on the role of the brigade's Health and Safety Officer. Keith served the Braidwood community until his death on 13 May 2020.

We remember NSW Rural Fire Service volunteer Robert Platt, who was killed on duty while protecting the community as part of the Frogmore Rural Fire Brigade on the 28 February 1932. Robert was fighting a fire and felling burning trees with his brigade at Breakfast Creek, near Boorowa, when he was struck by a falling tree branch and killed. We pass on our sincere condolences to his children John, William, Gladys and Vincent, his grandchildren Pamela, Robert, Michael, Marryanne, Matthew, and Mark, and all of Robert's extended family.



We ask for comfort and strength for the family of John Gallimore of Marine Rescue. We remember today particularly his partner and friend Judith Chaytor, his son Andrew who is currently overseas and his brother Richard Gallimore along with the extended family. John was on active duty as a watch officer on the 15th February 2021 when he died of a heart attack while serving the community. We recognise today the members who cared for John on the day of his passing from the Jervis Bay Marine Rescue Unit.

While this memorial service is a time for solemn reflection, it is also a time to take great pride that people still selflessly commit themselves and their families to the service of their communities.

We are incredibly fortunate to have close to 90,000 emergency services volunteers in this state. Without volunteers, our communities would be far less resilient. We are better for the dedication and commitment of every volunteer in NSW.

Hon. David Elliott MP

Minister for Police and Emergency Services



Proceedings

Introduction by MC

National Anthem

*Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are one and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.*

*Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.*



Proceedings

Welcome and Address

By the Honourable David Elliott MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Memorial Service

By the Chaplains of Emergency Service Organisations

Introduction

Senior Chaplain Ray Lotty, VRA Rescue NSW

I am honoured today to welcome each of you, as we come together in a very unique way this year to reflect, to remember, to grieve and to commemorate those whom we have lost from our NSW Emergency Services family.

A.A. Milne wrote, "If there ever comes a day when we can't be together, keep me in your heart, I'll stay there forever."

Celine Dion, in the love theme for the movie 'Titanic', sings, "You live in my heart, and my heart will go on."

So today we reaffirm that our colleagues, whose names are inscribed on the Volunteers Memorial, stay in our hearts forever.

We especially think of the families of NSW RFS members Robert Platt from South West Slopes, Keith Lyons from Lake George, and Jim Shanahan from Chifley/Lithgow, and Marine Rescue member John Gallimore from Jervis Bay, whose names are added to the Memorial this year. May each family member take comfort in knowing that we grieve alongside you, and we regard you as family too, that we are here for you, and that we keep you in our hearts.

To each person joining with us today, thank you. Thank you for being an important part of this time, to reaffirm the bonds of community, memory and hope that sustain us in sorrow and grief.



Proceedings

Readings from Scripture

Senior Chaplain Steve Hall, NSW State Emergency Service

New International Version – 1 Peter 4:10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

New International Version – John 13:35

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

New International Version – John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Gracious God,

we thank you for laying down your life for us. And as we contemplate the incredible truth that greater love has no one than they lay down their life for another, we bring before you all members of the emergency services, and especially those volunteers who have lost their lives in the performance of duty, whose names are enshrined on this memorial. We thank you, Lord, for your presence with us.

Amen



Proceedings

Prayers

Senior Chaplain Ian Spall, NSW Rural Fire Service

Heavenly Father

We're praying for emergency service volunteers who hold dangerous roles where lives often hang in the balance.

When they face danger — be their stronghold.

When they're exhausted — give them Your strength.

When they're overwhelmed — may Your grace be sufficient.

When they don't know what to do — show them.

When they're in trouble — be their ever-present help.

When they're afraid — help them trust in You.

When their heart grows faint — be their Rock.

Bring them through fire, flood and emergency response, that they may praise you.

Grant them your comfort, peace and healing.

Today we pray and mention by name those who died in service to their communities.

We ask for courage, strength and comfort for the family of Robert Platt. We acknowledge today Robert's children Jack, Gladys, Vincent and William. We pray for the grandchildren Pamela, Robert, Julie, Chris, Mark, Peter, Tim, Rosemary, Michael, Maryanne and Matthew together with Robert's great grandchildren Graham and Nicholas along with the extended family. Robert, a member of the Frogmore Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, died in 1932 when he was struck by a tree limb as he was felling burning trees near Boorowa. We want to honour the service and sacrifice given so long ago by Robert as he went about protecting his community and acknowledge the Brigade community who are affected by Robert's passing.

We pray for the family of Keith Lyons, his wife Sue and daughter Beth, her partner Jonathon Ross and the grandchildren Ivy and Jolyon. We acknowledge also Keith's son Sam and partner Harriett Rochester, together with the extended family of Keith. Keith died on the 13th May 2020 of illnesses as the result of his fire-fighting service to the NSW community. We acknowledge his mates from the Braidwood Rural Fire Brigade.



Proceedings

We ask for comfort and strength for the family of Jim Shanahan and make special mention of his beloved wife Gaye, his daughter Rebecca and son in law Michael, his son Oliver and daughter in law Janelle. His grandchildren Charlotte, James, Mikali, Ryan, Kaitlyn and Henry and the extended family. Jim died on the 9th October 2020 following his attendance at a car fire in the early hours of the morning. We also recognise Jim's mates from Hill End Rural Fire Brigade who served and cared for Jim.

We ask for comfort and strength for the family of John Gallimore of Marine Rescue. We remember today particularly his partner and friend Judith Chaytor, his son Andrew who is currently overseas and his brother Richard Gallimore along with the extended family. John was on active duty as a watch officer on the 15th February 2021 when he died of a heart attack while serving the community. We recognise today the members who cared for John on the day of his passing from the Jervis Bay Marine Rescue Unit.

We pray for all who serve in the emergency services of New South Wales. Be with them in times of danger, sustain them in times of stress and grant them the reward of knowing that they have served their community. May we, inspired by the example of those whom we remember today, commit ourselves anew to serve you through serving others and look forward with thanksgiving to that time when sorrow and pain are no more and every tear will be wiped away.

Amen



Proceedings

Memorial Day Message to Emergency Service Volunteers and Families

Senior Chaplain Ray Lotty, VRA Rescue NSW

I want to bring two words to you today – Stewardship and Sacrifice. In simple terms, Stewardship is taking good care of whatever has been entrusted to you. Sacrifice is basically the cost or costs you pay in order to fulfil a role, or to complete a task.

Both of these - Stewardship and Sacrifice - require genuine commitment.

Members of the various Emergency Service organisations in NSW take their Stewardship very seriously. They own the privilege and responsibility of caring for what has been entrusted to them, namely the care and protection of life and property in their community and beyond. And they genuinely commit to that!

And it has its costs. There is the cost of time, both in training, in maintaining equipment, and in responding to emergencies. There is the cost of heading from a place of safety into a place of danger, in order to protect and save others. There is the cost of putting others before self, time and time again. There is often a personal financial cost. There is also often the cost of health and wellbeing – physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

And some of these costs are also borne by family members and employers, who support our incredible volunteers as they, in turn, support us.

And, as the Scripture passage in John 15:13 says, “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down their life for a friend”, there is the ultimate cost of one’s life.

Today, each of us comes together, although not physically, certainly in spirit, in a shared grief, and a shared love. But we are also united in a shared hope, and a shared desire to honour and to remember those who have paid that ultimate sacrifice. They have truly been great stewards of the life and property entrusted to them.

They leave us with an incredible legacy that lives on in us, just as certainly as their memory and sacrifice live on in us.

And as good stewards of all that is entrusted to us, may we make those who have gone before us just as proud of us as we are of them!



Proceedings

Sunset

Roll of Honour

The Lament

NSW SES Piper

Laying of Tributes

- **Minister for Emergency Services**
- **Representatives of the Emergency Services**

Minute of Silence

Poem

“Landscapes” by Judith Wright 1915-2000

*To look at landscapes loved by the newly dead
is to move into the dark cloud and out again.
Every brilliant leaf that lives by light
dies from its hold at last desire's earth's bed:
men and trees and grasses daily falling
make that veil of beauty for her. Slight
aeons of soil and rock, of grass on soil, of men
standing on grass, can't hide her outcrops. Stone -
stone our mother locks in, tongueless, without feeling,
our far blind brothers, future and past who had no luck
and never was born. And now the newly dead
is lowered there. Now we weep for eyes whose look
is closed on landscapes loved, and at last known*

The Benediction

Senior Chaplain Steve Hall, NSW State Emergency Service

May you know God's presence with you, His provision ever before you, and His protection all around you. May you travel your journey through life knowing that you do not travel it alone. Be good stewards of all that has been entrusted to you. And in so doing, put a smile on the face of God himself.



History of Volunteer Emergency Service Organisations



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

NSW Rural Fire Service

The serious fires that took place in Victoria and New South Wales in 1896 were the most likely catalyst for the formation of the first bush fire brigades. The first formally recognised Brigade in Australia was established in New South Wales at Berrigan in 1901. These brigades proved so successful that the Local Government Act of 1906 authorised councils to form bush fire brigades throughout the State.

Periodic revisions of the legislation over the years have culminated in the Rural Fires Act, 1997. The Act not only formally recognises volunteer rural fire brigades but also includes aspects relating to the planning and coordination of bushfire fighting and bushfire prevention.

Strong funding support as well as technological improvements has enabled the Service to significantly upgrade its tanker fleet and provide the community with a high level of professional service.

Improvements in communications have resulted in greater efficiencies and faster response times to a variety of emergencies. The Service's record and infrastructure means that in addition to being called upon to respond to major bush fire emergencies, the Rural Fire Service also assists with other natural disasters that impact on life and property throughout NSW.

Today, the NSW Rural Fire Service has in the order of 74,000 volunteer members in more than 2,000 brigades across the State. These brigades provide protection to more than 1,200 towns and villages and approximately 90 per cent of the landmass of New South Wales.





NSW State Emergency Service

The New South Wales State Emergency Service (NSW SES) was established in 1955 in response to extensive flooding that occurred in the Hunter Valley and North-West New South Wales. The NSW Government identified the need to involve communities in strategic planning for, and response to, flood and storm emergencies. NSW SES was formed to meet this need. Since that time, the Service has expanded to include preparing for and responding to tsunamis, with a wide variety of other emergency response roles becoming part of the services the volunteer-based organisation offers.

The NSW SES exists to mitigate the risk and consequence of emergencies in communities. It is the lead combat agency for floods, storms and tsunamis as specified by the State Emergency Service Act 1989 (NSW). All NSW SES Units respond to damage caused by storms and have an active role in flood management. NSW SES volunteers are highly skilled, experienced and well trained in the wide variety of roles they perform. In addition to responding to flood, storm and tsunamis, NSW SES provides specialist capabilities including general land rescue, vertical rescue, road-crash rescue, alpine and remote area search and rescue. NSW SES frequently assists other emergency services in a variety of roles, including searches for evidence and missing people in support of with NSW Police Force, community first responder roles in rural locations with the Ambulance Service of NSW and support to the NSW Rural Fire Service.

The NSW SES includes over 9,300 volunteer members in 258 volunteer Units and 340 staff.





VRA Rescue NSW

The VRA Rescue NSW is an affiliation of over 70 volunteer rescue and support organisations with more than 3,500 volunteers and covering all forms of emergency operations. These include the primary response general land, inland water and vertical rescue units. Specialist units involving wilderness, white-water and cave rescue as well as ski patrols, aerial patrols, communications units and grief and trauma counselling organisations are also affiliated. The VRA Rescue NSW attends an average of 8,000 calls annually and contributes an average of 400,000 volunteer hours annually. The VRA Rescue NSW has been heavily involved at incidents including the Granville train crash, Newcastle earthquake and the Thredbo Landslide. The VRA Rescue NSW assists Police with search, crime scene preservation and emergency lighting.

The VRA Rescue NSW is made up entirely of volunteers. The first Volunteer Rescue Association affiliate, Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue was formed in 1936. The first inland rescue squad, the Wagga Wagga Rescue Squad, was formed in 1950 followed by the Dubbo Rescue Squad in 1962. In 1969, delegates from volunteer rescue squads in Albury, Dubbo, Narrandera and Wagga Wagga formed the Volunteer Rescue Association. During the 1960s and 1970s, with the support of all emergency services, Volunteer Rescue Association rescue squads were formed throughout NSW to provide dedicated rescue resources to urban and rural communities alike.

Today the VRA Rescue NSW is the second largest provider of primary response rescue units within NSW. Indeed, it is significant that volunteers from the State Emergency Service and the VRA Rescue NSW provide two-thirds of the primary response rescue units in the State.





Marine Rescue NSW

Marine Rescue NSW began operation on the 1st of January 2010. It is an amalgamation of units from the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol, the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association and the marine elements of the VRA Rescue NSW. This initiative has established a single maritime emergency service, working in cooperation with our fellow volunteer emergency services units of the Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Service and the VRA Rescue NSW and the paid emergency service personnel, protecting and supporting our NSW community.

The history of volunteer marine rescue in NSW began in 1937 and the enormous contribution made over the subsequent 73 years by the members of the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol, the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard and the marine elements of the VRA Rescue NSW is acknowledged, as is the supreme sacrifice made by members of those organisations.

Volunteer marine rescue units perform more than 2,000 rescue missions a year, assisting more than 5,000 people and boats to the value of \$250 million.

Marine Rescue NSW assists and supports the NSW Police Force Marine Area Command as well as working with units of the Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service during major emergencies. Assistance is also provided to NSW Maritime and other government agencies in support of major aquatic events such as the start of the Sydney to Hobart yacht race, New Year's Eve and Australia Day.

Marine Rescue NSW has 88 vessels at 44 locations with 3100 operational personnel providing an around the clock service in radio safety communication, marine search and rescue and public education.



TO HONOUR THOSE EMERGENCY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS
WHO HAVE SERVED THE PEOPLE OF NEW SOUTH WALES
AND IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES
IN THE COURSE OF DUTY.

NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

1932	Platt	Robert	South West Slopes
1952	Mitchison	John	Wollongong
1957	Cooper	Claude	Blue Mountains
1964	McLean	John	Quirindi
1965	Luck	Fred	Wollongong
	Moses	Ivan	Coolamon
	Mills	Tom	Mulwaree
	Peden	Bruce	Mulwaree
1967	Maher	Robert	Gundagai
1968	Bell	Leonard	Warringah
	Chalmers	Tom	Blue Mountains
	Eley	Greg	Blue Mountains
	Hawkins	Peter	Blue Mountains
1970	Norman	Geoffrey	Urana
1975	Hudson	Neil	Cobar
1976	Gartrell	Reg	Wollondilly
1977	Delardes	Leslie	Sutherland
1979	Carter	Colin	Gosford
	Regan	Arthur	Temora
	Steele	Grant	Warringah
	Stratton	David	Cabonne
1980	Foster	Gordon	Albury (CFA)
	Griffith	Colin	Mudgee
	Crunkhorn	Steven	Sutherland
	Cummings	William	Sutherland
	Marshall	David	Sutherland
	Rolfe	Gregory	Sutherland
	Stedman	Vernon	Sutherland
1981	Stimson	Charlie	Wollongong
1982	Dawson	Fred	Blue Mountains
1983	Bielecke	Thomas	Sutherland
	Campbell	Keith	Sutherland
	Moon	Gregory	Sutherland
1984	Wittheford	Colin	Dubbo
1985	Allen	Malcolm	Yarrowlumla
	Gouge	William	Yass
	Sawley	Joe	Yass
1986	Eastburn	Harry	Narrabri
1987	O'Brien	David	Windouran



1987	Rolles	Allan	Gundagai
	Rolles	Paul	Gundagai
1988	Parkes	Jason	Wellington
	Rendell	Allan	Sutherland
1989	Mangelsdorf	Lyal	Temora
1990	Callan	Christopher	Berrigan
1991	Greathead	Sidney	Hornsby
1994	Anthes	Norman	Lithgow
	Page	Robert	Wingecarribee
	Westwood	Clinton	Wollondilly
1997	Cox	Raymond	Greater Taree
	Eather	Colin	Lithgow
	Hughes	Ted	Lithgow
	Estcourt	Peter	Sutherland
	Williams	Terry	Parkes
1998	Julius	Harry	Inverell
	Quinlivan	David	Wingecarribee
1999	Cayirylys	William	Bellingen
	McCormick	Peter	Greater Taree
2000	Gehrig	Patrick	Dungog
2001	Beesley	Michael	Hume
	King	Bob	Shoalhaven
2002	Bromfield	John	Temora
	Overton	John	Lithgow
	O'Shaughnessy	Michael	Blue Mountains
2003	Margerison	Alan	Kiama Shellharbour
	Robertson	Angela	Lake Macquarie
	Hanly	Michael	Nundle
2004	Patton	Graham	Singleton
2005	Jackson	Colin	Lismore
2011	Deppeler	Donald	Blacktown
2013	Maria	Michael	Lake George
2014	Witton	Peter	Kyogle
2015	Sanderson	Paul	Cessnock
2016	Nieuwenhuis	Jitte	Palerang
2017	Hankinson	Jennifer	Richmond Valley
2018	Mills	Peter	Central Coast
2019	Bell	Phillip	Namoi Gwydir
	Long	Ian	Southern Highlands
	Panitz	Robert	Lower North Coast
	Keaton	Geoffrey	Cumberland
	O'Dwyer	Andrew	Cumberland
	McPaul	Samuel	Southern Border
	Burns	Colin	Far South Coast
2020	Lyons	Keith	Lake George
	Shanahan	Jim	Chifley/Lithgow



NSW STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

1969	Morton	Ray	Southern Highlands
1971	McDermot	Anthony	Illawarra/South Coast
1981	Bowden	John	Wollondilly
1993	Fisher	Donald	Lower Hunter
1996	Dick	Charles	Illawarra/South Coast
1998	West	Jean	Namoi
1999	Connelly	Ramsey	Southern Highlands
2001	North	George	Portland
2002	Molloy	Robert	Hurstville
2007	Lilley	Albert	Wauchope
2010	Bassam	Ian	Bankstown
2018	Martin	Billy	Shellharbour City

VRA RESCUE NSW

1986	Griffiths	David	Lithgow & District
2003	Freeman	Michael	Australian Civil Air Patrol
	Watermeyer	Alan	Australian Civil Air Patrol
	Busic	David	Australian Civil Air Patrol
	Dyce	Lisa	Australian Civil Air Patrol

MARINE RESCUE NSW

2021	Gallimore	John	Jervis Bay
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AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEER COAST GUARD ASSOCIATION

1983	Waddell	David	Ballina
2004	Bristow	Edward	Port Stephens

ROYAL VOLUNTEER COASTAL PATROL

2002	Matthews	Dennis	Lake Macquarie
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Acknowledgments

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Top Notch Video