



# 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 Michael Gallacher has congratulated the NSW Police and Emergency Service personnel who have received awards in today's Queen's Birthday Honours.

Eight NSW Police officers have received the Australian Police Medal, five Firefighters from Fire & Rescue NSW and six from the Rural Fire Service have been awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal, one member of the NSW State Emergency Service and three Marine Rescue NSW members have received the Emergency Services Medal.

"This is a huge honour for these men and women who, every day, dedicate their lives to assisting others," Minister Gallacher said.

"Today's Queen's Birthday Honours celebrations are an opportunity for colleagues, family, friends and indeed members of the community to recognise the contribution made by our emergency service personnel.

"Today's award recipients should be very proud of their achievement, and though I know none of them entered the field of emergency services for awards and accolades, they are very deserving of them.

"We have seen over the past 12 months the devastation and destruction mother nature can cause, be it fires or flooding, and it is these brave men and women who give up their weekends, holidays, family time and in many cases their every day jobs, to ensure the safety and welfare of those in need.

"To be an emergency service worker, be it a full time staff member or volunteer, in the eyes of the community, you are every day heroes, very deserving of today's medals.

"I congratulate you all on a wonderful achievement," Minister Gallacher concluded.

ENDS

**MEDIA: Tess Salmon 0467 740 017**

*\*\* List and biographies of recipients on the next page*

# NSW POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

## QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY 2013 HONOURS LIST

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### Australian Police Medal (APM) – NSW Police Force

#### **Detective Chief Inspector Daniel John Sharkey**

Detective Chief Inspector Sharkey joined the NSW Police Force and was attested as a Probationary Constable in 1979, initially stationed at Regent Street.

Detective Chief Inspector Sharkey has worked almost exclusively as an operational police officer, primarily in criminal investigation.

Since 2009 he has served as the Commander, Target Action Group, Lake Illawarra Local Area Command, responsible for the leadership and deployment of diverse teams including the Proactive Crime Team, Drug Unit, Weapons Training Unit, Crash Investigation Unit, and Highway Patrol.

He is also the Local Emergency Operations Controller for the Kiama and Shellharbour Local Government Areas, responding to bushfires, storm and flood events in the last 10 years.

#### **Superintendent David Gregory Simmons**

Superintendent Simmons joined the NSW Police Force and was attested as a Probationary Constable in 1977, initially stationed at Dee Why.

The majority of Superintendent Simmons' service has been in regional and outback NSW. He has over the years formed a close, cooperative and productive working relationship with many Aboriginal and other communities.

Of particular note were his efforts to restore confidence amongst staff at the Deniliquin Local Area Command, following a period of significant instability prior to his arrival as Commander. That success saw him appointed in 2009 as the Commander, Wagga Wagga Local Area Command to address similar issues.

Superintendent Simmons also led the NSW Police Force response to the significant flood emergency in the Riverina during March 2012.

#### **Detective Superintendent Scott Joseph James Whyte**

Detective Superintendent Whyte joined the NSW Police Force and was attested as a Probationary Constable in 1983, initially stationed at Central Police Station.

Detective Superintendent Whyte's career has centred on major criminal investigation, in the areas of homicide, drug crime, gang related organised crime and counter terrorism.

Detective Superintendent Whyte is currently the Commander, Terrorism Investigations Squad and has previously held the positions of Commander Drugs Squad and Commander, Organised Crime Squad.

He has led the development and implementation of the NSW Police Force 'e@gle i' investigation system and has also tirelessly campaigned for charity, being involved for over a decade in supporting Special Olympics NSW.

### **Chief Superintendent Anthony Trichter**

Chief Superintendent Trichter joined the NSW Police Force and was attested as a Probationary Constable in 1984, initially stationed at Redfern.

Chief Superintendent Trichter has served primarily in prosecutor and legal services roles, and was appointed to his current position as Commander, Police Prosecutions Command in 2009.

Chief Superintendent Trichter designed and implemented the modern day Police Prosecutor Education Program, established systems for the provision of legal support for major crime investigations, and introduced Law Notes, a weekly publication for police officers statewide on legal issues. He has also successfully introduced the Accelerated Prosecutor Recruitment Program and other strategies to increase staff levels and retention. He serves on a number of high level Committees, including the Children's Court Advisory Committee.

### **Detective Senior Sergeant Roslyn Ann Keys**

Detective Senior Sergeant Keys joined the NSW Police Force and was attested as a Probationary Constable in 1980, initially stationed at Parramatta.

Detective Senior Sergeant Keys has performed the majority of her career in the criminal investigation field.

In 1995, she was the first female police officer to be transferred into a substantive criminal investigative position at the Armed Holdup Unit, Major Crime Squad, South Region.

She is currently the Staff Officer to the Commander, Coordinated Response Group, Counter Terrorism & Special Tactics Command, a position held since 2007.

She is involved in the NSW Police Council of Sports and previously with the NSW Police Games, and has represented the NSW Police Force at International Law Enforcement Olympic events.

## **Superintendent Mark Steven Walton**

Superintendent Walton joined the NSW Police Force and was attested as a Probationary Constable in 1984, initially stationed at Kogarah.

Superintendent Walton is the Commander, City Central Local Area Command, one of the largest and busiest Commands in NSW. The Command encompasses the majority of the Sydney CBD, where about 750,000 people visit on a daily basis. He has maintained close ties with the local Chinese and broader Asian community that make up a majority of the local residents.

He has previously served as the Commander at Eastern Suburbs Local Area Command and Redfern Local Area Command, been the Staff Officer to the Deputy Commissioner, Field Operations, and held roles at the Professional Standards Command.

## **Senior Constable Imants (Ian) Ramma**

Senior Constable Ramma joined the NSW Police Force and was attested as a Probationary Constable in 1971, initially stationed at Central.

Senior Constable Ramma has over 41 years of distinguished service with the NSW Police Force, a majority of his service being in the New England Highway Patrol in the Tenterfield area.

Tragically, Senior Constable Ramma's youngest son was killed in a motor vehicle crash on the New England Highway at Tenterfield – the same roadway patrolled by Senior Constable Ramma. Despite the loss and trauma suffered by Senior Constable Ramma and his family, he declined offers of transfer and patrols the same roadway to this day.

He has an unblemished career, exemplary considering the thousands of motorists he has encountered. In a letter to the Commissioner of Police, radio broadcaster Alan Jones thanked Senior Constable Ramma for the way he was dealt with, despite receiving an infringement notice.

## **Superintendent Mark Alan Hiron**

Superintendent Hiron joined the NSW Police Force and was attested as a Probationary Constable in 1979, initially stationed at Campbelltown.

Superintendent Hiron has served in general duties and criminal investigation roles at several locations across Western and South Western Sydney.

He was promoted to the rank of Superintendent as Commander of the Miranda Local Area Command in 2007. In 2010, he was appointed to his current position as Commander, Operational Safety & Skills Command.

In this role he has moulded four separate units into one cohesive unit and improved the delivery of weapons and tactics training for operational police across the state.

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

### **Superintendent Christopher Edward Lewis**

Superintendent Lewis joined Fire & Rescue NSW in 1980, and has provided professional service to the people of NSW for over 33 years.

As Manager of the Fire Investigation and Research Unit, he has played a critical role in new and innovative fire investigation methods at both the state and national level. He led the reconstruction research burns in the aftermath of the tragic Quakers Hill Nursing Home fire, which resulted in legislative change to mandate the fitting of sprinklers in all residential aged care facilities. He has overseen the state's fire investigation methodologies which has resulted in an almost 50% reduction in arson related fires in NSW since 2001.

Superintendent Lewis is highly regarded amongst his peers and other emergency service personnel throughout Australia and internationally for his immense knowledge, passion and dedication to this highly specialised and demanding field.

### **Station Officer Graham Tait**

Station Officer Tait joined Fire & Rescue NSW in 1982, and has provided professional service to the people of NSW for over 30 years.

He has dedicated the last 8 years of his service to the field of Operational Communications where he has provided exemplary leadership in the specialist area of emergency communications systems. His skills were put to the full test during his deployment to the 2011 Christchurch Earthquake and Japanese Tsunami disasters.

Station Officer Tait is highly regarded amongst his peers and other emergency service personnel throughout Australia and internationally for his immense knowledge, passion and dedication to this highly specialised and demanding field.

### **Senior Firefighter Cathryn Monica Dorahy**

Senior Firefighter Dorahy joined Fire & Rescue NSW in 1994, and has provided professional service to the people of NSW for 19 years.

During this time she has dedicated herself to improving fire safety outcomes for identified at-risk members of the community, and in particular has worked tirelessly to form links with Islamic women, who were not being reached effectively by traditional fire service education programs.

In 2005 Senior Firefighter Dorahy became a foundation member of Women and Firefighting Australia, promoting firefighting to women and girls as an interesting and rewarding career choice. She has personally mentored dozens of women who have entered the firefighting profession, and has worked with management to increase the number of women employed as firefighters.

Senior Firefighter Dorahy has also volunteered for a number of organisations, while continuing to work as a front line firefighter, responding to thousands of fires,

accidents, natural disasters and other emergencies. She is an exemplary and highly respected member of the firefighting profession.

### **Captain Robert John Tinker**

Captain Tinker joined Fire & Rescue NSW in 1968, and has provided professional service to the people of NSW for 45 years, particularly the community of Parkes.

As the Captain of the Parkes Brigade for over 19 years, he has been directly responsible for influencing improvements to fire service delivery by working closely with other emergency services and through effective planning, consultation and team building has influenced a positive shift in workplace culture and work practices.

He is recognised as a mentor to younger firefighters, not just in Parkes, but across the western regions of the state. His work amongst the Parkes community has enhanced the reputation of Fire & Rescue NSW and particularly the Parkes Brigade as a well-respected and vital asset to the community of NSW.

### **Captain Darrell (Billy) Paul**

Captain Paul joined Fire & Rescue NSW in 1969, and has provided professional service to the people of NSW for 44 years.

As the Captain at Canowindra for 34 years, he is renowned throughout rural NSW as a keen advocator of operational training programmes, particularly the Firefighting Championships held regularly throughout regional NSW. His crew at Canowindra are recognised as a well-rehearsed and professional emergency service, able to respond and deal with all types of emergencies and natural disasters.

He is recognised throughout the Canowindra community, not just as a firefighter, but also as a hard working business person, farmer, and dedicated member of numerous sporting and community groups including the local Lions Club. He is highly respected by his peers and by other Canowindra emergency services for his dedication to the community and his Brigade.

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

#### **Superintendent Arthur James Sharp**

Superintendent Sharp joined the NSW Rural Fire Service in 1981, and has provided over 30 years of dedicated service as both a volunteer and salaried member of staff.

He was instrumental in improvements to the Cowra district's assets through tanker replacement and construction of new brigade stations, and in the roll out of specialist training across the district.

He has been involved in Incident Management Teams and led Strike Teams to fires and major incidents. He also drove an extensive Hazard Reduction, Fire Trail Rehabilitation & Construction Program to enhance the protection of communities in the Blayney, Cowra, Cabonne and Orange City Local Government Areas from fire.

Superintendent Sharp is the Superintendent of the Canobolas Zone in western NSW.

### **Superintendent Christopher Thomas Favelle**

Superintendent Favelle joined the NSW Rural Fire Service in 1974, and has provided almost 40 years of dedicated service as both a volunteer and salaried member of staff.

Superintendent Favelle has spent much of his career in western NSW and is the Manager, Far West Team. He has also taken on the additional challenging role of Manager of the Barwon Darling Zone, an area of 250,000 square kilometres of the most remote area of the state.

During his career he has been involved in developing training, updating tanker fleets, upgrading the radio network, building new brigade stations, and obtaining personal protective equipment. He has also fought to retain fire management schemes in the Far West and has developed strong relationships with other agencies and local councils in the Far West.

### **Deputy Captain Keith Stanley Robinson**

Deputy Captain Robinson joined the NSW Rural Fire Service in 1958 at just 16 years of age, and has provided 54 years of dedicated service.

Deputy Captain Robinson was integral to the development of Bulli Brigade in their early years. He made significant contributions to the design and construction of brigade tankers during the early years. He instigated and built a rapid response vehicle which could get up the steep and rugged terrain of Bulli Mountain. He was also the driving force behind the District's first bulk water tanker which he built from the ground up.

His dedication and leadership saw him work tirelessly to recruit and motivate members, ensuring continued protection needed in the Illawarra area. Many of his recruits have gone on to have fire fighting careers throughout Australia and with other agencies.

Deputy Captain Robinson stood down as Deputy Captain of the Illawarra Zone in 2012

### **Group Captain Garry Albert Kadwell**

Group Captain Kadwell joined the NSW Rural Fire Service in 1989, and has provided almost 25 years of dedicated service.

Group Captain Kadwell is Group Captain within the Upper Lachlan District and has been heavily involved in his local brigade at Crookwell.

Group Captain Kadwell gives freely of his time and knowledge to his fellow fire fighters and as a qualified Rural Fire Instructor, regularly assists with training being delivered to the volunteers.

He has shown great leadership not only in his local area, but across NSW and on deployments to other States and Territories. In 2009, he led a task force from the Southern Tablelands Zone to the Victorian fire grounds following the Black Saturday fires. He is also a qualified Aircraft Officer, seeing him deployed across NSW, establishing Air Base Operations, and mentoring other officers in use of aircraft.

### **Group Captain Elizabeth Mary Ferris**

Group Captain Ferris joined the NSW Rural Fire Service in 1990, and has provided 22 years of dedicated service.

Group Captain Ferris has been an extremely active fire fighter during her service and has been involved in the majority of significant bush fire campaigns that have affected the New England and adjoining Districts. She has also been a regular out-of-area campaigner, including serving as an interstate Strike Team Leader during the 2009 Black Saturday fires in Victoria.

Group Captain Ferris, a Group Captain at New England Zone, was among the first female field officers in the District and is a strong advocate for women being more actively involved in the Rural Fire Service.

She has also participated in international deployment to Botswana and represented the Rural Fire Service at a conference in South Africa.

### **Captain Ronald Headon**

Captain Headon joined the NSW Rural Fire Service in 1970, and has provided over 40 years of dedicated service.

Captain Headon is the Captain at the Hay Headquarters Brigade and is in the unique position of being the Brigade's only Captain for the past 21 years.

He has developed design of a number of tankers and is regularly at the station attending to equipment maintenance and making or adapting equipment to improve brigade efficiency. He is also part of the local community education team assisting deliver the fire safety message to the local community.

He has led numerous Hay Strike Teams to provide out-of-area assistance in locations such as Glen Innes, Nowra, Victoria, and South Australia.

### **Emergency Services Medal (ESM) – NSW State Emergency Service**

#### **Mr Leslie Eric Milne**

Mr Milne joined the NSW State Emergency Service in 1986 and has been a dedicated volunteer for over 26 years.

Through Mr Milne's leadership as the Fairfield Local Controller, the Fairfield Unit has over 60% of members having an ethnic background, reflecting the diversity of the local population. The positive environment, training and good management and



administration of the unit has attracted members from other units. Mr Milne has taken the Unit from strength to strength.

Mr Milne has built strong relationships with other emergency services organisations and with the local community. He has participated in a number of key emergency operations, including the Newcastle earthquake, serious Sydney and Canberra bushfires, the Thredbo landslide, and Sydney major storm events. Other operational activities have included missing person searches, emergency disaster exercises and humanitarian aid activities.

### **Emergency Services Medal (ESM) – Marine Rescue NSW**

#### **Ms Aileen (Joan) Noble**

Ms Noble joined the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol (one of the precursor organisations to Marine Rescue NSW) in 2001.

As a volunteer at Kioloa on the south coast, Ms Noble is fully qualified for marine rescue duties and has served in a number of roles including Marine Radio Operator, Secretary, Treasurer, and Deputy Unit Commander.

She has been central to obtaining grants to refurbish and extend the Kioloa base, and in conducting fundraising activities. She is dedicated and committed, always available to help anyone in need of assistance, and motivates others to make the Unit not just a working service but an outstanding Unit.

#### **Ms Patricia Dorothy Fayers**

Ms Fayers joined the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol (one of the precursor organisations to Marine Rescue NSW) in 1998.

Ms Fayers immediately became involved in any and all courses available, including attaining the rank of Skipper One, where she was involved in many assists and rescues. She is continuously undertaking further training.

In 2006 she became Divisional Commander, a position held during the transition of the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol to Marine Rescue NSW. This was a period of uncertainty and new arrangements, but Ms Fayers made the transition smooth and successful for members. She has been the Unit Commander of the Central Coast Unit since 2012, which has over 130 active members.

Ms Fayers has fostered and maintained morale and camaraderie, and shown great compassion for members and their welfare. She has been integral to the acquisition/construction of four lifeboats for the Unit, and has been central to fundraising events and securing grants.

#### **Mr James Lindsay Glissan QC**

Mr Glissan QC joined the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (one of the precursor organisations to Marine Rescue NSW) in 2008.

He is a volunteer member with Marine Rescue Botany Bay and is Chair of the Marine Rescue NSW Board of Directors.

Mr Glissan QC served on the group established by the NSW Government to guide the creation of Marine Rescue NSW in 2009/10, bringing three separate marine rescue organisations into a single integrated service. He was elected by volunteers to the Board of Directors and subsequently elected as Chair of the Board.

Mr Glissan's professional expertise ensured that the new organisation was able to meet its legal requirements and establish a secure legal, governance and financial foundation.

Under his leadership, the Board has worked constructively with Marine NSW management and volunteers to set a strategic direction for the organisation, and has helped steer the organisation through the challenges arising from the amalgamation of three separate services.