

**2009 Recipients of the SA Emergency Service Medals
& Ministerial Commendations
Presented on 25 November 2009**

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDALS

Tricia (Trish) Vogel

Manager Patient Services – SA Ambulance Service

Trish is the Manager Patient Services in the Murray region and has been employed by the SA Ambulance Service since 1990.

In February 2008, Trish was successful in gaining a voluntary position as Paramedic Clinical Trainer through Australian Volunteers International located in Vanuatu (Trish took 18 months leave to undertake this voluntary work). While in this position Trish was responsible for developing and implementing various training programmes, policies and procedures and prepared funding submissions for corporate sponsorship.

These activities were undertaken in very trying conditions, with cultural challenges in an under developed country. Another major hurdle for Trish was her gender and the barriers she had to break down in a male dominated society in order for her to complete her tasks.

Whilst deployed in Vanuatu, Trish required medical treatment which required her to return to Australia for treatment. While Trish could have opted to not return to Vanuatu following her treatment, she did return and completed her volunteer work.

Trish's outstanding achievements during her voluntary deployment through Australian Volunteers International in Vanuatu, has been well recognised and she is using the skills she developed from her deployment in leading a review of the Upper Murray Service Delivery.

Stephen Charles Bigg

Telecommunications Manager – SA Ambulance Service

Stephen commenced with the SA Ambulance Service in 1984 as a Technical Officer and is currently the Telecommunications Manager.

Stephen has been nominated for his commitment and dedication to the ongoing development of the technical systems that support the SA Ambulance Service Emergency Operation Centre which enables the receipt of triple zero calls and dispatch of ambulance resources for the community of South Australia.

Stephen played an integral part in the implementation of the SA Government Radio Network. He was not only responsible for the technical issues but was also accountable for the establishment of a state wide training network for the roll out of SA Government Radio Network radios and pagers for the SA Ambulance Service.

In his current role Stephen often refers to himself as the "humble technician" which is an understatement of his value to the organisation. Both staff and managers see Stephen as a dedicated, solution orientated, community focussed and valued member of SA Ambulance.

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Leon Cutting

Regional Team Leader (Clare) – SA Ambulance Service

Leon has been employed by the SA Ambulance Service since August 1982 and currently holds the position of Regional Team Leader, Clare and districts. Leon has previously received a National Medal and a 25 year service award.

In the past two years Leon has been very successful in managing two volunteer recruitment drives which has resulted in over 40 new members joining his team. This has enabled teams to provide a 24/7 roster coverage a majority of the time.

Leon's enthusiastic and proactive approach with his recruitment drive includes walking the streets talking to potential members, canvassing businesses, mail box drops, flyers and timely use of media opportunities.

Leon's commitment included conducting both weekend and week day courses to meet the demand of the new members. While this has been very time consuming, Leon has continued to meet the requirements of his management role exceptionally.

This year Leon has also been involved in the organisational committee for the inaugural State Volunteer conference.

He has consistently demonstrated an ability to rise to any challenge, is passionate about his work and has an immense level of dedication and support to SA Ambulance Service.

Peter Grant Edgcumbe

Retired Deputy Group Officer - CFS

Peter joined the CFS in April 1980 as a fire fighter with the Tantanoola brigade and has held numerous positions over his 29 years with the CFS. He has previously received a National Medal & First Clasp, CFS Medal and 20 year clasp and CFS Life Membership.

Peter has been committed to additional involvement in Incident Management at a regional and state level. He has shown a commitment to the training of volunteers as chief assessor for level 2 courses and as a trainer assessor for the basic fire fighter course.

His commitment to the volunteers of his brigade, group and region is also demonstrated by his position as Group Occupational Health and Safety Representative for the past 10 years and Vice President of the South East CFS Volunteer Association since 1999.

In recognition of his extensive volunteer and management experience, Peter was called on to participate in numerous deployments outside of his group such as Divisional Commander on Kangaroo Island and Strike Team Leader to Victoria and New South Wales.

Due to medical conditions, Peter unfortunately has not been able to carry out active and operational roles within the CFS and Volunteer Association and retired from all operations in September this year.

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Greg Napier

Captain, CFS Port Lincoln Brigade

Greg joined the CFS in 1998 and has held the position of Lieutenant and Captain with the Port Lincoln Brigade.

During the Proper Bay Fire in January this year, Greg was the first responding officer where he took a lead role in fire fighting operations. Greg's action at the front line saw him operating on foot at the fire's front and coordinating multiple resources in a head on attack. His actions saved multiple houses and structures from devastation.

Greg's experiences and extensive understanding of fire behaviour was pivotal in the placement of appliances and personnel who successfully stopped the fire spreading. Greg's bravery and that of his crew were the success of this operation and without them the effects of the Proper Bay fire would have been far more devastating to the City of Port Lincoln and its residents.

Trevor Arnold

Commander, Special Operations Training & Safety - SES

Trevor commenced with the SES in a voluntary capacity in 1984. Over the last 25 years Trevor has ethically and diligently served the community and fellow SES members and has been instrumental in promoting the profile and public image of SES.

Due to his dedication, professionalism and high level of motivation, Trevor now holds the high ranking position of Commander, Special Operations Training & Safety. Trevor's extensive innovative and analytical abilities have ensured that the reputation and future of SES operations are held in the highest regards.

Trevor has been instrumental in the provision of rescue services; defining and maintaining standards and extensive training development by both creating and embracing new ideas.

Trevor serves on numerous committees, working closely with a range of Commonwealth and State agencies, community and public groups. He also avails his time to community events which along with the comprehensive list of committees, demonstrates his devotion to the SES.

Trevor has also previously been awarded the National Emergency Services Medal.

His sustained pursuit of excellence in providing the highest level of rescue operations for the South Australian community goes far beyond what his position requires and merits his nomination for the South Australian Emergency Services Medal.

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John Nearmy

Surf Lifesaver - Surf Life Saving South Australia

John has been a Surf Lifesaver since gaining his bronze medallion in 1982 at the South Port Surf Life Saving Club.

John gained his jet rescue boat crew certificate in 1985 and has been a fixture of the service since this time performing in excess of two (200) hundred hours a season patrolling at Southport and in the Jet Rescue Boat. He is also an active assessor and trainer both at club and state level.

John has been instrumental in the growth of the Jet Rescue Boat operations and training of both drivers and crew for the service.

John holds over 55 association awards and has trained and assessed many Surf Life Saving SA members. He is still actively involved as a patrol captain at the South Port Surf Life Saving Club. His training and knowledge of the South Australian coast has seen him involved in many successful rescues.

John has previously been awarded a National Medal in 2006 and 20 years national patrol service in 2003.

Gerry de Jong

Operations Captain – SA Sea Rescue Squadron

Gerry joined the SA Sea Rescue Squadron in 1988, becoming a full operational member in 1992.

Since that time he has devoted many volunteer hours attending training and sea rescue operations, many of which are hazardous conditions and for extended periods of time. During this time, Gerry has also offered his private vessel as an accredited marine rescue craft, which has been used on many search and rescue operations.

Appointed in 2002 as Operations Captain, he continues to make himself available 24 hours, 7 days a week for calls outs and sea rescue activities. He is responsible for the overall coordination of all operations matters, including the response to search and rescue incidents, liaising with SA Police, coordinating training exercises and ensuring that all operational craft and crew are appropriately accredited to undertake rescue activities.

Gerry's contribution to the SA Sea Rescue Squadron and marine safety in South Australia over the last 20 years is well and truly above that which would be expected of a volunteer and is recognised not only by the SA Sea Rescue Squadron members but SA Police and other Volunteer Marine Rescue associations.

Gerry has previously received a Ministerial Commendation in 2003.

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Paul Brown

Flotilla Leader (Wirrina Flotilla) – SA Sea Rescue Squadron

Stephen Marshall

Crew Member (Wirrina Flotilla) – SA Sea Rescue Squadron

On the 31 January 2009, Paul, the Flotilla Leader for the Wirrina Flotilla and Stephen a crew member, were at the Wirrina Marina when the alarm was raised by SAPOL regarding a small dinghy that was in difficulty in heavy seas off Rapid Bay. Being mindful of the urgency of the situation, with the assistance of two civilian members Paul and Stephen responded immediately, experiencing very rough and treacherous conditions, with wind gusts exceeding 50 knots and seas exceeding four metres.

Even though faced with their own difficulties, on arrival in the area and being unable to locate the vessel, Paul and Stephen set about conducting a grid search, during which they eventually sighted the small vessel which by now had been swamped and one person had fallen overboard and was clinging to it some six kilometres offshore. Just as they arrived the vessel capsized but all three occupants, including a child, were able to be recovered from the heavy seas and taken on board. .

After rendering first aid, the crew were also able to take the stricken vessel in tow, and return all to the Wirrina Marina where the survivors were treated by the SA Ambulance members and the vessel was secured.

The SA Police Water Operations Unit commended Paul and Stephen and their civilian crew for their rescue during treacherous conditions, as their prompt response almost certainly avoided any loss of lives. The civilian members have been nominated for recognition in other award forums.

Ian Short

Squadron Board Advisor – Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association

Ian has been a member of the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association since 1976. During this time his dedication and enthusiasm has been outstanding.

Ian has committed an extraordinary amount of hours to his work, is seen by the members as a leader and is held in high esteem within the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association.

Over a period of time Ian has held every executive position within the South Australian Squadron and currently holds the position of Vice Captain (Vessels and Vehicles) and is responsible for researching and recommending purchasing of assets to the Squadron Board. Ian spends many hours doing maintenance of all the Squadron vehicles and vessels. He has been involved in providing training in Public and Guard courses.

Ian has been awarded Substantive Rank of Commodore as well as Life Membership of the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association for his outstanding work.

Ian is a highly qualified seaman but is prepared to work with all members of the organisation to impart his extensive knowledge. His contribution to the Squadron can only be described as outstanding.

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Paul Christopher Harrington

Station Officer - MFS

Paul has been awarded an Emergency Services Medal for exceptional performance beyond the line of duty involving a house fire on 5 December 2008.

Paul was off duty at the time of the fire, and as he entered the house, the fire was well involved and smoke visibility very difficult. However Paul made his way into the house and dragged the occupant out to safety. Paul provided information regarding hazardous containers inside the house which allowed the attending MFS crew to minimise any risk of a vapour explosion.

Paul carried out his duties in dangerous and difficult circumstances in a calm and professional manner, and in doing so, saved the life of the occupant.

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MINISTERIAL COMMENDATIONS

Corey Robert Dunn

State Training Officer – CFS

An Air Observer since 1997 and Air Attack Supervisor since 2001, Corey has played a pivotal role in aerial operations throughout the fire danger seasons.

Corey was the first responding Air Attack Supervisor and integral to the fast response and coordination of aerial fire fighting resources to the Wangary and Proper Bay fires.

As the Senior Curriculum Development Officer for CFS, Corey was instrumental in the development and implementation of the National Training Package 'Work safely around aircraft' for CFS personnel and has delivered this training to personnel around South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Corey has also assisted in the development and implementation of other training courses within the CFS.

Ian Nichols Davey

Captain Kimba Brigade – CFS

Ian joined the CFS in 1989 and is currently the Captain for the Kimba Brigade.

Ian has been responsible for cadet coordination for many years at Brigade, Group, Region and State Committee level.

Ian is involved with the school community where he encourages school students to become CFS cadets so they are trained in the Basic Fire Fighting course which allows them to become fire-fighters between the ages of 16 and 18 years.

It has been through Ian's commitment and involvement with the school community that has seen the success of the Kimba Brigade having a cadet become a Lieutenant at a very young age. Ian is the driving force behind the Kimba Brigade, meeting a number of standards set by the CFS.

Paul Keith Hutt

Deputy Group Officer – CFS

Paul joined the CFS in 1974 and was a Lieutenant and Captain for the Wudinna Brigade for many years and is now the Deputy Group Officer for the Caralue Group.

Paul has accepted a number of challenges in his role as an officer over many year's service at all types of incidents that they respond to for the community.

Paul has always stepped forward to be involved in training in the Region and was a State Instructor for a number of different courses eg Breathing Apparatus and Road Crash Rescue.

He has also been the Region 6 Rep on the CFS State Training Committee that gives support and guidance to the Service. This involved trips to Adelaide for Committee Meetings. Paul is currently the Region 6 OH&S Rep on the Sate Committee and still attends meetings in Adelaide when required.

As you can see, he has given many hours to the CFS and still gives many hours to his community and the South Australian community.

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Michael John Morgan

District Officer, Human Resources – MFS

Michael is the District Officer for Human Resources.

Michael represents what compassion and belief in optimism is about. He has gone beyond the call of duty in respect to visiting and ministering to fire fighters who have been stricken with illness and supporting their families, lifting their spirits and encouraging hope.

Michael's attitude, compassion and belief has provided a positive outlook to the fire fighters who are seriously ill and support to their families and to the families of fire fighters who have passed away.

Michael's contribution and dedication to the wellbeing and care of fire fighters has been long and tireless.

Philip Lindley Barnett

Station Officer – MFS

Philip has been nominated due to exemplary service to the Metropolitan Fire Service and in particular his commitment to support the fire fighting staff. His involvement in numerous committees and employee service and support clubs has been outstanding.

Philip has dedicated considerable voluntary time and effort in support and involvement in committees such as the Fire fighters Club, Retirement Committee and the Fire Service Fund for the benefit and wellbeing of MFS employees.

He has held the position of secretary of the Fire Fighters Club for more then 20 years and has assisted in many fundraising and social events.

The MFS Fire Fighters Club consults with charitable organisations and provides a sponsored 'fun' day at MFS Headquarters for children that live in circumstances that may prevent them experiencing the joy of Christmas. There is much planning and work involved as approximately six hundred (600) children experience the annual MFS Xmas Party.

Philip assists with MFS charitable events that provides for the annual Christmas party that supports both Fire Fighter and under privileged children.

Anna Migliaccio

Administrative Services Officer – MFS

Anna has been employed by the MFS for 42 years working in the Board Office and Fire Safety/Built Environment section.

Over the 42 years Anna has displayed exceptional dedication, patience and commitment to her role, not only providing professional skills but guidance and assistance to junior staff.

Anna has been a tutor, mentor, assistant, referee and guardian angel to more personnel than she probably can remember and during this time has served under nine Chief Officer's!

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David Littler

Financial Consultant - SAFECOM

David has been an outstanding team member and contributor to emergency services for over 30 years.

As the public face for SAFECOM Finance, David is the customer friendly go-to person for all enquiries.

David's talents extend beyond finance to improving SAFECOM's morale as the self proclaimed social director, contributing much of his own time to fundraising and organising social events.

David also organises the SA Police and Emergency Services Games road run, and has competed for SAFECOM and MFS in triathlon and distance running.

David has recently moved to Shared Services where his contribution and dedication continues.

Craig William Brassington

Business Support Officer – SES

Craig is currently the acting business support officer for the SES Central Region and has demonstrated exceptional commitment to all 12 SES units. He is also the Unit Manager for the Tea Tree Gully SES Unit and has been a volunteer since 1981.

Craig is always willing to go above and beyond the call of duty to visit units advising them on appropriate action to ensure the units function effectively within their budgets. Craig has sacrificed many personal hours to actively involve himself in improving the management of the volunteers in regard to good business practices.

He has also become a member of the Regional Duty Officer Roster, again providing many hours of personal time to provide an operational focal point for the entire region.

Craig's commitment to the volunteers and his work colleagues and his general work ethos are a great asset to the SES and the South Australian community.

Peter Larvin

Unit Manager (Western Adelaide), SES

Peter is the Unit Manager for the Western Adelaide SES unit leading the Unit from the ground roots, both by example on call outs and strategic leadership. He has led the Unit to a place of excellence within the Region.

Peter has been instrumental in increasing the membership of the Western Adelaide SES unit which now has a waiting list for volunteers and a timely, trained and enthusiastic crew.

He has both individually and through the coordination of his management team, been successful in the acquisition of grants for a search trailer with a capability for bikes and lighting.

Peter is asked by the State and Region SES to be consulted as a technical expert when systems, operational procedures and IT related subjects that require input from the volunteers.

Peter has truly gone above and beyond the call of duty to take the Service to the next level.

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James (Jim) Dale

Surf Life Saver Surf Life Saving SA

Jim has been involved with Surf Life Saving SA since 1980. Since then he has gained his Jet Rescue Boat Crew and Driver awards as well as the Inflatable Rescue Boat driver award. A member of the West Beach Surf Life Saving Club, Jim has been involved with training and assessing at both club and state level.

Jim holds 44 lifesaving awards. Jim's commitment to Surf Life Saving South Australia and the South Australian public has seen him not only patrol at his own club but also as a member of the Surf Life Saving SA jet rescue boat group.

For the past 28 years, Jim has also been involved as a maintenance officer for the Jet Rescue Boat group. He oversees minor maintenance and also major rebuilds of all the craft by putting in many hours of his own time which has saved Surf Life Saving SA a considerable amount of money.

Jim averages over 200 hours of patrol per session with Surf Life Saving SA but it is the unrecorded hours of maintenance after work and on weekends that has seen Surf Life Saving SA have its Jet Rescue Boats available to serve the public twenty four hours a day seven days a week.

Phillip Buck

Flotilla Commander – Australian Volunteer Coast Guard

Phillip is the Flotilla Commander at Kangaroo Island and represents the Flotilla on the Coast Guard Executive Committee.

Although a number of attempts had been made by various individuals and bodies, in 2002, Phillip led a group of residents to establish a formal volunteer marine rescue presence on Kangaroo Island and formed the flotilla under the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard.

Since then, Phillip has worked tirelessly to establish the flotilla and strengthen its membership and profile, which under his leadership has become an efficient and effective marine rescue service for the Kangaroo Island community.

In 2007, Phillip was responsible for exhaustive negotiations with the Kangaroo Island council to acquire land in Kingscote for a new vessel storage and training facility. He has provided many hours of hard work during the construction phase, allowing maximum benefits from available funding.

Phillip was also instrumental in the procurement of a former search and rescue vessel from SA Police and coordinated the training of his members for the vessel.

Phillip's dedication has been the key contributing factor to the establishment and success of the volunteer marine rescue service on Kangaroo Island, providing significant benefits not only to the community, but to the many thousands of tourists that visit the Island and holiday on or around the coastal waters.