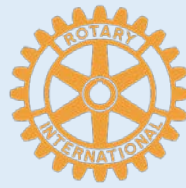


# Rotary

## Clubs of ACT



Rotary Opens Opportunities

## ACT Emergency Services Community Awards 2020



**ACT**  
Government



## THE ROTARY EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMUNITY AWARDS

**These Awards** are a Vocational Service initiative of the Rotary Clubs of the Australian Capital Territory.

In keeping with Rotary's motto of "**Service Above Self**", the Awards acknowledge and celebrate selfless Community Service of ACT Emergency Services Personnel while supporting an important Rotary initiative: **Australian Rotary Health PhD Research Scholarship into Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in Emergency Service Personnel.**

While individual services have specific internal awards, the 2019 Rotary ACT Emergency Services Community Awards, is the only platform in which emergency services personnel is recognised by their community.

The Awards are open to all Australian Capital Territory based personnel, both paid and volunteer, from the ACT Emergency Service Organisations:

- Australian Capital Territory Ambulance
- Australian Capital Territory Enabling Services
- Australian Capital Territory Fire and Rescue
- Australian Capital Territory Rural Fire
- Australian Capital Territory State Emergency Service



**Beneficiary of the Awards** is an Australian Rotary Health PhD Research Scholarship investigating Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in Emergency Service Workers, who are regularly exposed to traumatic events, which they can repeatedly re-experience through nightmares or flashbacks.

For more information visit [www.rescawards.org.au](http://www.rescawards.org.au).

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



On behalf of the Rotary Clubs of Canberra, welcome to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Rotary Clubs of ACT Emergency Services Community Awards – RESCA.

I am honoured, to acknowledge our Patron – Honourable Richard Refshauge SC (Ret'd); Commissioner of the ACT Emergency Services, the four Chiefs of Staff ACT, Sponsors, Partners, Guests and Fellow Rotarians.

Congratulations to each of our 8 finalists, as you serve in either a paid and volunteering capacity, dedicating your SERVICE ABOVE SELF to our communities, in harmony with Rotary's ethos. Thank you to the nominators for their initiative to share your achievements.

To our partners/sponsors, who so generously contribute financially or, in kind, to make this event possible thank you.

My sincere appreciation to the Committee; Rotarians from Rotary in Canberra, who shape this project. Our RESCA Rotary network has the challenging role of judging all nominations and determining the finalists, a role they truly value.

Our Emergency Services personnel are owed a huge thank you from the community as each day some of them put their lives at risk to assist those in trouble, whether that is from an accident or an act of nature. These awards go a small way in thanking those members who not only work within their emergency service but also contribute more to their local community by giving "Service above Self".

This year has been especially trying on our emergency services with not only the extreme 2019-2020 bushfire season and local storms but also the world-wide pandemic that has embraced us.

A first for the Emergency Services Awards will see tonight's award ceremony live streamed through Facebook.

## **Program**

### **MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

Anton Pemmer

### **ROTARY WELCOME**

Michael Moore, District Governor  
Rotary International District 9705

### **PATRON ADDRESS**

Hon Richard Refshauge SC (Ret' d)

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ON BEHALF OF ALL EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Deputy Commissioner Ray Johnson

### **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS FINALISTS**

### **PRESENTATIONS OF OVERALL WINNERS**

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

Leo Farrelly, District Governor elect  
Rotary International District 9705

## PATRON'S COMMENDATION



This year has provided an incredible insight into the vulnerability and resilience of our community. With terrifying bushfires, an amazingly short but devastating hailstorm, dreadful floods and more recently a worldwide pandemic creating personal devastation, not to mention economic destruction, it has also shown us the important reliance we can confidently place on our Emergency Services personnel to protect, support and aid us to survive these challenges and then, with huge community

support, more effectively recover from such disasters.

All this highlights how appropriate it is the Rotary International should take up on our behalf the role of celebrating and thanking these workers and their amazing contribution to us all in the annual Rotary International ACT Emergency Services Community Awards.

I am delighted, as Patron of these Awards, to commend them for the magnificent opportunity they provide to show so clearly our recognition and thanks to these marvellous men and women of these Services.

I strongly encourage all to participate in the various ways possible to continue making these Awards a truly important occasion of thanking and honouring them all.

The Hon Richard Refshauge  
Acting Justice, ACT Supreme Court

Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards would not be possible without these generous sponsors: -



**Mick Gentleman MLA**  
**Member for Brindabella**  
**Minister for Police and Emergency Services**

Message from the Minister was not forthcoming prior to printing of program.

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The Emergency Services Agency comprises the ACT Ambulance Service, ACT Fire & Rescue, the ACT Rural Fire Service, the ACT State Emergency Service and the ESA Enabling Services.

Together they are one team of many players with a single vision of being "the trusted agency for emergency management in the ACT".

The workforce profile includes over 2,200 fulltime and volunteer personnel.

*Information gained from the ACT ESA Website*



**Giulia Jones MLA**  
**Member for Murrumbidgee**  
**Shadow Minister for Police and Emergency Services**



First and foremost, I thank all our front-line serving personnel who put on a uniform for our city and choose to put themselves in harm's way for our benefit.

The past 12 months have been particularly difficult, and our frontline emergency services personnel have worked tirelessly to keep our community safe.

We have fought through devastating bushfires, heavy smoke haze, damaging hail storms and then have worked together to protect our community from the COVID-19 pandemic. At these times of our greatest need, our frontline emergency workers have been there for us.

Each day in my job I am grateful for the service of committed men and women on the frontlines. The whole community is grateful for your service, day in and day out, on good days and tough days.

Over the last four years as the Shadow Minister for Police & Emergency Services, I have been working closely with frontline workers on how best we can support, resource and honour the work they do. There is a great deal more that can be done. I am committed to improving conditions of work and training, the legal framework that underpins these roles and the way that we stand by you when any of you are injured on or because of the jobs you do. I have every hope that we can and will do more to respect what you do.

On behalf of the Canberra Liberals, I would like to thank and honour all of the nominees, finalists and award recipients today, for their outstanding service and dedication to our community.

To all the selfless and dedicated volunteers and paid personnel, thank you!

We are a safer community because of your dedication and service.





TOGETHER, WE

SAVE LIVES

Thriving communities start with healthy people. That's why Rotary clubs organize health screenings, host blood drives, and connect neighbors to medical resources. Working together to save lives — that's what people of action do. [Learn more at rotary.org/action](https://www.rotary.org/action).

Rotary



PEOPLE OF ACTION



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Canberra, ACT 2601

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**Technologies**

# PROUD TO BE A BRONZE SPONSOR OF THE 2020 ACT ROTARY EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMUNITY AWARDS

**Congratulations  
to all the finalists**



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Serving those who protect

\*Membership is open to citizens or permanent residents of Australia who are current or retired employees or volunteers in the Australian emergency services sector or are family members of members (i.e. shareholders) of the Bank. Firefighters



SHAW  
WINES



A community project of The Rotary Club of Hall 

**Rotary**  
Belconnen



Belconnen Rotary is a diverse Club of young professionals, community volunteers, self employed and retired residents who have been serving the Belconnen community since 1971.

We are proud to have been supporters of the Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards

**The Home of Trash and Treasure  
Jamison**

**N**ational  
**M**ailing &  
**M**arketing









## 2020 FINALISTS

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### ACT AMBULANCE SERVICE

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#### **Susith Adikari**



Susith is an intensive care paramedic and has dedicated 13 years to the Emergency Services for both domestic and international causes, most notably the British Columbia Bushfires (Canada) in 2017 and the recent Canberra bushfires in 2020. Along with his duty as a primary responder with the ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS), Susith is passionate about disseminating the wealth of knowledge and experience he has acquired over the years to

help develop the next crop of graduate paramedics for ACT. With an altruistic commitment towards protecting the community, Susith completed a Masters in Disaster Resilience and Sustainable Development to equip himself to face the changing times and challenges. He has held numerous positions as a member of the ACTAS and the ACT Rural Fire Services (RFS).

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#### **Simon Gallagher**



Simon believes in compassion and empathy being essential healers of the community. These qualities have been Simon's guiding pillars throughout the 2 decades of exceptional community service. Along with his day job as an intensive care paramedic, Simon volunteered with St John Ambulance for 18 years and also works with the Australian Medical Assistance Team (AUSMAT). Most recently, he supported the firefighters during the Braidwood and

Namadgi fires in 2019, volunteered at the Moruya Hospital during the South Coast fires, and was involved in the quarantine facility in Darwin for passengers affected by the pandemic from the Diamond Princess. In his free time, Simon also enjoys sports, four-wheel driving, and camping

## 2020 FINALISTS



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### ACT AMBULANCE SERVICE

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#### Tania Thompson



Tania is fondly known as the 'Real Chief Officer' in her professional circle for her selfless nature to go above and beyond for all her stakeholders and the community at large. In addition to her day job, she also works in community building activities like the War Widows Guild where she provides emotional support to grieving spouses. Furthermore, Tania is also a volunteer Peer Support Officer and Coordinator with the ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) and a Respect, Equity and Diversity (RED)

Officer with the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) where her role is to foster a healthy and respectful workplace culture.



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### ACT RURAL FIRE SERVICE

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#### Ian Morey



In addition to his day job with the Australian Public Service (APS), Ian is a veteran firefighter with the Rivers Volunteer Bushfire Brigade and has served the community for past 2 decades. He played a vital role in containment of the 2019-20 Canberra bushfires as a brigade's equipment officer and even doubled up as their cook to feed not only the firefighters but also the bushfire victims, keeping their morale high. Ian has exemplified a service above self-attitude by delaying his retirement, since his

family committed to being foster carers for their granddaughter

## Kaylee Rutland



Kaylee is a Senior Director with the Emergency Services and has dedicated nearly 14 years to community service. Kaylee is recognized within the communication fraternity for her compassionate messaging and also her uncanny ability to stay calm during trying times. If you heard anything over the print or digital media during the unfortunate Canberra bushfires, it was likely that it came out of Kaylee's office. She spent several sleepless nights in her office and away from her family ensuring clear and regular messages reached the community. In addition to her day time job, Kaylee also regularly deploys interstate to assist with emergency communications, recently assisting with fires in Northern NSW, Northern QLD, and the NSW south coast.

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## Jaimie Vincent



Jaimie is a proud indigenous woman from the Wiradjuri and Dharawal people and is passionate about creating positive relationships within the community through cultural exchanges. She is also a serious advocate for Child protection, she and her family actively support Indigenous children and their families in the foster care system. In her professional life, Jaimie has been associated with the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) as a Volunteer as well as a member of staff since 2018. In addition to her commitment to the ESA, Jaimie is also a certified AUSLAN Interpreter which has helped her to assist the community through her roles with ESA, ACT State Emergency Services (ACTSES) and the ACT Fire & Rescue Community Fire Unit



## 2020 FINALISTS

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### ACT STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

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#### **Roger Edwards**



Having worked ceaselessly for 40+ years for the community, Roger has played an integral part in developing resilience in the Canberra community through engagement and education. Until recently, he was the Deputy Commander of the ACT State Emergency Services Rivers unit (SES) when the Canberra bushfires took place. He volunteers for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) in the small animal's section. Prior to these stints,

Roger was a Scout leader for 5 years. Roger is extremely passionate about environment conservation and served on the Canberra Bushwalking Club committee for over 20 years

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#### **Shelly Walsh**



Shelly is an Australian Army veteran and voluntarily retired from the services in 2012. Since 2015 she has been associated with the ACT State Emergency Services (ACTSES). She is considered a role model by her colleagues for her selfless attitude, and the high standards she has set for the team. In fact, Shelly has consistently proved on the field that women are at par with men in virtually any setting. She is heavily involved in storm response, search and rescue and

logistic operations in coordination with the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and the ACT Rural Fire Services (ACTRFS) as their Equipment officer.



**ACT**  
Government



## **ACT EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCY**

9 Amberley Avenue, Fairbairn Business Park, Majura ACT  
2609

13 22 81

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[www.esa.act.gov.au](http://www.esa.act.gov.au)

[facebook/ACTEmergencyServicesAgency](https://facebook.com/ACTEmergencyServicesAgency)



The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) is the ACT Government organisation charged with providing emergency management services to the Canberra community.

Our Mission is “We work together to care and protect through cohesive operations, collaborative management and a unified executive”.



Our workforce profile includes over 2200 full time and volunteer personnel. The ESA comprises the ACT Ambulance Service, ACT Fire & Rescue, the ACT Rural Fire Service, the ACT State Emergency Service and a range of support services.



*Previous Finalists of Rotary Clubs of ACT Emergency Services Community Awards*

## 2018

Mark Blake	ACT Fire and Rescue
Sue Elsbury	ACT SES
Andy Francey	ACT Ambulance
Anthony Kidney	ACT Rural Fire Service
Norm Nelson	ACT SES
Mark Sedgman	ACT Rural Fire Service
Robert Thompson	ACT Rural Fire Service

## 2019

Heike Apps	ACT Enabling Services
Sebastian Boehm	ACT Fire and Rescue
Matthew Buchtman	ACT Fire and Rescue
Martin Harris	ACT Rural Fire Service
Colin Pedersen	ACT SES
Julia Rozycka	ACT SES
Mark Westhorp	ACT Ambulance
Robert Wiggins	ACT Ambulance

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing an orange sari, administering a polio vaccine to a young boy. The woman is holding a small glass vial and using a dropper to place a drop of vaccine into the boy's mouth. The boy is looking up at the woman. The background is softly blurred, showing some green foliage.

TOGETHER, WE

# END POLIO

Rotary believes healthy communities are strong communities. That's one reason we've worked tirelessly to help immunize 2.5 billion children against polio. Bringing the world closer to eradicating a deadly disease — that's what people of action do. Learn more at [rotary.org/action](http://rotary.org/action).

Rotary



PEOPLE OF ACTION



# The Rotary Clubs of ACT Emergency Services Community Awards for 2021

Lock these key dates into your diary now!

Nominations Open: 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Nominations Close: 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Finalists Announced 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021\*

Awards Night: 7<sup>th</sup> August 2021\*

\*date to be confirmed

## SUPPORT ROTARY NOW....