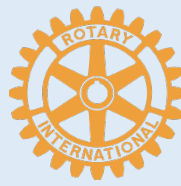


Rotary

Clubs of ACT



CREATE HOPE
in the **WORLD**

ACT Emergency Services Community Awards 2023



ACT
Government



AFP
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

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 Mental Health in Emergency Services Personnel**.

While individual services have specific internal awards, the Rotary Clubs of 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
- ACT Policing

Beneficiary of the Awards is an Australian Rotary Health PhD Research Scholarship investigating mental health 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



Welcome to our 6th Rotary Clubs of the ACT Emergency Services Community Awards – ACT RESCA.

Congratulations to each of our finalists, serving in either a paid or volunteering capacity. Dedicating your ‘Service Above Self’ to our communities is in harmony with Rotary’s ethos. Thank you to those who nominated members of our Emergency Services for these awards, enabling us to recognise and celebrate their achievements. Thank you also to the partners and families of our emergency service personnel who give

their support during often stressful and difficult times.

I am honoured to recognise our Patron, the Honourable Richard Refshauge SC (Ret’d), Acting Commissioner and Chiefs of Staff of the ACT Emergency Services and the ACT Policing Chief Police Officer. Their support for ACT RESCA, and making available agency staff to work with our RESCA Committee is essential for the success of the awards.

Thank you to our sponsors and partner organisations who so generously contribute either financially or in kind to make this event possible.

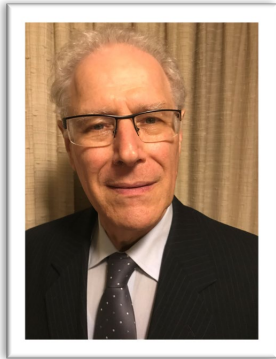
My sincere appreciation of the ACT RESCA Committee who manage this project and the panel of Rotary judges who assess the nominations to determine our finalists and overall winners. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of our previous ACT RESCA Chairperson over the last 5 years, Steve Hill. Not only was Steve instrumental in bringing RESCA to the ACT, he has worked on taking RESCA to other jurisdictions. This year, Victoria joins the RESCA project for the first time.

Our Police and Emergency Services personnel are owed a great deal of gratitude from the community as each day they work to protect our community, often placing themselves in dangerous situations. These awards contribute to thanking those members who not only work within their emergency service agency, but also go beyond the call of duty to contribute to their local community by giving “Service above Self”.

Thank you for attending tonight’s Awards Dinner to celebrate the achievements of our very impressive 2023 finalists.

Wayne Jeffs

PATRON's COMMENDATION



In delivering the care to the vulnerable and those affected by disasters, as an essential part of a healthy ACT community, the staff of our emergency services are very important. As we put the restrictions for our protection from the COVI-19 pandemic behind us, it is important not to forget that these workers often had to engage in ways that put them at risk from that pandemic as well as from the circumstances they faced in answering calls for assistance.

Despite moving on from those days, however, there continue to be challenges for our emergency services. We are an ageing population, which brings risks and misadventures. Our road users still seem to be put at risk by dangerous or careless drivers. The increasing temperature of the climate with the expected El Nino event makes the risk of summer bushfires in our region this year much more likely.

We remain grateful for those who provide expert services with care and skill to help us through these challenges and to help us when we suffer from them.

Rotary International ACT, through its excellent initiative of the Emergency Services Community Awards, acknowledges those who go above and beyond, recognise the incredibly valuable work of all emergency services workers. I commend the Awards to all and encourage as much participation as possible to all.

I also acknowledge the extraordinary work of Steve Hill and his team in establishing and developing the Awards. Steve has returned to South Australia and I offer him sincere thanks for his work. I congratulate Wayne Jeffs for stepping up and leading the Awards and thank him for his work to deliver this important event this year.

Acting Justice Richard Refshauge
ACT Supreme Court



His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Rotary Clubs of ACT Emergency Services Community Awards

Good evening, everyone. Linda and I had hoped to join you tonight and send our apologies.

The Rotary Clubs of ACT Emergency Services Community Awards are an important event on the ACT calendar. The awards recognise outstanding community service by paid and volunteer emergency services workers whose actions embody the Rotary motto, 'Service above self'.

What each of the award recipients has achieved is remarkable. Society must never take for granted the selfless actions of those amongst us, and I thank Rotary for highlighting their contributions.

To the award recipients, congratulations! Please accept the plaudits that rightly will come your way.

Tonight's presentation is as much about recognising individual achievement as it is about highlighting the amazing work that Rotary does in the community.

There is another group I'd like to acknowledge: the families of our Emergency Services personnel. Thank you for supporting your loved ones. The work, as you know, is often dangerous and can sometimes have devastating impacts. It is important that the contribution of families is recognised.

Finally, my thanks to all members of Rotary Clubs of the ACT and the Emergency Services family. Together, you make our community stronger.

I wish you all an enjoyable evening.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'David Hurley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Program

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Rob Thompson

ROTARY WELCOME

Andrea Grosvenor, District Governor
Rotary International District 9705

SPONSOR ADDRESS

Susie Walford - EML

PATRON ADDRESS

Hon Richard Refshauge SC
Acting Judge, ACT Supreme Court

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ON BEHALF OF ALL EMERGENCY SERVICES

A/g Assistant Commissioner - Operations, Glenn Brewer &
Chief Police Officer Neil Gaughan

MINISTER OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mr Mick Gentleman MLA

PRESENTATION OF AWARD FINALISTS

PRESENTATIONS OF OVERALL WINNERS

CLOSING REMARKS

Rob Uhl, District Governor elect
Rotary International District 9705

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

Rotary has been an integral part of the Australian community since 1921, working to support community members in all areas including research, youth, disability, and assistance with disaster recovery. This extends to the fabulous work of our emergency services personnel from ACT Policing, ACT Ambulance Service, ACT Fire & Rescue, ACT Rural Fire Service, ACT State Emergency Service, and the ACT Emergency Services Agency enabling teams.

ACT emergency services personnel are one of the highest performing workforces in the country and are an exemplary representation of Rotary's motto, 'Service Above Self'. The efforts of those working in an emergency service, whether it is as a first responder or an enabler in a paid or voluntary capacity, deserves recognition for putting the safety and wellbeing of their community first.

The commitment, passion and resilience shown by our emergency services workforce to support vulnerable community members on what might be their worst day is highly admirable and greatly appreciated. I would also like to acknowledge the partners, families, and friends of our wonderful emergency personnel for their sacrifices for enabling their loved ones to help others in times of need.

As the Minister for Police and Emergency Services in the ACT, I am proud to be partnering with Rotary to formally honour and recognise our emergency services personnel through the ACT Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards. This community-led initiative provides a unique platform for Canberrans to thank the emergency services personnel who have made a big impact in their lives.

ACT Rotary has undertaken excellent work to recognise those who have gone above and beyond their expected duties to ensure the ACT community remains one of the safest places to live in the world

Mick Gentleman MLA

Minister for Police and Emergency Services



EML: Canberrans for Canberrans

we help people get their lives back

St George Building,
Level 7, 60 Marcus Clark St,
Canberra, ACT 2601
<https://www.eml.com.au>

Awards Criteria

The Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards (RESCA) has been established to recognise Emergency Services Personnel who best exemplify Rotary's motto of Service Above Self (i.e. the community service the individual performs above and beyond their normal role within the Emergency Service Agency).

Nomination Criteria

The nominee must be member of one of the Emergency Service Agencies or ACT Policing in a paid (employee) or unpaid (volunteer) capacity and will be judged on:

- Community service over and above the call of normal duties that best exemplifies Rotary's motto of Service Above Self (i.e. community involvement when they are not working in their normal roles).
- Personal attributes
- Contribution to their organisation

Anyone can nominate a person for the awards (self-nominations excepted) – as long as you are able to put together a submission, you are welcome to submit a nomination.



What is Rotary?

Rotary is a global network of over 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

Solving real problems takes real commitment and vision. For more than 110 years, Rotary's people of action have used their passion, energy, and intelligence to take action on sustainable projects. From literacy and peace to water and health, we are always working to better our world, and we stay committed to the end.

What we do

Rotary members believe that we have a shared responsibility to take action on our world's most persistent issues. Our 35,000+ clubs work together to:

- Promote peace
- Fight disease
- Provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Save mothers and children
- Support education
- Grow local economies
- Support the Environment

Our mission

We provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

Vision statement

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

**Proud to be a Bronze
Sponsor of the 2023 ACT
Rotary Emergency Services
Community Awards**

**Congratulations
to all the finalists**



Find out more about the bank for you*
fmbank.com.au or **1800 800 225**



*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 Mutual Bank is a division of Teachers Mutual Bank Limited ABN 30 087 650 459 AFSL/Australian Credit Licence 238981. | BE03087





2023 FINALISTS

ACT AMBULANCE SERVICE

Jack Dear



Jack is a paramedic with ACT Ambulance following a career in the Australian Defence Force. He is a committed and highly valued paramedic who demonstrates professionalism in all aspects in his role as Team Leader. After a critical event Jack was awarded a Chief Officer's Commendation. Jack's commitment to training is evident as he ensures that all graduate paramedic co-workers are prepared for their final examinations and does so voluntarily in

his own time. In his colleagues' words he is an asset to their organisation. Jack's commitment to helping others is not limited to his career in the ACT Ambulance Service. He recently used his annual leave to travel to Ukraine where he volunteered, donating both his time and paramedic expertise to provide invaluable medical assistance to the Ukrainian community. A quiet achiever who definitely meets the criteria of Service Above Self.



ACT FIRE & RESCUE

Bernie Evans



Bernie has been a loyal and committed member of ACT Fire and Rescue (ACTFR) for more than 30 years and is a Station Officer usually attached to HAZMAT at Fyshwick Fire Station. His service has been invaluable throughout this time. Bernie has also dedicated much of his own time to extend his professional knowledge and through his commitment to the organisation Bernie has been able to improve policy and procedures that have been presented to ACTFR. As an expert in Hazmat, he ensures that staff have the training required to operate effectively and safely in this ever-changing field, especially with the management of incidents involving lithium batteries. As a testament to this

Bernie has delayed his retirement to assist in developing a carcinogen reduction strategy to reduce firefighter risk to the exposure of fire contaminants, as cancer is now considered the most significant hazard to firefighter health and wellbeing. Bernie has a wealth of knowledge and happily shares it with colleagues.

2023 FINALISTS



ACT POLICING

Sharan Slater



Detective Sergeant Sharan Slater has been a valued member of the AFP for over 40 years. She worked in general patrol and various crime areas and was part of a team that established the Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Team. For the past 21 years, Sharan has managed the Volunteers in Policing Program (VIP Program). She was instrumental in making the VIP Program extremely successful and a leader within the volunteering

sector. The VIP Volunteers provide significant support to the Police and to the community. In addition to her professional excellence, Sharan has consistently and positively contributed to a variety of community groups and projects. Examples of her voluntary community work includes donating plasma every fortnight, sourcing supplies for “Dignity Bags” that are distributed to women in need, leading a team that makes “Joey Pouches” for orphaned joeys and collecting toys for Kids in Care. She also volunteers at the National Zoo and Aquarium, is a valued member of the Wombat Rescue group and has volunteered with the Community Fire Unit (CFU) for over 14 years. In all the endeavours Sharan has been well regarded and appreciated by the people she works with and is very mindful of their wellbeing.



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2023 FINALISTS

ACT RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Ailish Milner



Ailish is currently a Strategic Planner with the ACT Rural Fire Service and, is a current and active Fire Behaviour Analyst a role she has held for more than a decade. Ailish sits on the AFAC Predictive Services Group. She was involved in the NSW RFS for over twenty years joining as a volunteer at 16 before transitioning to a staff member in her early 20's. In addition to this Ailish was an active retained fire fighter with NSW Fire and Rescue for 16 years.

She is not only recognised for operations & teaching in fire behaviour and fire predicting but also for her continued dedication to firefighting. She has been accepted for interstate and international deployment which is a testament to her dedication and skill. Ailish has further demonstrated her service beyond self by her ongoing mentoring of female members of the ACTRFS. She has also taken on many roles in her local community that contribute to the continued viability of sports groups.

Gary Johnston



Gary Johnston is a voluntary firefighter with the ACT RFS who answered the call after the 2019/2020 bushfires. As a member of the Hall Brigade, he has transferred the skills he acquired with working in the ADF to operational, administrative and support areas of the RFS. He has been involved in training, as the first aid officer in the management committee and promoting and supporting the aims of the RFS Womens' Network. He has a Heavy

Vehicle licence and helps colleagues attain equivalent skill levels. In addition to his contributions to the RFS, Gary has a long-standing connection to the ADF and has for several years been a volunteer adult leader with the Air Force Cadets. He works with the Gunghalin cadet unit in North Canberra and also leads youth leadership activities at the National, Territory and State levels. Gary is a passionate community supporter and is an RFS participant in the Regenerate Capital Leadership program with the Rural Leadership Foundation, has recently been appointed as a Justice of the Peace and who is well respected by his colleagues



.2023 FINALISTS

ACT STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

Craig Hicks



Craig is the membership officer for the ACT SES and manages the membership of 385 volunteers. His goal is to improve the experience of SES volunteers. Craig delivers support services for volunteer recruitment, recognition and retention programs and is the action officer for reviewing and updating the SES membership policy. Craig assumes the role of SES Duty Officer on a rotational basis where he is responsible for coordinating the ACT SES response to storm and flood

incidents across the ACT. Craig served as a frontline medic in Afghanistan and has undertaken psychological studies focusing on the understanding of PTSD and the impacts of military service on young adults. Craig has volunteered for a "Projects Abroad" cultural immersion which involved living and working in remote areas of Mongolia, participating in projects that make a real difference to the nomad population. Prior to joining the SES as a paid employee, Craig was a team leader at Pialligo SES and is currently an active member of Woden SES. In 2021 and 2022, Craig undertook interstate deployments to the NSW and Victorian floods

Jason Blair



Jason Blair has been an ACT State Emergency Services member for 20 years. During this time, he has volunteered as a Trainer, Deputy Team Leader, Team Leader and Deputy Commander. He is a passionate member of the Service and spends much of his time mentoring and encouraging others as well as contributing ideas for positive changes and advancement of both the Woden and Tuggeranong units. He has been consistently involved in operational responses including leading storm teams, community education

events and searches. In 2019/2020 he participated in the quelling of the Black Summer Bushfires. Jason is recognised by his fellow volunteers as having drive, integrity and, very importantly, putting others' needs before his own.

2023 FINALISTS

ACT Emergency Services SUPPORT SERVICES



Teagan Lee



Teagan has made a positive contribution to keeping both frontline workers and the Canberra community safe. In 2021, while working as the Assistant Director Public Information, she identified the need for a behaviour change campaign, targeted at reducing the instances of occupational violence against frontline workers and paramedics. Teagan worked tirelessly with stakeholders to gain support and funding for the initiative. After more than twelve months of work,

The ACT Ambulance Service Occupational Violence Campaign was released in early 2023. Indeed, an achievement that will improve the working conditions of frontline workers including nurses, teachers and service centre staff for now and future years. Teagan's initiative and drive to protect our front-line staff demonstrates her Service above Self and ongoing commitment for the welfare of all.



ACT EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCY

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.





AFP

AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

ACT POLICING

www.police.act.gov.au/

ACT Policing is the community policing arm of the Australian Federal Police (AFP). They are responsible for providing quality and effective policing services to the ACT in partnership with the community and the ACT Government.

Their mission is to keep the peace and preserve public safety within the ACT. They strive to deliver a professional, innovative and effective policing service in an ever-changing environment for the ACT community.



Finalists of Rotary Clubs of ACT Emergency Services Community Awards over the years

2018

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

2019

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

2020

Susith Adikari	Ambulance
Roger Edwards	SES
Simon Gallagher	Ambulance
Ian Morey	Rural Fire Service
Kaylee Rutland	Enabling Services
Tania Thompson	Ambulance
Jaimie Vincent	Enabling Services
Shelly Walsh	SES

2021

John Berry	Ambulance
William Black	SES
David Bremers	Fire & Rescue
Philip Nolen	SES
Chris Puschak	Rural Fire Service
Rohan Scott	Rural Fire Service
Tina Siver	Rural Fire Service
Brett Vey	Rural Fire Service

2022

Megan Davis	Ambulance
Chris Hart	Fire and Rescue
Sandra Malnar	ACT Policing
Loryn Reynolds	ACT Policing
Christopher Condon	Rural Fire Service
Joel Doble	Rural fire Service
Graham Ible	SES
Len Morris	SES
Meredith Leach	Support Services





CREATE HOPE
in the **WORLD**

The Rotary Clubs of ACT Emergency Services Community Awards for 2024

Lock these key dates into your diary now!

Nominations Open: March 2024*

Nominations Close: May 2024*

Finalists Announced June 2024*

Awards Night: 9th August 2024*

*actual dates to be confirmed

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