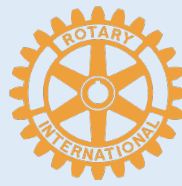


Rotary

Clubs of ACT



**THE MAGIC
OF ROTARY**

ACT Emergency Services Community Awards 2024



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 7th Rotary Clubs of the ACT Emergency Services Community Awards – ACT RESCA. Tomorrow night, NSW RESCA will celebrate its 10th Anniversary at their Awards Dinner in Sydney.

Congratulations to each of our “Top 10” Nominees, 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), Commissioner Wayne Phillips and Chiefs of Staff of the ACT Emergency Services Agency and ACT Chief Police Officer Scott Lee. 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. Our National RESCA Committee is working with Rotarians in other States to expand the RESCA project. Last year, Victoria joined RESCA and we are hoping that Tasmania will come onboard in 2025.

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 2024 “Top Ten” nominees.

Wayne Jeffs

PATRON'S COMMENDATION



The last few years have rightly put the work of the ACT Emergency Services agencies upfront in the media – on the front page in “oldspeak” – with bushfires, floods and a pandemic. The last year and a half, however, has settled back to what most Canberrans would find to be a more normal life, despite the very wet summer and very cold winter. While we can be grateful for this, it would be very unfortunate if it is allowed us to overlook the amazing work that still has to be done – and is being done every day - to keep our community safe and to respond to critical events that can have serious,

sometimes devastating, effects on members of our community.

The latest Annual Report of the work of the ACT Emergency Services Agency, for 2022-23, shows still 91,079 incidents to which members of one or more of the agencies have responded. While the vast majority were “medical”, there were still other serious incidents, including 1,549 storm and flood incidents, 1,323 rescues and 651 fires, that is a rate of nearly 2 fires a week. This year, there have been, so far 3,230 cases of COVID-19 and, to the end of May, 21 lives lost to this disease.

Thus, it is important that we continue to recall and celebrate those who respond to these challenges and provide respectful, genuine and helpful support when responding to these incidents. This year, I have witnessed the exceptional care, gentleness and expert support provided by ambulance officers on two occasions.

That celebration comes each year in the excellent work done by Rotary International ACT with its Emergency Services Community Awards. The Awards, organised by a committee under the careful leadership of Wayne Jeffs, draw attention to all Emergency Services workers and particularly honours those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Participation in the Awards is a great way for the community to celebrate all those who provide these wonderful services and specially recognise some exceptional people among them. I congratulate Rotary International ACT and encourage all to join with them.

The Hon Richard Refshauge SC - Retired ACT Supreme Court Judge

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 entire ACT Emergency Services Agency. ACT emergency services personnel are part of 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 enabler, in a paid or voluntary capacity, deserve 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 that enable their loved ones to help others in times of need.

As the Minister for Fire 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 Fire and Emergency Services

James Milligan MLA

Shadow Minister for emergency Services and Policing

Good evening. I want to thank Rotary for inviting me to be here with you this evening to celebrate the Award winners.

As a member of the ACT community and Shadow Minister for Emergency Services and Policing I understand that the ACT Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards are an important event each year. Last years award winners were outstanding members of the Services, both paid and volunteer, and I have no doubt that this years winners are of a similar calibre.

So, let me begin by congratulating those who have won an Award. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed. You are often the quiet achievers, who don't seek this form of recognition, just focused on making a difference in the Canberra community.

In my capacity as Shadow Minister, I have had the great pleasure of meeting with many members of the various Services, and am always greatly impressed and appreciative of the immense dedication they display in their work. It is rightly so that the Rotary Club, honours these members of the services recognising their contributions, though I am sure there were others who were equally deserving.

I would also like to acknowledge the family members of our emergency Services Officers, for I have no doubt that without your support these award winners would not be where they are today. It is a combined effort by all, and we appreciate your support of our community in this way.

And lastly, I want to acknowledge the ACT Rotary Clubs, their members and those who have put in nominations for these often unsung heroes in our community. I appreciate the recognition that they give to our Emergency Services personnel, but also their contributions to the ACT community across a range of areas, including assistance with disaster recovery.

My thanks to all those who have contributed, together we are building a better Canberra for everyone.

James Milligan MLA

Shadow Minister for Emergency Services and Policing

Program

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Rob Thompson

ROTARY WELCOME

Rob Uhl, District Governor
Rotary International District 9705

SPONSOR ADDRESS

Dazara Dean - EML

PATRON ADDRESS

Hon Richard Refshauge SC
Retired Judge, ACT Supreme Court

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ON BEHALF OF ALL EMERGENCY SERVICES

Commissioner Wayne Phillips &
Chief Police Officer Scott Lee

MINISTER OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mr Mick Gentleman MLA

PRESENTATION OF AWARD TOP 10 NOMINEES

PRESENTATIONS OF OVERALL WINNERS

CLOSING REMARKS

Rob Shore, District Governor elect
Rotary International District 9705

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



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.



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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.

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.



Aurora Gungahlin, Belconnen, Canberra, Canberra Burley Griffin, Canberra Sunrise, Canberra Sundowners, Canberra Weston-Creek, Ginninderra, Gungahlin, Hall, Murrumbidgee Canberra, Tuggeranong, Woden Daybreak



2024 ACT Top Ten Nominees

ACT FIRE & RESCUE

Reuben House



Reuben is a Ngambri & Wiradjuri man who is a Senior Firefighter and Indigenous leader. He is a member of the ACT Fire and Rescue Indigenous Advisory Group and is a role model for all first nations people throughout his community and the service. His full range of firefighting competencies and duties include responding to such challenges as structure and vehicle fires, chemical, biological and radiological incidents, bushfires, confined space rescue and trench rescue. Additionally, Reuben regularly provides

welcome to country, sharing his knowledge and insights regarding the local people and area. He is recognised as a talented artist. He is especially effective in sharing knowledge through stories, artwork, music and telling yarns.

Dale McCormack



As a Peer Support Officer (PSO) with ACT Fire and Rescue, Dale McCormack constantly displays compassion and professionalism as he promotes wellbeing, mental health awareness, work and home life balance with staff and team members. In addition to his role as Peer Support Officer, Dale is a member of the ACTF&R Health and Wellbeing committee, a First Aid instructor, a Vertical Rescue Specialist, and a Swift Water Rescue Specialist. Dale exemplifies the Rotary awards

motto of "Service above Self" with his unwavering support of his colleagues to ensure all are supported so they may continue to serve the ACT community.

2024 ACT Top Ten Nominees

ACT POLICING



David Power



In addition to his policing duties, David Power is a strong advocate and supporter for other members of the police force particularly in the area of Mental Health. He selflessly provides support to other members outside of work and has managed several fundraisers to help members, and their families, who have suffered or are suffering from terminal illnesses. One such event recently raising over \$24,000. David is also part of the AFP ceremonial team which is an additional role that provides a platform for recognition of others and ensure members are appropriately honoured. On an additional volunteer basis, David is also a member of the Yass district NSW Rural Fire Service and a delegate of the Australian Federal Police Association.

John Giles



In addition to being an outstanding police officer, Detective Sergeant John Giles was nominated for the Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards primarily in recognition of the role he played in founding the Kids in Care program in 2013. He responded to a family taken into emergency care in December of that year and worked to ensure the four year old and her three siblings had a fantastic Christmas. The Association he established has grown to providing support and assistance to over a thousand vulnerable or at-risk children in our region every year. He has been a stalwart in raising funds, coordinating gift distribution and organising supplies of children's toys. John has been nominated to be installed as Chairperson of the Board to manage the incorporated association and intends to continue being heavily involved with the charity into retirement. His caring commitment and dedication as both an AFP officer and in the community are commendable.

Gordon McAlpine



Gordon has been nominated in his capacity as a volunteer in policing. However, he has also been a member of the SES in the ACT from 1999. Since joining the police as a volunteer in 2002, Gordon has contributed over 6800 hours of service. He has assisted across a wide range including searching for missing persons, catering for high level state meetings along with fund raising and BBQs. He has driven the bus for various AFP events and assisted training with a range of role-playing activities for Constable, Detective and Border Force courses. He is highly regarded as a mentor.

Clive Gibbs



Clive has volunteered to work with the AFP since 2011 and the ACTSES since 2008. He commits four days a week to volunteering and looks after his grandchildren on the fifth day. His work frees the time of sworn officers ensuring a more efficient police force. One AFP Inspector described him as follows, “not only does he perform an important service to the community in the front office, but he is also a source of support and cheer for our members”. In his volunteer work with the SES Clive has twice travelled to Canada to be part of the Australian response to massive wildfires in Alberta 2015 and BC 2018. At the time he was “just running on adrenalin from seven in the morning until 10:30 at night”.



2024 ACT Top Ten Nominees

ACT RURAL FIRE SERVICE

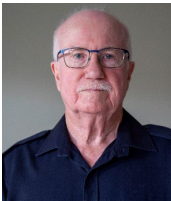
Michelle Michie



Michelle has been an active member of the Hall Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade for over 25 years and remains a valued senior member. Michelle is a ground breaker. She was one of the first female Deputy Captains in the ACT as well as one of the first female tanker drivers. She is a recognised peer support officer within the ACTRFS, and has organised numerous informal health and wellbeing checks for the Brigade. Michelle has been involved

in a number of protracted incidents, within the ACT and interstate, and during these deployments she has provided both leadership on the fireground as well as care and mateship to less experienced members who are often mentally fatigued and need support after sustained action. Michelle has actively encouraged her children to also volunteer, and to that end, her youngest daughter Kiana recently passed her Basic Firefighter qualifications and is commencing her journey as a volunteer within the Hall Brigade family.

David Tunbridge



In addition to being a volunteer firefighter since 1974, David manages the equipment for the brigade. He has demonstrated exceptional leadership care and diligence as a firefighter and in former roles as the Molonglo Captain and President. He is “a repository of wisdom” for the 50 years of service and has documented a photographic history of the period. He has carefully and compassionately documented the lives and services of those

firefighting colleagues who have died. In addition to his service as a volunteer firefighter, David has served for 3 decades with the ACT State Emergency Service.

2024 ACT Top Ten Nominees

ACT STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE



Tammy Bennett



Tammy Bennett is both a volunteer within the Tuggeranong unit and an Operations Manager for the ACTSES. As a volunteer she is a peer support officer and contributes to training, upskilling and mentoring members. Her volunteer work goes well beyond her own unit and includes leadership during COVID, in packaging and delivery of essential food and welfare hampers for vulnerable Canberrans. Tammy also provided welfare support at COVID testing centres, as well as packaging and distribution of the appropriate test kits to ACT schools. She has deployed interstate on many occasions including the Hunter Valley and Grafton storms, Tropical Cyclone Debbie, the Black Summer bushfires and other NSW flooding events

John Dowling



For around a quarter of a century John has been a volunteer member of the SES and has held the positions of Deputy Team leader, Team Leader, Deputy Commander, Commander (unit leader) and Training Officer (and alternate Equipment Officer) in that time. He is currently a Lead Trainer and Assessor (TA) in SWD (Storm and Water Damage) , a First Aid and AIIMS (an Incident Management System) as well as a TA for Navigation and Search. He performs across a wide range of roles in this capacity and offer his experience and learning from his volunteer experience. In particular his dedication to training large cohorts of volunteer recruits is recognised noting the significant effort to ensure appropriate knowledge and training is undertaken. John is also a Board Member of the ACTSES Volunteer association currently undertaking the additional role of Treasurer and National Council representative. In that capacity he also prepared a report for an ACT Legislative Assembly Committee. John is recognised by his fellow volunteers as having drive, integrity and care, and for putting others' needs before his own.



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

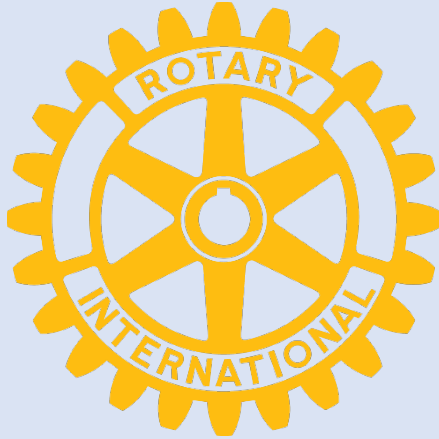
John Berry	Ambulance
William Black	SES
David Bremers	Fire & Rescue
Philip Nolen	SES
Chris Puschak	Rural Fire Service
Rohan Scott	Rural Fire Service
Tina Siver	Rural Fire Service
Brett Vey	Rural Fire Service

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

2023

Jack Dear	Ambulance
Bernie Evans	Fire and Rescue
Sharon Slater	ACT Policing
Ailish Milner	Rural Fire Service
Gary Johnston	Rural Fire Service
Craig Hicks	SES
Jason Blair	SES
Teagan Lee	Support Services



The Rotary Clubs of ACT Emergency Services Community Awards for 2025

Lock these key dates into your diary now!

Nominations Open: 1st March 2025*

Nominations Close: 31st May 2025*

Finalists Announced June 2025*

Awards Night: 15th August 2025*

*actual dates to be confirmed

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