



SASSAFRAS-FERNY CREEK FIRE BRIGADE

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Medals for brigade members who served in the 2009 bushfires

Seventeen current and former brigade members have been awarded the National Emergency Medal in recognition of service during the 2009 Victorian bushfires.

Eleven of the recipients attended a presentation ceremony for Dandenong Ranges Group at Belgrave South on Sunday 22 September. All members who served at the time and met the criteria set down by the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat were nominated by the brigade and consequently received the medal. They are:

Norm English	Tim Gane	Jack Grant	Anthony Ham
Jeff Harbour	Paul Hicks	Geoff Horner	Win King-Smith
Sarah Krumins	Simon Neill	Karen Noonan	Geoff Pfeifer
John Schauble	Brian Stevens	Cleighton Stevens	John Tomada

In addition, brigade member Alan Potts was nominated through CFA as his employer.

Brigade Captain John Schauble said the medal recognised the high level of service by members during a national emergency.

Sassafras-Ferny Creek brigade provided a substantial ongoing response to the 2009 bushfires as part of strike teams to Gippsland, the Yarra Valley and the Kinglake Ranges, along with local commitments to fires in Upwey over a number of weeks, he said. In addition, there was an ongoing need to maintain security from fire in the brigade's own area.

"A number of our members not only met the criteria for the medal but rendered service 'above and beyond the call' before, during and after Black Saturday," Mr Schauble said.

Many other brigade members contributed to the brigade efforts during the crisis and their efforts also need to be acknowledged.

"While the recognition is welcome, it's not really what we do it for," he added.

The National Emergency Medal was introduced in 2011. It acknowledges sustained or significant service during specified events. To date only the 2009 Victorian bushfires, the 2010-11 Queensland floods and Cyclone Yasi have been identified as such.

Over 4000 CFA volunteers and staff from across the State will receive the medal for their work during the 2009 bushfires. Of these, more than 170 are from the Dandenong Ranges Fire Brigades Group.

More information about the National Emergency Medal is available here:

<http://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards/national-emergency-medal>



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