



Sassafras-Ferny Creek Fire Brigade

2014 Annual Brigade Dinner & Awards

National Emergency Medal

For service during the 2009 Victorian bushfires

The National Emergency Medal is an operational service medal recognising service to others in a nationally significant emergency, such as the bushfires in Victoria in 2009 and the Queensland floods and cyclone in 2010-11.

The medal was approved by the Queen in October 2011.

The medal is awarded to members of identified organisations or individuals who rendered a minimum duration of service during specified dates in specified places in response to nationally significant emergencies within Australia (sustained service); or to persons who rendered extraordinary service in response to such emergencies (significant service).

A stylised representation of Australia's national floral emblem, the wattle, is the central symbol of the National Emergency Medal. The image around the central image is of flowering wattle, representing the accomplishments and sacrifices made by

Australians in the service of others in times of crisis. The back of the medal repeats the ring of flowering wattle, and details the award and recipient.

The medal ribbon colours are gold and eucalyptus green. Gold symbolises the Australian sun, optimism and hope. Eucalyptus green complements the symbolism of the medal design. The seven gold coloured bands represent Australia's six states, with the seventh representing the territories.

Seventeen present and past members of the Sassafras-Ferny Creek Fire Brigade were awarded the National Emergency Medal for their part in the response to the 2009 Victorian Bushfires while active members of this brigade.

Most of these medals were presented at ceremonies last year. Two remaining medals are to be presented to: **Lieutenant Paul Hicks and Past President Win King-Smith.**

Previous NEM Recipients, SFCFB

• • •

Norm English

Tim Gane

Jack Grant (Coongulla FB)

Anthony Ham (Monbulk FB)

Jeff Harbourd

Geoff Horner

Sarah Krumins

Simon E. Neill

Karen Noonan (Monbulk FB)

Alan Potts (as CFA staff)

Geoff Pfeifer

John Schauble

Brian Stevens

Cleighton Stevens (ex-member)

John Tomada



National Medal

For long and diligent service

The National Medal recognises long and diligent service by members of recognised government and voluntary organisations who risk their lives or safety to protect or assist the community in enforcement of the law or in times of emergency or natural disaster.

This includes government organisations such as ambulance, correctional, emergency, fire and police forces, and voluntary organisations such as lifesaving or search and rescue groups.

The National Medal was established in 1975. It is Australia's most awarded civilian medal.

When the medal was first introduced it recognised 15 years of diligent service by members of the Australian Defence Force, Australian police forces, and fire and ambulance services.

Eligibility for the National Medal progressively expanded to include people who had participated in part-time and volunteer service, members of the

Australian Protective Service and correctional and emergency services.

The National Medal is a circular bronze medal ensigned with the Crown of St Edward. The front of the



medal features the Commonwealth Coat of Arms in a recessed circle. The rim of the medal carries the inscription 'The National Medal'. The medal ribbon features 15 alternating gold and blue vertical stripes.

Two brigade members are to be presented with the National Medal tonight.

John Tomada

John joined the Sassafras-Ferny Creek brigade in 1993 and has remained an active and engaged member for the past 21 years across a broad range of brigade activities. For 14 of those years, John has been a member of the brigade management team. He was recently re-elected as 1st Lieutenant.

John has maintained a high level of operational training and has sought to continuously improve his operational skills by availing himself of training and development opportunities.

He has made himself available on numerous occasions over the years for strike team duty, including during the 2009 Victorian bushfires. He has also been active in Group communications for several years, as an FOV operator.

Beyond purely operational role, John's engagement as a member extends to the leadership and co-ordination of the Junior Brigade for the past seven years. He also delivers

CFA's school education program, Fire Safe Kids.

John is a recipient of the CFA's 20-year service award and a National Emergency Medal for service during the 2009 Victorian bushfires.

Geoff Horner

Geoff joined the brigade in 1977 from the junior ranks. He has remained a registered member ever since. Like many members his service has included periods when other priorities have sometimes had first call — notably sporting endeavours and helping to raise a family along with all the commitments that this brings.

Geoff first became a brigade officer in 2001 when he was elected to the role of 5th Lieutenant. In December 2003, he became 3rd Lieutenant to fill a casual vacancy. In July 2004, he was elected to his current position of 2nd Lieutenant, to which position he was recently re-elected

Geoff brings to the brigade considerable enthusiasm, a thoughtful and calm approach to problem solving and to the running of the brigade. He remains

National Medal Clasps



Previous recipients of the National Medal may be entitled to a clasp to the original medal following a further 10 years of service to the same level. The following members have been awarded clasps:

Bob Horner AFSM (Medal awarded 1992, clasp 2005)

- Captain 1974, 1976-85, Secretary 1958-74

Bob has continued to be an active member of the brigade, representing us at Group and also through Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria.

Richard Cromb (Medal awarded 1992, clasp 2005)

- Captain 1989-99

Richard remains active in the Brigade Management Team with responsibility for driver training and as an operational member.

Simon E. Neill (Medal awarded 2000)

- Captain 2001-02

Simon has continued his service as OH&S representative, as a brigade delegate to Group and as an operational member.

Alan Potts (Medal awarded 2000)

- Captain 2002-06

Apart from four years as Captain since being awarded the National Medal, Alan has served as Deputy Group Officer. He was recently awarded life membership of the Dandenong Ranges Fire Brigades Group.

John Schauble (Medal awarded 2000)

- Captain 2006-14, Secretary 1986-88

a key member of the brigade leadership group.

He is a recipient of the CFA's 30-year service

award and a National Emergency Medal for service during the 2009 Victorian bushfires.

CFA Service Awards

CFA service awards recognize aggregate service by brigade members. In the first instance, a certificate marking five years of service is awarded.

Five-year Certificates

- *Gillad Bitterman*
- *Sue Coad*
- *Michael Coad*
- *John Collins*
- *Mark Lewis-James*
- *Simon J. Neill*
- *Peter Zanon*



For service to the community

Subsequent service is acknowledged from 10 years of service through the award of a service medal. Each subsequent five years

of service is marked by a replacement clasp and a lapel badge denoting total years of service.

CFA Service Medals

Robert (Bob) Wood, 25 years

Bob Wood first joined the brigade in 1978 at a time when he was already active in emergency management as a member of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs Search and Rescue Section. He resigned from the brigade in 1986, but rejoined in March 1997. From 2001-02, he served as Communications Officer and brought his considerable knowledge of mapping in particular to the forefront of brigade training. Due to ill health, Bob resigned as an operational member in 2002, but continued to play a key role in station maintenance for a number of years. His contribution to the brigade and the community is marked with the award of a 25-year clasp.

Simon E. Neill, 35 years

Simon was a brigade member from 1967 to 1974, before serving in the Australian Army. He rejoined the brigade in 1986 and has held the roles of Apparatus Officer, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Lieutenant. In December 2001 he was elected Captain held this role until mid-2002. Simon worked for CFA as a BASO and in administration support from 2007 to 2012. He has also been a brigade delegate to Group and is recipient of the National Emergency Medal and the National Medal. A life member of the brigade, he remains operational with responsibility for OH&S. Simon's service is marked by a 35-year clasp.

Brian Stevens, 35 years

Brian Stevens joined the brigade in 1973, serving continuously until 1990. He held the role of 1st Lieutenant for two years and was Captain for three years from 1986-89. After moving from the district with his family for a period, he rejoined the brigade in 1995, briefly serving as a lieutenant from 2001 to 2002. Brian returned to the officer ranks in 2008 again serving as 1st Lieutenant until 2010. He is a recipient of the National Medal, the National Emergency Medal and is a brigade life member. Brian and Carol moved from Sassafras to Huntly, near Bendigo, in 2011 but maintain a strong connection with the brigade. Brian's service is recognised with the award of a 35-year medal.