



MAJOR AWARD WINNERS:

Rotary NSW Emergency Services

OFFICER OF THE YEAR SERVING IN A PAID CAPACITY:

DANIEL HATTON – Senior Firefighter – Bulli

Fire & Rescue NSW



Rotary NSW Emergency Services

OFFICER OF THE YEAR SERVING IN A VOLUNTEER CAPACITY:

TIMOTHY LIDDEN – Squad Captain –

Wagga Wagga

NSW Volunteer Rescue Association





CATEGORY WINNERS FOR EACH EMERGENCY SERVICE AGENCY:

FIRE & RESCUE NSW Officer of the Year***DANIEL HATTON – Senior Firefighter – Bulli***

Daniel is a senior fire fighter with Fire & Rescue NSW. Daniel has gone well beyond his duty to serve his community, voluntarily following up with families he helped rescue during the 2001 Christmas Day bushfires. Daniel has also taken on a virtual global outreach to the poorest and most vulnerable children in the world. He has built homes in eight developing countries, including a pre-school in Banda Aceh for orphans of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami. He lived in Zimbabwe designing and implementing sustainability programs at multiple orphanages, and is now a board member of Vana Childcare Ministries Australia. For the past seven years he has coordinated the 15km ocean paddle as part of the Wollongong Christian Surfers paddle against poverty.

MARINE RESCUE NSW Officer of the Year***ADOLF FRANCO – Treasurer – Berridale***

It might be the ultimate nightmare to get into boat trouble in the alpine lakes of New South Wales Snowy Mountains, especially in plummeting temperatures. But Adolf Franco has been there in the background, ready to take on the wilds of Lake Eucumbene and Lake Jindabyne. Adolf, who lives at Berridale, stations and maintains a rescue vessel at home when the season or weather requires it. Adolf is also an active member of the Berridale Brigade of the Rural Fire Service and the State Emergency Service. Because of the huge distances in the Snowy River Region Frank also has a SES rescue vehicle ready for action stationed at his home. As an electrician, Adolf operates his own business and freely donates his time to the elderly if they have electrical problems. In March Frank volunteered to go to Taree and Ballina to assist in flood relief.

NSW AMBULANCE Officer of the Year***CHRISTOPHER WILKINSON – Critical Care Paramedic – Helicopter Retrieval – Bankstown***

When a hillside collapsed at Thredbo in 1997, wiping out two ski lodges and killing 18, Christopher was one of two paramedics that crawled into the wreckage and stayed with the trapped survivor, Stuart Diver. Throughout the ordeal, Chris was integral to Stuart's treatment and rescue. It is just one incident during a long career of tackling some of the most dangerous rescue assignments including cliff, ocean and mountain rescues in difficult and hostile environments. Chris has performed helicopter rescues and retrieval of critically injured and ill patients for over 25 years. He now attends the most severe accidents and trauma, retrieving and transporting victims to trauma centres and hospitals. Chris has used his vast experience over the past 34 years to give medical training to Australian Special Operations personnel, especially in austere and remote medicine.



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE Officer of the Year

GORDON HILL – Volunteer – Duty Officer, Critical Incident Support Services – Cobar



Gordon deals with emergencies in Cobar, in the state’s far west. He has been a Critical Incident Support Service Peer (CISSP) with the NSW RFS on call most days for the past 22 years and a Critical Incident Support Service Duty Officer for a week a month for the past 5 years. For 40 years Gordon has been a member of the NSW SES and is currently the Local Controller of the Cobar Unit. Gordon has been a member of the NSW SES CISS Programme since its inception 13 years ago. He is Deputy Chairman of the Cobar Health Council, and member of the Western Primary Health Network Community Council, helping to source better health services for people in the Western Region.

NSW STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE Officer of the Year

GRAHAM KINDER – Unit Controller – Windellama Unit



Graham lives two emergency service lives – one at Manly as NSW SES Deputy Local Controller, dealing with flooding, east-coast lows - and even a potential tsunami. The other at Windellama (near Goulburn) as SES Unit Controller and RFS President, Deputy Captain and Training Officer. Like all dedicated emergency workers, Graham has gone above and beyond the call of service, leading teams during floods from Goulburn to Murwillumbah, fighting fires in the Blue Mountains and facilitating Multi-Agency Leadership training across NSW. A foundation Tsunami Capability Development Group volunteer, Graham proposed development of Tsunami Awareness Training. Graham is a member of the Northern Beaches Council Flood and Coastal Storms Working Group and is a member of the SES Aviation Operations Team, diligently maintaining competency and training.

NSW VOLUNTEER RESCUE ASSOCIATION Officer of the Year

TIMOTHY LIDDEN – Squad Captain – Wagga Wagga



A VRA captain and member for over 24 years, Tim is known for going well beyond the call of duty to help others. In 2010, after his squad completed human rescues in local flooding, Tim went out by himself to help a farmer transport several hundred sheep that had been trapped on an island to safety by boat. In 2012 the flooding saw Tim make daily trips in the flood rescue boat to feed a heard of sheep. For the past 10 years, Tim has also been a member of the NSW Rural Fire Service, serving in the Glenfield Brigade, and in that capacity fought the Victorian Black Saturday bushfires in 2009. In 2013, he assisted in the Blue Mountains bushfires, and has survived being caught in a firestorm.