

NSW Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards (RESCA)

09 Aug 2019



Last Friday, 2 August the 2019 RESCA Awards were held at Bankstown Sports Club.

RESCA acknowledges and celebrates selfless Community Service of Emergency Services Personnel.

Three hundred people from all over the state from the six featured services (FRNSW, NSW Ambulance, VRA, SES, RFS and Marine Rescue) attended the event along with our finalists, David Cross, Matthew Pridham, Adam Richards and Anthony Waller as well as Commissioner Paul Baxter.

Our Minister, David Elliott, who's portfolio covers five of these agencies (not Ambulance) also spoke on the night about his admiration of the good work all these agencies do to protect the community of NSW.

On the night Superintendent Anthony Waller was awarded Fire and Rescue NSW Officer of the year and Overall Officer of the Year NSW Serving in a paid capacity.

Superintendent Anthony Waller based in the Illawarra, has never been far from saving lives. In 2001 he was both the Sydney and NSW Lifesaver of the Year and is presently education director and board member of Surf Life Saving NSW. He has been a firefighter for 38 years, more than 20 of them as a firefighter educator. Among his operations, he was a team leader in an Australian earthquake task force in Christchurch. In 2017 he was Operations Officer in a NSW cyclone taskforce in Proserpine, Queensland. In the same year he was Base Manager in a flood evacuation operation northern NSW.



Senior Firefighter Tara Lal, Australian Rotary Health PHD Scholar also presented to the audience about her scholarship, which is looking at the impact of exposure to suicide on firefighters. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Congratulations to all our finalists on a great achievement. You can find out more about our four [finalist here](#).

This is the fifth year of the Awards and FRNSW has increased its nominations from 9 last year to 17 this year, so a great result in terms of recognition of our people who are nominated from three areas, our own FRNSW staff, members of the public and Rotary members.

The Awards are gaining in significance, with AFAC now a supporter as the Awards move towards a national perspective.