



**Troy Grant**  
Minister for Emergency Services

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **EMERGENCY SERVICES RECOGNISED FOR SELFLESS COMMUNITY SERVICE**

The spotlight shone on emergency services in NSW and the ACT recently at the 2018 Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards.

Bankstown Sports Club hosted the awards ceremony, where everyday heroes from NSW and, for the first time ever, the ACT were recognised and honoured.

The President of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association (NSW VRA) Binalong Rescue Squad and a NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Inspector from Maitland took out the top NSW awards.

Minister for Emergency Services Troy Grant congratulated all 32 nominees and thanked the 350 guests at the presentation dinner.

Mr Grant said the guests and nominees at the function represented the type of selfless community service performed daily by emergency service agencies.

“It’s impossible to place a value on the work our volunteers and personnel contribute to the emergency services space, but we do know that each and every day their actions change lives for the better,” Mr Grant said.

“Last night’s nominees were recognised by members of the public and their own organisations because of their exemplary records and inspiring actions.

“I congratulate each nominee and, in particular, those individuals who have received awards. Thank you for your contribution.”

Ten Officers of The Year were announced – one for each emergency service organisation for NSW and ACT.

#### **NSW Officers of the Year – emergency services:**

- Jacquelyn Taffs Marine Rescue NSW (Clarence Valley)
- Debra Scanes ESM NSW VRA (Binalong)
- Justin Sullivan FRNSW (Bankstown)

- Paul Vowels NSW Ambulance (Beresfield)
- Inspector Glenn Byrnes NSW RFS (Lower Hunter)
- Naomi Leviton NSW SES (Manly)

**ACT Officers of the Year – emergency services:**

- Robert Thompson ACT Fire & Rescue (Fyshwick)
- Andy Francey ACT Ambulance Service (Belconnen)
- Mark Sedgman ACT RFS (Rivers, Cotter Road)
- Sue Elsbury ACT SES (Woden)

**Officers of the Year:**

- NSW Officer serving in a Volunteer Capacity – Debra Scanes ESM, NSW VRA
- NSW Officer serving in a Paid Capacity – Inspector Glenn Byrnes, NSW RFS
- ACT Officer serving in a Volunteer Capacity – Sue Elsbury, ACT SES
- ACT Officer serving in a Paid Capacity – Robert Thompson, ACT FR

The event is an initiative of the Rotary Districts & Clubs of NSW and ACT and is the only time all ten NSW and ACT Emergency Service organisations have been recognised in a combined awards program.

In addition to the awards presented on the evening, the inaugural NSW Dorothy Hennessy OAM Emergency Services Youth Scholarship for volunteers up to the age of 21 was also announced.

Lachlan Sutherland of the Dubbo HQ Brigade, a volunteer firefighter from age 10, is the first recipient of this scholarship. He will now receive \$1000 towards his aspirations of further training for his long-term career as a Fire Fighter, thanks to the scholarship.

**Media: Douglas Martin | 0438 371 354**