



Media Release

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR COMMUNITY VOTED EMERGENCY SERVICES AWARDS

His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley hosted morning tea at Government House on Thursday 14th February 2019 to launch the 8th annual NSW Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards (RESCA).

This year marks two independent states, NSW and ACT, following the evolving national program to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of Emergency Services personnel.

The awards highlight the invaluable work undertaken by emergency service personnel and volunteers, who often go above and beyond for their communities. A Rotary motto of "Service Above Self" is reflected in their daily duties.

The NSW RESCA Chair and Former Deputy Commissioner of Fire + Rescue, Graeme Finney OAM, PHF Sapphire, has said "I have been fortunate to see these Emergency Services 'heroes' in action - whether on the front line, or in support of those who are helping others, and I am proud that the community, through Rotary, has the opportunity to recognise these well deserving people."

RESCA is the only program that is open to the community to nominate service personnel across multiple agencies, covering both paid and volunteer roles. Anyone can put forward a worthy recipient for recognition. There is only one rule - one cannot nominate oneself.

The six NSW agencies open for nominations include:

Fire + Rescue NSW
Marine Rescue NSW
NSW Ambulance
NSW Rural Fire Service
NSW State Emergency Services
NSW Volunteer Rescue Association

Members of the public and emergency service workers are encouraged to submit nominations online via the awards website at www.rotaryescawards.org.au

"Emergency Services staff do not seek recognition for the work they do. They are reluctant to stand in the spotlight and be acknowledged for their special role in the community. RESCA provides a means through which the community can reach out and say 'thank you' in a small but meaningful way, to those who provide so much, to so many" says Finney.

Nominations will close at midnight on Wednesday 1st May 2019. A panel of independent judges from Rotary Districts will assess nominees on three key criteria:

- * Community service above and beyond the call of normal duty, which best exemplifies Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self"
- * Personal attributes
- * Contribution to their organisation

Finalists will be announced on 19th June 2019 at NSW Parliament House.

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