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**19 May 2025**

**2025 WAFES Awards finalists announced**

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I am delighted to announce the finalists for the 2025 WAFES Awards.

Our judges have selected 45 finalists from an exceptional pool of nominations for the 15 awards below:

**Career Fire and Rescue Individual Achievement Award**

Dain Hutton, Firefighter, Rockingham Fire Station  
Sam Collins, Firefighter, Belmont Fire Station  
Tod Bergersen, Station Officer, Cardup Fire Station

**DFES Corporate Staff Individual Achievement Award**

Aaron Kain, Bushfire Risk Management Officer  
David Windsor, Cultural Fire and Partnerships Coordinator  
Tayissa Sweetlove, Principal Project Consultant

**DFES Operational Staff Individual Achievement Award**

Ian Anderson, Academy Instructor  
Renee Klein, Marine Services Officer  
Stephen Petersen, District Officer Esperance

**Marine Rescue Individual Achievement Award**

David Skene, Marine Rescue Exmouth  
Owen Rouse, Marine Rescue Derby  
Scott Williams, Marine Rescue Dampier

**Murray Lang Bush Fire Service Award**

Jeff McDougall, Gelorup Bush Fire Brigade  
Paul Blight, Yallingup Coastal Bush Fire Brigade  
Xavier White, Ballaying Bush Fire Brigade

**Peter Keillor Award**

Amy Drage, Geraldton-Greenough State Emergency Service  
Connie Reed, Newman State Emergency Service  
Leslie Hayter, Margaret River State Emergency Service

**Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services Individual Achievement Award**

Carlos Veldscholte, Wyndham Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services



Jayson Lindsay, Cervantes Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services  
Peter Buckenara, Bremer Bay Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services

**Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service Individual Achievement Award**

Amelia Fitzgerald, Esperance Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service  
Jamie Copeland, Pemberton Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service  
Natalie Marley, Port Hedland Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service

**DFES Staff Team Achievement Award**

Public Information Team  
Bushfire Centre of Excellence  
State Operational Support Fleet Team

**Firefighting Team Achievement Award**

Karratha Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service  
Mandurah Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service  
Northcliffe Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service and Northcliffe Bush Fire Brigade

**Marine Rescue Team Achievement Award**

Marine Rescue Carnarvon  
Marine Rescue East Kimberley  
Marine Rescue Esperance

**State Emergency Service Team Achievement Award**

Esperance State Emergency Service  
Kununurra State Emergency Service  
Tom Price State Emergency Service

**Firefighting Young Person of the Year Award**

Dylan Goldup, Kununurra Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service  
Lachlan Bormolini, Bedforddale Bush Fire Brigade  
Riley Mole, Karratha Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service

**Marine Rescue Young Person of the Year Award**

Fraser Boulter, Marine Rescue Fremantle  
Lachlan Field, Marine Rescue Port Hedland  
Owen Wells, Marine Rescue Port Hedland

**State Emergency Service Young Person of the Year Award**

Joshua Yates, Margaret River State Emergency Service  
Lucas Fraser, Communications Support State Emergency Service  
Riley Symington, Mandurah State Emergency Service

Congratulations to every finalist. They were chosen from a talented group of nominees each who had a unique story, a journey filled with challenges, achievements and countless hours.



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Fire & Emergency Services**



I look forward to hearing more about their accomplishments at the WAFES Awards gala dinner on Friday 29 August at Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, where the winner of each award will be announced.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the volunteers and DFES personnel who were not successful with their nominations. Being nominated alone demonstrates your genuine desire to make a positive contribution to the community.

**MELISSA PEXTON**  
**ACTING COMMISSIONER**