



MEDIA RELEASE

Sydney, NSW 7 September 2011

Joint Recipients for Prestigious Laurie Lavelle Award

Fire Safety for the Hearing Impaired and a Sustainable Fire Truck Replacement program were presented with the prestigious Industry Award at Australasia's Premier Emergency Management Conference in Sydney. Quinlan Webster and Leon Smith were each presented with the prestigious Laurie Lavelle Achiever of the Year Award at the joint Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) and Bushfire CRC conference *New World, New Thinking* in Sydney.

Quinlan, Senior Station Officer for the New Zealand Fire Service, was presented the award in recognition of his outstanding achievements in advocating and improving fire safety and awareness for the deaf and hearing impaired through programs and projects in these communities. Of significance has been Quinlan's development of the Emergency '111' Deaf Text Service, providing the deaf and hearing impaired community access to the emergency services. Quinlan has appeared on the Deaf Aotearoa's website promoting the '111' Deaf Text Service, written articles for online print and magazines, and conducted workshops for deaf people and deaf people with other disabilities, providing them with practical fire safety advice.

The New Zealand Fire Service has been publicly acknowledged for Quinlan's work with two major awards; the 'Public Service Award' from the Deaf Aotearoa and the 'Excellence in Working Together' award at the 2011 Institute of Public Administration Excellence Awards.

Leon, Manager Engineering Services at the Tasmania Fire Service, has been recognised for his pivotal role in the development of the Tasmania Fire Service's (TFS) rolling and sustainable quality fire truck replacement program, resulting in other member agencies seeking Leon and TFS' assistance in the design and building of fire trucks.

The TFS is the only Australian Fire Service to build its own tanker and tanker/pumper trucks. By developing the rolling and sustainable replacement program, Leon has been able to make significant savings for TFS through the development of the program and demonstrate to other AFAC member agencies that this program is sustainable.

The Laurie Lavelle Achiever of the Year Award was introduced in 1997 to recognise individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to emergency services. The award was named after Laurie Lavelle, OAM, a long-standing former Chief Fire Officer of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board and inaugural CEO of AFAC, in recognition of his lifelong commitment to emergency services in Australasia.

Alan McDougall, State Emergency Management Training Officer with the SA State Emergency Service, was also honoured the Highly Commended Award for his central role in the training of hundreds of South Australians in the key principles of emergency management, including emergency risk management.

AFAC again congratulates Quinlan, Leon and Alan for their outstanding service and commitment to the emergency services.

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The annual conference was held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, Australia. The next conference will be in Perth, Australia 28-31 August 2012 <http://www.afac2012.org/>

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Laurie Lavelle award winners (L-R) Laurie Lavelle, Quinlan Webster and Leon Smith.

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