



Marion Scrymgour

MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS

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Volunteer Firefighter Awarded the Australian National Medal

A Territorian who is a founding member of the Alice Springs Volunteer Bushfire Brigade will today be presented with one of Australia's most prestigious awards.

The National Medal will be presented to Ken Metcalf in recognition of the 52 years he has been a volunteer firefighter in many parts of Australia, including the past 10 in Alice Springs.

Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts Minister Marion Scrymgour congratulated Mr Metcalf on his outstanding achievement.

"Mr Metcalf today becomes the first volunteer firefighter to be presented the National Medal as a Bushfires NT member," Minister Scrymgour said.

"The community service he has provided around Australia and in the Territory during the past decade makes him a very deserving recipient of the award.

"Mr Metcalf has always been eager to pass on his knowledge to others and has helped many new or younger members of the brigade with advice and assistance.

"And while he has stepped back from operational duties in recent times he still operates a radio base from his home where he has a Bushfires NT radio and often assists during callouts."

Mr Metcalf began as a volunteer firefighter in 1954 when he joined the Georges Hall brigade in New South Wales as an 18-year-old.

He has since been an active member of many volunteer brigades as well as being involved in his capacity as a park ranger throughout NSW.

As the Medal recognises a minimum of 15 years service, Mr Metcalf's participation in other locations was taken into consideration for this award.

Media Note _ Alice Springs Mayor Fran Kilgariff will present Mr Metcalf with the Australian National Medal at the Alice Springs Bushfires NT headquarters in 3 Elder Street at 4pm.

Those attending today's presentation will include Mr Metcalf's wife Carmen, Bushfires NT director Stephen Sutton and others involved with Bushfires NT and the Alice Springs Volunteer Bushfire Brigade.