

Fire + Rescue NSW

Nominee's name: Peter Bugden

Current Role: Senior Firefighter, Shoalhaven (*Retired*)



Peter Bugden is a Senior Firefighter with Fire and Rescue NSW, recently retired from 440 Shoalhaven Fire Station. With 23 years of dedicated service in emergency response, Peter has consistently demonstrated outstanding professionalism, resilience, and a deep commitment to the wellbeing of both his colleagues and the broader community.

Peter commenced his firefighting career in 2002 as a retained firefighter in Kiama, before transitioning to a full-time role in 2007. He has since developed a broad skill set across rescue operations, Urban Search and Rescue, HAZMAT response, and community fire safety education. His role extends beyond emergency response, contributing to prevention efforts through school and community engagement programs.

Following a critical incident in which he helped save a fellow firefighter's life, Peter faced significant personal challenges. Rather than step back, he turned this experience into a platform to support others, offering peer mentoring and mental health guidance to colleagues coping with trauma and stress.

In addition to his professional contributions, Peter has volunteered for over two decades as a rugby league coach and athletics mentor, currently supporting a local girls' team to reach state-level success.

Peter's selfless service, strength of character, and enduring impact make him a truly deserving nominee for this award.