

VRA Rescue NSW

Nominee's name: Wayne Mendes

Current Role: Captain, Guyra



Wayne Mendes, affectionately known as “Mexico,” has devoted nearly 40 years to the Guyra VRA Rescue Squad, where he currently serves as Captain. Since joining in 1986, Wayne has led by example—coordinating training, overseeing readiness, and responding to countless emergencies including the Moree Floods, 2019 bushfires, and major search and rescue operations.

Wayne’s service consistently goes above and beyond. During critical events, he checks on isolated residents, supports evacuations, and remains a steady presence for his team and community. Even after retiring from council work in 2021, his commitment has only grown, spending countless hours mentoring, maintaining equipment, and ensuring 24/7 operational readiness.

Wayne also actively supports community events, accompanies senior citizen trips, and contributes to school safety talks and ANZAC Day fundraisers. His integrity, humility, and quiet leadership have made him a respected and beloved figure across the region.

Wayne’s legacy is one of unwavering service, and he is a truly deserving nominee for recognition at these Awards.