



VOLUME 14



JOURNAL OF THE
NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA INC.

<http://naa-online.com/>

Emergency Service Medals of Tasmania

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This article covers the distinctive award medals of the various emergency services of Tasmania. These awards were issued from the beginning of the twentieth century. Fire brigade medals form the bulk of these awards and were the first issued, followed by police, prison and ambulance awards which were issued at a much later date. This article also gives a brief outline of the development of fire brigades and the police force from their early settlement beginnings to the present day.

The award medals of the Tasmanian emergency services—fire, police, prison and ambulance—has been a neglected area, yet the series has much to offer for the numismatist and historian. Unfortunately because of their rarity, many of the medals are now difficult to obtain. This particularly applies to the early medals of the Hobart, Burnie and Launceston Fire Brigades. In these cases only a few medals were ever issued. A few of the later medals such as those issued by the Fire Brigades Commission of Tasmania are occasionally available. The medals issued by the Tasmanian Prison Services are rarely seen.

In 1954, shortly after Elizabeth II came to the throne, the distinctive Tasmanian fire brigade awards were replaced by the Queen's Fire Brigade Long Service Medal. In 1972 Australia adopted its own award system and three years later the Australian National Medal was instituted. This was awarded to fire and police and later

ambulance officers; prison officers were awarded the medal only after considerable lobbying to the Federal Government. In 1988 the Australian Fire Service Medal was promulgated. Medals awarded to police were Imperial awards, such as the Imperial Service Medal and the Police Exemplary Service Medal. These Imperial awards were replaced by the Tasmanian Police Commissioner's Integrity and Diligent Service Medal in 1999. Imperial awards and medals under the Australian honours system have not been included in this work in detail, although groups of emergency service medals may include such awards. The main aim of this article is to catalogue the distinctive Tasmanian issues.

With the length of service given by many Tasmanian firemen, it is not unusual to find the Fire Brigades Commission Medal coupled with the Queen's Fire Brigade Long Service Medal and occasionally the Australian National Medal. It is extremely rare to find combinations of local brigade, Fire Brigades Commission and the Fire Brigades Long Service medals awarded to one person. Indeed, such combinations of medals when they do occur, bear testimony to the long and devoted service given by many firemen.

All recipients of distinctive Tasmanian Fire Brigade medals have been listed in the Appendix. The names of prison officers who received their Long Service Medal in 1983 are not included as the records are unfortunately no longer available. Recipients

of the Police Commissioner's Integrity and Diligent Service Medal are not listed due to the large number of medals issued being beyond the scope of this article. The names of those who received the Ambulance Commission Service Medal are regrettably, also not available.

Fire Brigades

During the period of transportation of convicts to Tasmania (then Van Diemen's Land, 1803 to 1853) there were no fire brigades as such. When the call 'FIRE' was heard in the towns, all available members of the community would race to the scene; the pending disaster would be like a magnet drawing men, women and children from every part of the town to witness the conflagration. Eager hands would soon be at work to clear the building of its contents and form a 'bucket line'—transferring water in buckets from the nearest water source—in an attempt to quell the fire, often doing more damage to 'goods and chattel' than actually extinguishing the fire. Early fire fighting in the towns was badly managed and usually controlled by the military or local constabulary, neither of which had proper training or adequate equipment available. Though the local residents would help fight a fire with considerable enthusiasm, their efforts were mostly disorganised and more often than not the building concerned was either badly damaged or totally destroyed.

Free Settlement

In 1853 convict transportation was abolished and three years later Tasmania became a self-governing colony. Emigration and free trade, supplemented by the emancipation of local convicts, created

an increase in trade and prosperity. Small townships expanded and became larger towns through an increase in commerce and the establishment of industries. Major settlements like Hobart Town and Launceston grew at a rapid rate along with the establishment of smaller country towns servicing the agricultural areas on the North West Coast and Midlands. In these early days of free settlement, Tasmanian communities began to realise they needed to protect and organise themselves against the destructive forces of fire.

First Brigades

In response to the need to establish organised fire protection, many communities formed their own local fire brigade. The first semi-formal brigades in Hobart Town and Port Arthur were controlled by the military and were manned by prisoners. At the same time rudimentary brigades made up of local residents were formed in a number of smaller towns. These brigades consisted of volunteers who banded together to protect their own property and township and often received no remuneration for their services; their only reward was the admiration and respect of the community.

To encourage local participation, some later brigades became 'friendly societies' offering members social interaction as well as providing financial support in times of sickness and death. The formation of friendly societies was particularly noticeable in Launceston during the 1860s and 1870s.

Further increase in commerce resulted in the expansion of many towns. Insurance Companies began to focus on protecting the properties they insured and started taking a greater interest in fire fighting. As a result a number of official fire brigades

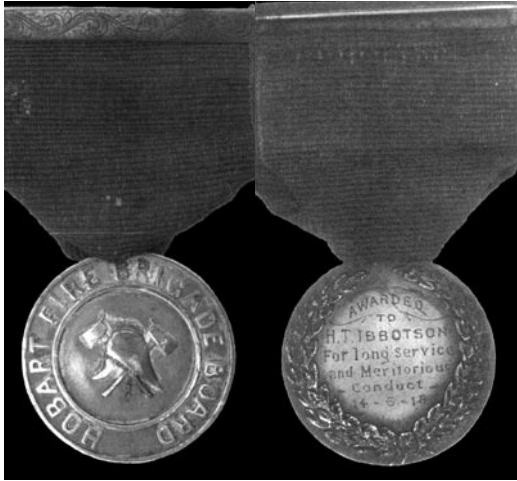


Plate 1. Obv. and Rev.

Hobart Fire Brigade Board Long Service & Meritorious Conduct Medal. First Issue.

Metal: Lightly gold plated cast bronze.

Ribbon: Dark red.

Naming: Engraved on reverse.

Maker: Golding and Sons, jewellers, Hobart.

Number issued: 3. **Presented:** 1915.



Plate 2. Obv. and Rev.

Hobart Fire Brigade Board Long Service & Meritorious Conduct Medal. Second Issue.

Metal: Bronze.

Ribbon: Maroon.

Naming: Engraved on edge.

Maker: Stokes & Son, Melbourne.

Number issued: 14 **Presented:** 1926, 30, 42, 43, 44.

Bars: Supt HE Trousselot, 20-year gold bar, 26.6.30.

Dep Supt NA Skinner, 20-year silver bar, 26.6.30.

Bronze bars issued each additional 5 years' service.



Plate 3.

Hobart Fire Brigade Board Long Service & Meritorious Conduct Medal. Third issue.

Metal: Bronze.

Ribbon: Purple with red edging.

Naming: Engraved on edge.

Suspension: Swivel mount.

Maker: Stokes & Son,



Plate 4.

Launceston Fire Brigade Board Long Service and Meritorious Conduct Medal.

Metal: Handcrafted gold, 9 ct.

Size: 24 mm Φ.

Ribbon: Maroon.

Naming: Engraved on reverse.

Maker: A Atherton, jeweller, Launceston.



Plate 5. Obv. and Rev.

Burnie Fire Brigade Board Long and Good Service Medal.

Metal: Gilt bronze.

Ribbon: Maroon.

Naming: Engraved on obverse.

Maker: Stokes & Son, Melbourne.

Number issued: 5.

Bars: Awarded each additional 5 years' service.

were founded and supported by insurance companies. Hobart had three brigades: the *Tasmanian Fire and Life Insurance Company Brigade*, the *Derwent and Tamar Fire Brigade*, and the *Cornwall Fire Brigade*. In 1864 these brigades were amalgamated. Launceston also had three main brigades. 'The Reds' were controlled by the Liverpool London & Globe Insurance Company, whilst the *Cornwall Volunteer Fire Brigade* number 2, known as 'the Blues', was controlled by the Cornwall Fire Insurance and the Marine & Tasmanian Fire and Life Insurance companies. The *Launceston Volunteer Brigade* was formed by the Derwent and Tamar and Launceston Fire and Marine Insurance Company in 1854. These three brigades were amalgamated in 1878 to form the *Launceston United Fire Brigade*.

In 1883 the Fire Brigades Act was passed to give better control over the two main brigades at Hobart and Launceston. Fire brigade boards were established in Hobart and Launceston, with representation from the insurance companies as well as local and central governments. In 1896 the Town Boards Act enabled the establishment of local fire brigades outside the major cities of Hobart and Launceston:

in addition to those that had already been formed in Longford (in 1862), Latrobe (1878) and Zeehan (1891), brigades were established in 1896 in Burnie and in Devonport.

The legislation gave town boards the power to raise and maintain fire brigades from town revenue, where previously

funds had mostly been raised by brigade members.

The Town Boards Act was amended in 1900, enabling the formation of additional fire brigades beyond town boundaries. Brigades were established in the following localities:

Queenstown, 1901, Gormanston and Linda, 1901-1907, Ulverstone, 1909, Penguin, 1913, Wynyard, 1914, Scottsdale, 1920, Deloraine, 1922, Oatlands, 1925, Franklin, 1935, Sheffield and Railton, 1935-41, Cygnet, 1937, Huonville, 1938, New Norfolk, 1939, Smithton, 1939 and Geeveston and Kingston, 1942.

Fire Brigades Commission

In 1944 the Tasmanian government decided to update the 1883 Fire Brigades Act with the intention of overhauling the way fire brigades were being administered. Despite considerable opposition, a new body called the Fire Brigades Commission was formed on 15 February 1946, with a charter to 'establish and maintain an efficient fire brigade, or fire brigades'¹. The Commission would act as a 'watchdog' over the various fire brigades and brigade boards scattered around the State. More brigades were now established:

Fern Tree, 1946, Somerset, Cressy and Currie, 1951, Stanley, 1952, Beaconsfield, 1953, George Town, 1957, Gravelly Beach, 1961, Campbell Town, 1964, Midway Point, 1970 and Perth, 1975.

The Fire Brigades Commission operated until 1977, when government decided another overhaul of the system was required.

Later in 1983, a brigade was established in St Helens.

Rural Fires Board

Prior to the 1950s there was very little organisation of rural fire-fighting in Tasmania. Although the dangers of bushfires were widely recognised, nothing was done to form a cohesive organisation capable of coordinating the fighting of these. Most fire-fighting in the 'bush' was undertaken by farmers and landowners who, like the town people in earlier days, simply banded together to assist each other in protecting their properties and livestock in the face of a common enemy.

As a result of disastrous bush fires in Tasmania during 1933-1934, a series of conferences was held in Hobart, attended by representatives from government and landowners. The intention was to prepare legislation to provide effective protection against rural fires. It was not until 1951, after the Second World War, that the Rural Fires Act 1950 was passed and the Rural Fires Board was formed. Rural fire districts and brigades were now established throughout the State. The Board's charter was to undertake the prevention of fires in rural areas. But following the catastrophic bush fires of 1967, the Rural Fires Act 1950 was repealed, the existing rural fire organisation abolished and a new Rural Fires Board formed.

State Fire Authority

By 1977 the Tasmanian government had become dissatisfied with the operations of the Fire Brigades Commission which had been in existence for over 30 years. After a thorough review of its management an interim body, the State Fire Authority, was given the power to 'manage the fire service until appropriate legislation was prepared to reform and amalgamate the State's fire services'². In 1979, twenty-two separate fire brigade boards along

with the Rural Fires Board were abolished and all fire services amalgamated into the Tasmania Fire Service. In 1990 that service was integrated into the Department of Emergency Services. This integration did not last long, and the following year the Tasmania Fire Service again became a separate body.

Early Brigade Medals

Four brigades—Hobart, Launceston, Burnie and Queenstown fire brigades—presented Long Service or Meritorious Service medals (Plates 1-7). These awards were superseded in 1946 by the Fire Brigades Commission Medal (Plates 8-12).

The first to acknowledge regular service by firemen was the Hobart Fire Brigade. In 1910 The Hobart Fire Brigade Board established the issue of a star to 'men of three years service without punishment marks'. This star was 'to be worn on the sleeve of [*the*] tunic'³. In addition to being decorated with the star the firemen would receive extra pay. A star would also be awarded every three years to firemen of good conduct. 'Like good conduct should be similarly rewarded every subsequent three years'⁴. The board also approved the issue of a medal (Plates 1-3):

Like good conduct should be similarly rewarded, at the completion of 15 years' good service to be decorated with a long service medal similar to those in use in all other permanent brigades'.⁵

The Launceston Fire Brigade Board established the issue of a Long and Good Service Medal in July 1924 (Plate 4).

In 1933 the Burnie Fire Brigade Board instituted its Long and Good Service Medal



Plate 6.

Queenstown Fire Brigade Board Long Service Medal.

Metal: Handcrafted gold; centre piece struck, enamelled gold.

Ribbon: Dark red.

Naming: Engraved on reverse.

Maker: Local jeweller; centre piece by Stokes & Son, Melbourne.



Plate 7. Rev.

Queenstown Fire Brigade Board Long Service Medal.

Metal: Handcrafted gold, 9 ct.

Naming: Engraved on reverse.

Maker: Stamped with 'W'.



Plate 8.

Fire Brigades Commission Long Service and Meritorious Conduct Medal.

First issue: Type 1.

Permanent personnel.

Size: 39 mm Φ, thin flan.

Metal: Bronze.

Ribbon: Purple, red edging.

Naming: Engraved on edge.

Maker: Stokes & Son.



Plate 9.

Fire Brigades Commission Long Service and Meritorious Conduct Medal.

First issue: Type 2.

Volunteer service.

Size: 39 mm Φ, thin flan.

Metal: Bronze.

Ribbon: Purple, red edging.

Naming: Engraved on edge.

Maker: Stokes & Son.



Plate 10. Obv. and Rev.

Fire Brigades Commission Long Service and Meritorious Conduct Medal.

First issue: type 2. Volunteer service (engraved on obverse).

Metal: Bronze.

Size: 39 mm Φ, thin flan.

Ribbon: Purple with red edging.

Naming: Engraved on edge.

Maker: Stokes & Son.



Plate 11. Obv.

Fire Brigades Commission Long Service and Meritorious Conduct Medal.

(Spelling error: Brigadg).

Second issue: Type 1. Permanent.

Metal: Bronze.

Size: 38 mm Φ, thick flan.

Ribbon: Purple with red edging.

Naming: Engraved on edge.

Maker: Stokes & Son.

Bars: Each additional 5 years' service.



Plate 12. Rev.

Fire Brigades Commission Long Service and Meritorious Conduct Medal.

Second issue: Type 2. Volunteer.

Metal: Silvered bronze.

Size: 38 mm Φ, thick flan.

Ribbon: Purple with red edging.

Naming: Engraved on edge.

Maker: Stokes & Son.



Plate 13. Obv. and Rev.

Fire Brigades Commission of Tasmania Special Medal.

Metal: Silver.

Ribbon: Purple with red edging.

Naming: Engraved on obverse.

Maker: Struck by Stokes & Son.



Plate 14.

Tasmanian Fire Service Volunteer Medal.

Metal: Nickel-silver.

Size: 38 mm Φ .

Ribbon: Striped green, yellow with red centre.

Maker: J & J Cash, Melb.

Bars: Each 10 years, ie, 20, 30, 40 years.



Plate 15.

Burnie Fire Brigade Social Club Life Member Medal.

Metal: Details unavailable.



Plate 16. Obv. and Rev.

Mount Lyell Mining Disaster, Bravery Medal.

Metal: Gold

Maker: Stokes & Son (standard Stokes obverse).



Plate 17.

Tasmanian Fire Brigades Association Competition Medal.

For urban or partly paid volunteer brigades competitions.

Metal: Bronze; plain, silvered, and gilt.

Size: 48 mm Φ .

Maker: AJ Parkes, Brisbane.



Plate 18. Obv. and Rev.

Tasmania Fire Service - Rural Brigades Competition Medal.

Metal: Aluminium.

Size: 40 mm Φ .

Maker: Stokes & Son Melbourne.

(Plate 5).

The Queenstown Fire Brigade Board established a Long Service Medal in December 1932. The medal comprised two main components, a handcrafted gold medal suspended from a scarlet ribbon to which another medal with the words ‘Queenstown Fire Brigade Long Service Medal’ was attached (Plate 6).

The Commission’s Medal

Once the Fire Brigades Commission of Tasmania was established in 1946, awards to firemen of the various local fire brigades were superseded by the commission’s Long Service and Meritorious Conduct Medal. Planning for the medal commenced shortly after the commission’s initial meeting in 1946.

*The Commission has decided to issue a Long Service Medal to firemen (other than those who have already received decorations from brigades to which they have been attached) who have served continuously for 15 years or more.*⁶

The medal was to be manufactured by Stokes & Son of Melbourne, to whom the commission’s secretary, HT Hey, sent the following design stipulations accompanied by two medal samples, one of the Hobart Fire Brigade Board and one of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Board of Melbourne:

We desire to incorporate that side of the Hobart badge bearing the words “For Long Service and Meritorious Conduct” with the reverse side wording “FIRE BRIGADES COMMISSION OF TASMANIA”, the centre to be the helmet and axes of the same style and pattern as

on the Melbourne medallion.

*In addition to this a further cast of this side is required bearing the words...at the bottom “Volunteer Service”.*⁷

Two years later the medals had still not been presented. In its report the commission states

*An unavoidable delay has occurred in regard to delivery of Long Service Medals, but the manufacturers have promised delivery during the month of September.*⁸

The medals finally arrived and were ‘engraved and forwarded to the various brigades for presentation to those eligible to receive them’⁹ (Plate 8-10). The medal was thus first presented in 1949, three years after its conception.

Further medals were subsequently ordered but these arrived with a spelling error; the S had been omitted from the word Bigades (Plates 11,12). As a result there are now two early types of the medal, one with the inscription ‘Fire Brigades Commission’ and the other with ‘Fire Brigade Commission’. Between 1946 and 1970 a total of 211 commission medals were presented (see Appendix).

Special Commission Medal

In July 1951 the Fire Commission decided to make an extraordinary award to its secretary, Sam Bird, for 50 years dedicated service. Bird’s service was considered so unique that a special silver medal (Plate 13) was struck and presented to him on his retirement by the then Premier of Tasmania, Robert Cosgrove.

Fire Service Volunteer Medal

In 1999 the Tasmanian Fire Service Volunteer Medal (Plate 14) was instituted by the Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Fighters Awards Framework (TVFFAF) for issue to fire service operational volunteers for 10 years 'Diligent Service with Integrity' and (or) exemplary service. Bars would be issued for additional lengths of service of 20, 30 and 40 years service.

Imperial Awards

In 1954 the Queen's Fire Service Medal—for gallantry or distinguished fire service—and the Fire Brigade Long Service Medal were instituted in the United Kingdom by Royal Warrant. Although the warrant was amended in 1970 to include eligibility of Australian fire brigade personnel to receive the medal, no Tasmanian was awarded the Queen's Fire Service Medal. One hundred and two Fire Brigade Long Service medals were however presented to Tasmanians from 1970 until 1976. This medal recognised 20 years exemplary service and was given to both permanent firemen as well as volunteers.

One of the conditions of the Royal warrant was that

the grant of any other Long Service or Good Conduct Medal for wear by brigades would be discontinued from 1 July 1970.

Accordingly, the Fire Brigade Commission of Tasmania ceased issuing its own Long Service and Meritorious Conduct Medal from that date.

Australian National Medal

The National Medal was instituted in 1975¹⁰ as part of the new Australian honours system. The medal recognised

long service in the uniformed services and replaced a number of imperial awards including the Queen's Fire Service Medal and the Fire Brigade Long Service Medal. Eligibility for the medal required a total of 15 years service in one or more of the services, each additional ten-year period being recognised by a bar.

Australian Fire Service Medal

The Australian Fire Service Medal was established 12 April 1988¹¹ to be awarded to members of the Australian Commonwealth Fire Service for distinguished service. Members of a State or Territory fire service, a fire service of an agency of the Commonwealth or the fire services of the territories of Christmas Islands, Cocos (Keeling) Island and Norfolk Island were equally eligible to receive the medal. Allocation of the award for each State was determined according to the formula:

- for full-time permanent members of the fire service or combined fire services, one in every 1,000 or part of 1,000;
- for part-time, volunteer or auxiliary members of the fire service or combined fire services, one in every 25,000 or part of 25,000.

Life Membership Medals

Two Tasmanian brigades have issued medals for life membership, the Burnie Fire Brigade Social Club (Plate 15; three in 1983) and the Scottsdale Fire Brigade (three in 1969); a number of other brigades have given badges for life membership.

Miscellaneous Awards

Other medals awarded to Tasmanian firemen have included the:

- Royal Humane Society Medal (awarded



Plate 19.

Interstate Fire Brigades Demonstration Medal, Launceston 1938.

Metal: Silver.
Size: 22 mm Φ .
Maker: Stokes & Son.
Issued: 100.



Plate 20. Obv. and Rev.

Hobart Fire Brigade Centenary Medal 1983.

Metal: Sterling silver (14), bronze (300).
Size: 51 mm Φ .
Maker: Stokes & Son, Melbourne.
Note: The silver medals were presented to members of the centenary committee.



Plate 21. Obv. and Rev.

Australian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association Conference Medal, Hobart 1988.

Metal: Silver (15), bronze (60).
Size: 51 mm Φ .
Maker: Hafner Mint, Melbourne.



Plate 22. Obv. and Rev.

Taroon Fire Brigade 50th Anniversary Medal 1996.

Metal: Pewter, gilt gold.
Size: 51 mm Φ .
Maker: Mastercast, Moonah, Tasmania.
Designer: R McNeice OAM, Tasmedals, Hobart.
Issued: 50. One medal engraved 'R McNeice Life Member 1971-85'.



Plate 23.

Burnie Fire Brigade Centenary Medal 1996.

Metal: Enamelled bronze, uniface.
Maker: Badger Makes Badges, Hobart.
Issued: 200.



Plate 24.

Ferntree Fire Brigade 50th Anniversary Medal 1996.

Metal: Gilt pewter.
Size: 38 mm Φ .
Ribbon: Red.
Maker: Tasmedals, Hobart.
Issued: 20 issued to firemen.



Plate 25.

Somerset Fire Brigade 50th Jubilee Medal 1999.

Metal: Gilt pewter.
Size: 36 mm Φ .
Ribbon: Red.
Maker: Tasmedals, Hobart.
Issued: 50.



Plate 26.

Tasmanian Police Commissioner's Diligent and Ethical Service Medal.

Metal: Nickel, uniface.
Size: 37 mm Φ .
Ribbon: Blue and off-white stripes.
Maker: Cash's, Melbourne.
Bars: Each five years.



Plate 27.

Ambulance Service of Tasmania Long Service Medal.

Metal: Enamelled, gilt bronze, uniface.
Size: 19 mm Φ , plus suspension loop.
Maker: Stokes & Son.
Issued: Unknown.
Suspension: Attached by suspension ring to lapel.



Plate 28. Obv. and Rev.

Tasmanian Prison Service 10 Years Long Service Medal.

Metal: Silvered bronze.

Size: 32 mm Φ .

Ribbon: Three red and two white stripes.

Suspender: Lug with attached rings.



Plate 29. Obv. and Rev.

Tasmanian Prison Service 25 Years Long Service Medal.

Metal: Gilt bronze.

Size: 32 mm Φ .

Ribbon: Three red and two blue stripes.

Suspender: Lug with attached rings.

- 1912, 1933),
- King's Medal for Police (and firemen, 1946),
- King's Coronation Medal (1936),
- Queen's Coronation Medal (1953),
- Australian Bravery Medal (1979, given for rescue), and
- Mount Lyell Mining Disaster Bravery Medal 1912 (Plate 16; two in 1912).

Competition Medals

Competitions between fire brigades were demonstrations of the necessary skills used for handling fire-fighting equipment. These demonstrations were a program of events designed to entertain the public. They displayed the skills and prowess of the various brigades and involved the simulation of rushing a fire-fighting appliance to a fire, the laying out of the hose and equipment and of course the extinguishing of a fire. A trophy or medal would be given to the brigade that won the competition or the particular section of the competition.

Early medals were handcrafted, sometimes called 'fob' pieces, manufactured in silver or gold by the local jeweller or silversmith. The name of the winning brigade, the name of the event and the date would usually be skilfully engraved by hand on the medal.

Die-struck competition medals were issued by the Tasmanian Fire Brigade Association (Plate 17), whose awards were given at urban or partly-paid volunteer brigades competitions, and the Tasmania Fire Service - Rural Brigades (Plate 18).

Commemorative Medals

Seven commemorative medals have been issued for fire brigades in Tasmania. These were presented for the:

- Interstate Fire Brigades Demonstration

- held in Launceston in 1938 (Plate 19),
- Hobart Fire Brigade centenary in 1983 (Plate 20),
- Australian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association conference in Hobart in 1988 (Plate 21),
- Taroon Fire Brigade 50th anniversary in 1996 (Plate 22),
- Burnie Fire Brigade centenary in 1996 (Plate 23),
- Ferntree Fire Brigade 50th anniversary in 1996 (Plate 24), and
- Somerset Fire Brigade 50th anniversary in 1999 (Plate 25).

Police Medals

In 1898 the Police Regulations Act was passed and a single unit, the Tasmania Police Force, was created from a number of small forces located in various municipalities.

These small forces had evolved over time since the foundation of the colony. Police districts had been formed and local councils authorised to appoint and maintain police forces which comprised a hierarchy of constables, sergeants, sub-inspectors and superintendents.

By June 1867, eight police districts with a total of ninety-two territorial police had been formed. The Police Regulations Act 1898 combined these police forces and in January 1899 the Tasmania Police Force was established.

Despite close examination of records no trace can be found of any distinct long service or other local medal being issued up to this period to a Tasmanian police officer, other than British imperial awards such as the Imperial Service Medal or the Police Exemplary Service Medal.

Imperial awards continued to be used until the Australian awards system came

into effect in 1972. Members of the Tasmania Police Force became eligible for the Australian National Medal, Australian Police Medal and Australian Overseas Police Medal as well as the Australian bravery awards.

In 2000 the Tasmanian Police Commissioner's Diligent and Ethical Service Medal (Plate 26) was instituted. The medal was named on the reverse and worn on the right breast. A bar was awarded for each additional period of five-year service.

Ambulance Service Medals

Tasmania's ambulance Long Service Medal (Plate 27) was issued from the late 1960s to the late 1970s and ceased to be used once the Australian honours system was instituted in 1972.

Prison Service Medals

Prison officers in Tasmania did not have long service recognised until 1983, when

of Correctional Services, authorised the issue of the Long Service Medal for 10 and 25 years service (Plates 28,29). The medals were first presented on 24 August 1983 but discontinued in the late 1980s when approval was given for the prison officers to receive the Australian National Medal; before this time, Tasmanians had not been eligible to receive the Australian award.

References

1. RV McNeice. *With Skill and Dedication*, State Fire Commission, Hobart, 1993.
 2. Ibid, p.6
 3. Hobart Fire Brigade Minute Book, 31.1.1914.
 4. Ibid.
 5. Ibid.
 6. Fire Brigades Commission of Tasmania Minutes, 1946.
 7. Ibid.
 8. Correspondence Book, Fire Brigades Commission of Tasmania.
 9. Ibid.
 10. Letters Patent, Gazette no. S28, 17 Feb 1975.
 11. Letters Patent, Gazette no. S161, 10 June 1988.
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State government, through the Department