

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

Hanging Rock Rural Fire Service volunteer to be remembered at a memorial service in Sydney

15 October 2004

The contribution of a volunteer attached to the Hanging Rock Brigade of the NSW Rural Fire Service will be among those recognised at a Memorial to Emergency Service Volunteers of NSW ceremony in Sydney on Sunday.

Michael Charles Hanly died at 50 years of age while on duty near Nundle on 21, January 2003. Mr Hanly collapsed during a morning briefing at the Hanging Rock Brigade Station in preparation to return to the Yates Fire which he had fought alongside other volunteers until late the previous night. He was later found to have sustained a major cardiac arrest.

A grazier, Mr Hanly was the Hanging Rock Brigade vice president from June 2002 and had been a volunteer member with the service for 14 years.

Member for Tamworth Peter Draper said he was honoured to be attending the service on behalf of the Tamworth electorate to remember Mr Hanly and pay tribute to his contribution to the community.

The service, to be held at Mrs Macquarie's Point, will give special recognition to those emergency service volunteers who have lost their lives in the course of duty since the Memorial was dedicated in 2001.

"With the bush fire season upon us, this service is a timely reminder of the role NSW Rural Fire Service volunteers play in safeguarding communities against the devastation of fire. It's challenging work and can be extremely rewarding but like any emergency response role carries its own set of dangers and stresses," Mr Draper said.

"People become RFS volunteers out of a desire to help others, protect life and property and be part of a team. Mr Hanley will always be remembered as an active, well-respected member of the Hanging Rock Brigade and the community," he said.

End Release

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