



NW Jolly Medal Citation

Gary Morgan AM AFSM

Over a period of more than 40 years, Gary Morgan has made many significant contributions to the management of forests and forest fires at the state, national and international levels, through his distinguished and outstanding work as a forester, fire manager and fire science leader.

In his early career, Gary worked as an operational forester in various district and regional roles, up to Regional Manager. He acted as Victoria's Manager for Commercial Forestry prior to being appointed as Chief Fire Officer for Victoria's public land. During that time, Gary worked in leadership roles in forest management and research at state and national levels. He strengthened the relationship with the Country Fire Authority; led the recognition of proper accreditation and experience requirements for fire controllers; initiated full implementation of the Australian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIIMS) across Victoria; and played a significant role in the creation of the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre.

He remains very active in the Forest Fire Management Group, under the national Standing Committee of Forestry, in which he developed strong relationships with counterparts in New Zealand and North America. He initiated the development of the formal agreements between fire agencies in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA that enables international provision of forest firefighters. As Chair of the Group, he arranged the first deployment of Australian and New Zealand firefighters to the USA. He facilitated the introduction of the first heavy-lift fire suppression Air Crane helicopter into Australia to strengthen fire suppression capabilities. He was awarded an Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM), in 2002, and helped organise both the 3rd International Wildland Fire Management Conference and the inaugural International Wildland Fire Summit, both held in Sydney, in 2003. He continued working to support the International Wildland Fire Conferences held in Spain, South Africa, South Korea and Brazil.

As Chief Executive of the Bushfire CRC, Gary provided strong leadership to a diverse group of bushfire scientists, managers and practitioners and became a respected authority on bushfires. He improved recognition within fire and emergency service agencies of the ongoing need for new wildfire knowledge to better protect communities and manage the environment. In 2005, he participated in drafting of the FAO's Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines, then becoming a member of the FAO Fire Management Actions Alliance Advisory Group. Following the 2009 Victorian bushfires, Gary assembled a group of researchers from state fire agencies and research organisations to conduct independent research and analysis of the key issues arising out of the fires. Through his liaisons, he developed fire research MOUs with the USA, Canada, France, Germany, Portugal and Chile. Gary's contributions to global forest fire management were recognised by the Commonwealth Forestry Association, in 2013, through a Regional Award for Excellence.

As a consultant, Gary has provided fire management expertise to national and international clients. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM), in 2018, for his significant service to the community through fire response organisations, and to forest and fire research, and management.

Gary has been an active member of the Forestry Australia (IFA) throughout his career. He was an inaugural member of the IFA's Foresters Without Borders Committee, and has provided outstanding leadership to the IFA's Forest Fire Management Committee, overseeing the preparation of policies and high-quality submissions to various fire inquiries and a series of well-attended fire management webinars.

Gary Morgan's achievements and service to the profession of forestry has been outstanding.