



Walter Blumenfeld with his many medals, including a National Medal with three clasps signifying 45 years of volunteer work with the ACT Emergency Services Agency.

## Veteran honoured for volunteer service

BY NATALIE CAVALLARO

**W**alter Blumenfeld has supported Canberra and beyond through fires, floods and hailstorms and at 80 years of age, has no intention of stopping.

Walter was recently awarded a Third Clasp for his National Medal, signifying 45 years of service to the ACT Emergency Services Agency which includes full time service in the army and time in the Army Reserve.

Fourteen members of the ESA were awarded the National Medal by ACT Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Simon Corbell, during a ceremony at Old Parliament House earlier this month but Walter stood out as the longest serving volunteer.

Of receiving his Third Clasp Walter said, 'I felt quite proud and thankful I am in good enough health to keep volunteering.'

'It is a big commitment in keeping up with training to ensure your health and fitness are good enough and that you are available when you are called out to a job.'

Throughout his time with the ESA, Walter has been on

the frontline of many high risk situations, but the one that stands out the most for him are the Canberra bushfires of 2003.

'That was obviously a major event but there was also a lot of work to be done afterwards in terms of things like roof damage,' he said.

'We've also helped out in Sydney during the hailstorms and in Newcastle during the floods.'

While the knowledge he is helping his community is a large part of why Walter keeps volunteering, the friendships he's made have also kept him involved.

'There's a certain amount of camaraderie involved and we often go on trips together so there's activities which do help you bond as a team.'

Health and fitness is a top priority for Walter, who's even been a rollerblading enthusiast in the past.

'I go to the gym every day and walk and cycle as well as kayak.'

Exercise may keep Walter fit but he does have a secret weapon.

'The support of my wife Helen has kept me going,' he said.

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## Recruitment services champion

Canberra company, face2face Recruitment from Yarralumla has been named Australian Small Business Champion for Recruitment Services. The Australian Small Business Champion Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony was held in Sydney on Saturday 20 November.

Founded by Precedent Productions, the Australian Small Business Champion Awards is a national program that recognises the achievements and performances of small businesses.

Managing director of face2face Recruitment, Kate Prior said 'it

was an honour to receive such a prestigious national award and being recognised amongst our peers'.



Kate Prior accepts her award from Ron Wilson at the Australian Small Business Champion awards in Sydney on Saturday night.