

# More than a number

Firefighter Kent Freeman will always be known as proud to wear the QFRS uniform following Pam Scherf's interpretation of him for a prestigious exhibition.

Titled *More Than a Number*, the likeness of Kent was among 37 portraits chosen as part of the Portrait Artists Australia Unsung Heroes exhibition at Canberra's Parliament House. More than 70 people vied for a spot in the exhibition, which ran from September 2 to 29.

Woody Point artist Pam Scherf, a friend of the Freeman family, considered Kent the perfect subject when she heard about the Unsung Heroes exhibition.

"I'd painted his children and he often said I could always paint him in his firefighters' uniform. When I heard about the exhibition, I took him up on his offer," Pam said.

"Kent represents firefighters who are all heroes as they handle sights, sounds, and situations rarely experienced by the general public. Kent is also one of a small

group who provide support for firefighters who suffer Critical Incident Stress and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

"It took me a bit over a month, working long days six days a week to complete the portrait."

Pam said Kent also inspired the title for the portrait.

"He said we have to have my helmet in with the pump number on it. In the portrait, that's one of the first things your eye is attracted to so that's how the name came about."

Kent described the portrait as amazing: "I'm very impressed with how it came out. Pam is extremely talented and I feel honoured to have represented all firefighters under the theme of this art exhibition."

"But I don't see myself as a hero. This is my job, and while firefighters do face dangerous situations at times, we take calculated risks backed by our training and experience."



*Pam Scherf and Kent Freeman with the portrait that appears on the cover of this edition of Emergency.*

Kent has spent 20 years in the QFRS, and has been the Station Officer at the Kemp Place and Kippa-Ring stations.

He is currently a Station Officer for Major Infrastructure and Development and works from Fortitude Valley. One of his responsibilities is being the liaison officer for the Airport Link and Clem 7 tunnels.

*– Lisa Martin*