



RFS

Media release

RFS Mid Coast District applauds dedicated volunteers

6 April 2024

The RFS Mid Coast District will tonight celebrate the achievements of 55 volunteers, who will be presented with medals recognising their service and commitment to their community.

Emily Suvaal MLC will join RFS Area Commander, Chief Superintendent Kam Baker AFSM to congratulate those members who combined will receive 12 National Medals and 43 Long Service Medals and Clasps, amassing more than a millennium of time served.

Ms Suvaal said members of the Mid Coast District played an integral role in emergency response, not only within their local area but also across the state.

“These members do not volunteer their time for the accolades, however, these medals are a proud acknowledgement of the commitment of these individuals over many decades,” Ms Suvaal said.

“Every one of the volunteers being recognised today is worthy of our most sincere thanks for their commitment to the Service and their communities.”

Chief Superintendent Baker, who will present the medals at Club Taree, said the National Medal was awarded to those who had served for 15 years, with a clasp presented for each additional 10 years.

“This medal is presented to those members who go above and beyond what is expected of active members within their brigade,” he said.

“I particularly acknowledge Geoffrey Ayling, who has more than 45 years of service across various roles in the Burrell Creek Brigade. Geoffrey’s commitment to serving the community has not gone unnoticed, playing a pivotal role in gaining a new station for the brigade and mentoring new members to reach their full potential”.

Chief Superintendent Baker said the 43 worthy recipients of the Long Service Medal were a fine example of the compassion and dedication of RFS members for their communities on the Mid Coast.

“These members have served for between 10 and 68 years, with a special mention to Robert Berriman who is celebrating 68 years of active and dedicated service,” he said.

“A founding member of Tuncurry Brigade and awarded a lifetime membership in 2004, Robert has spent 20 consecutive years as Captain, leading and mentoring members, including training new recruits.

“A heart-felt special mention also to Bruce Wildie, who is receiving a posthumous award today for 64 years of Long Service.

“I would also like to take this time to praise all our volunteers in this District and across the state for their ongoing efforts each day.

“Thanks also to the families, employers and support networks of RFS volunteers, without whom we could not be as resilient and effective in our mission to support and protect lives and property.”

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