



**NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE**



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Blue Mountains volunteers honored as Shipley celebrates new fire station**

**5 August 2017**

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Senior Assistant Commissioner Bruce McDonald AFSM recognised the achievements of veteran volunteers at two separate ceremonies in the Blue Mountains today.

A ceremony held in Springwood saw 58 members of the Blue Mountains District recognised for their service, accumulating 1357 years of service between them.

Senior Assistant Commissioner McDonald said everyone in the region is aware of the hard work that comes with being a NSW RFS volunteer.

“Each of the volunteers being recognized today has demonstrated an exceptional level of commitment to their community over the years and these medals are our proud acknowledgement of their efforts,” Senior Assistant Commissioner McDonald said.

“Notably two of the recipients today, Warrimoo Brigade members Barry Wellend and Janette Wellend, have given 58 years each in service to their communities.

“While our volunteers certainly don't expect awards or accolades, all of them are most worthy of our sincere gratitude and thanks.”

“Sadly one long standing member, John Burley, has recently passed away. Our deepest sympathies are with John's family as we pay tribute to the amazing 48 years of service with his posthumous award.

At a second ceremony to officially open the new Shipley Fire Station, one Long Service medal was presented Shipley Brigade member Robert Spiller, in recognition of his ongoing commitment to the local community and 21 years of service.

Senior Assistant Commissioner McDonald said the new station will provide a permanent base for the Shipley Brigade.

“The previous station and nearby trees were damaged by storms around a decade ago and since that time the Brigade has utilised the facilities of other Brigades as a temporary solution.

“The Shipley Brigade is understandably thrilled that they now have this secure space.

The NSW RFS is committed to providing volunteer firefighters with the equipment they need to carry out the important work they do to protect their local communities.”

“Today, members of this Brigade continue to protect their community from bush fires as well as a diverse array of incidents' including grass fires, hazard reduction burns and motor vehicle accidents.

“These men and women remain on-hand 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and we should be extremely proud and grateful for their contribution.”

**For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on (02) 9898 1855.  
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