



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Mid Coast District applauds dedicated members

4 April 2023

More than 70 members of the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Mid Coast District will be recognised for their dedication and achievements at a special ceremony in Gloucester tonight.

Sixty-two Long Service Medals and 10 National Medals will be presented to the members by Hunter Area Commander Chief Superintendent Kam Baker.

Chief Superintendent Baker said these medals, recognising more than 1,300 years of combined service, are a proud acknowledgement of the commitment shown by these individuals over the years.

“I know that the community is thankful for the world-class level of fire protection and assistance afforded to them by volunteers across the Mid Coast District,” Chief Superintendent Baker said.

“I personally extend my gratitude to all of our dedicated firefighters for their continued service.”

Chief Superintendent Baker acknowledged the contribution of Ronald Smith, who is being awarded the National Medal 5th Clasp and has given 67 years’ service.

“Ronald began his service with the RFS back in 1956 as a member of the Oakville Brigade and then moved to join the Diamond Beach Brigade in 2003, where he is a current member,” Chief Superintendent Baker said.

“Ronald is a great mentor to fellow members, as recognised by his Life Membership of the brigade and receiving the Australian Fire Service Medal back in 2018.

“I also acknowledge the 48 years that Richard Pratten has given. Richard has risen through the ranks since joining the Service in 1969, and is today receiving the National Medal 3rd Clasp.

“Members of the Mid Coast District have always answered the call, not only assisting with incidents locally but also to communities in need across the state.

“The hard work and professionalism of all RFS members does not go unnoticed and while they do not ask for praise, we should take every opportunity to acknowledge their contribution and commitment to their community.

“We also thank the family, friends, employers and colleagues of all NSW RFS volunteers. We know it takes their ongoing support and patience to assist and enable our volunteers to do what they do to save lives and property.”

For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on 9898 1855
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