



**NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE**



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **North West Zone volunteers honored as new fire stations officially opened**

**17 August 2017**

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Regional Manager Paul Smith recognised the achievements of dedicated volunteers at separate ceremonies and officially opened two new fire stations today.

At three ceremonies held in Coonamble, Gulargambone and Gumin, a total of 11 members of the North West Zone were recognised for their service, accumulating 344 years of service between them.

Mr Smith said everyone in the region is aware of the hard work that comes with being a NSW RFS volunteer.

“Each of the volunteers being recognised today have demonstrated an exceptional level of commitment to their community over the years and these medals are our proud acknowledgement of their efforts,” Mr Smith said.

“Notably two of the recipients today, Pinegrove members David Lampe and Malcolm Lampe, have given 59 and 54 years respectively each in service to their communities and their Brigade.

“Congratulations also to Nerren Woodham who joined the Gulargambone Brigade in 2002 and to Brien Knee, who has held many positions within the same Brigade since joining in 2003.

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

Across the day, two new fire stations were also officially opened for the Pinegrove and Gumin Brigades.

Mr Smith said the new stations will provide a permanent base for the Brigades and each include a single vehicle bay, portable toilet facility and water tank.

“Both the Pinegrove and Gumin Brigades are understandably thrilled that they now have this secure space,” Mr Smith said.

“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 these Brigades 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.”