

Donations provide practical help to firefighters



Donations made to the NSW RFS are handled by the independent body known as NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund. In 2014 the Fund allocated \$638,036 of donations to purchase and supply Thermal Imaging Cameras and Buoy Wall Dams to the Service. Forty-eight Thermal Imaging Cameras have been delivered - one camera to each district. Over 40 Buoy Wall Dams, of various capacities ranging from 4,500 litres to 18,000 litres, were also supplied to the Service. These are used to hold bulk water in remote areas or at airbases. Two districts were provided with new trailer mounted variable messaging signs. Glenn Wall, Chair of the Fund and NSW RFS volunteer, said "On behalf of the Trustees, Member Brigades and the NSW RFS, I sincerely express our gratitude to all those who donated so generously to support the endeavours and activities of our volunteer rural fire brigades." ABOVE: Group Captain Andrew Macdonald (Donations Fund Trustee) presenting a Thermal Imaging Camera to Superintendent Richard Petch of Cumberland Zone.

Cadet of the year



Timothy Pedley from Colo High School has been named 2014 Cadet of the Year. He was presented with his award by the Minister for Emergency Services David Elliott and NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons at NSW Parliament House on 10 May (above). Timothy's enthusiastic participation in all aspects of the course, including helping to organise crews and equipment as well as extra training sessions made him stand out. He was described as the 'backbone of the Colo High School RFS Cadet Program' and enjoyed a dramatic increase in his self-confidence over the 10 week program. He has even joined his local brigade as a junior member!

St Florian's Day Awards



Twenty one individual and 17 unit awards were bestowed upon NSW RFS members in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service on St Florian's Day on 4 May 2015. Remarkable acts of bravery, courage, service and commitment were recognised by these awards including the 2013 Blue Mountains bush fires, a fuel tanker which caught alight at Mona Vale, and a hotel fire at Cobar. Awards were also presented to members of the NSW RFS and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Remote Area Firefighting Teams and for members who undertook large scale events to help their communities be better prepared for fire. The recipients are seen here with Minister for Emergency Services David Elliott and NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons. Photo by Adam Hollingworth