



Troy Grant
Minister for Emergency Services

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 9 October 2018

LONG SERVING CUDGEGONG DISTRICT RFS VOLUNTEERS HONOURED

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) volunteers from across the Cudgegong District have been honoured at a special medal presentation this week.

Minister for Emergency Services Troy Grant and NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM presented National and Long Service Medals to 42 volunteers in recognition of their service and dedication to the community last night.

“In total, this represents a remarkable 1254 years of combined service across the Cudgegong District,” Mr Grant said.

“In fact, there are two members at this evening’s presentation who have each given more than 50 years’ service to their brigades and their communities.”

Minister Grant made particular mention of Barrie Hewitt, who has received Long Service Medal 4th Clasp in recognition of his 52 years of service.

“Joining the Arcadia Brigade in 1966 and made a Life Member in 2012, Barrie has been a committed volunteer with the Arcadia Brigade, as well as the Bogee and Mudgee Brigades,” Mr Grant said.

“Barrie also spent time working at the Cudgegong Fire Control Centre, and even in retirement is still involved with the Cudgegong Heritage Unit.

“I would also like to acknowledge Peter Richards of the Ilford Running Stream Brigade, worthy of the Long Service Medal and 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Clasp for his 51 years as a member, joining the service in his late teens.

“Both of these men are a shining example of dedication and service, and I thank them and their fellow firefighters for their incredible contributions to their local communities.”

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said every one of these volunteers are worthy of our most sincere thanks.

“The hard work and professionalism of all Cudgegong District volunteers does not go unnoticed and this is a great opportunity for the broader community to say thank you,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

"We must also thank the family, friends and colleagues of these and all volunteers. We know it takes their support and patience to help RFS members do what they do.

"It is an absolute honor to present these awards and to take a moment in which we can reflect upon the outstanding achievements of these members."

During the ceremony, a new Category 1 tanker, worth \$330,000, was also officially handed over to the Mudgee Brigade.

"This new vehicle, replacing an older style model, will enable the brigade to continue their outstanding efforts, and I would personally like to congratulate everybody on their ongoing hard work and professionalism," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

MEDIA: Brooke Eggleton | 0437 472 455