

# MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

## Brand new training centre for Northern Rivers volunteers

18 August 2012

The hard work of the members of the Woodenbong Rural Fire Brigade was on display today as their new training facilities were opened by the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons, The Hon Thomas George MP and Mayor Ross Brown.

More than fifty years after the Brigade first formed, the Station boasts a well equipped training area with kitchenette, along with state of the art firefighting equipment.

NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons congratulated the Brigade members and the local community for their hard work and determination to improve their facilities.

“Many local NSW RFS members and tradespeople have donated their time and building materials to make this training centre a reality.

“These new facilities will help the Woodenbong Rural Fire Brigade, led by their long-serving captain Mr Ken ‘Pappy’ McLennan, to recruit and train more volunteers,” said Commissioner Fitzsimmons.

After joining the brigade when it was first formed in 1960, ‘Pappy’ continues to regularly attend callouts. He also keeps the brigade equipment well maintained as well as keeping a check on vehicle maintenance.

“Pappy McLennan epitomises the ethos of the Rural Fire Service; a hard working, professional and dedicated volunteer who works tirelessly for their community.

“The team, led by Captain McLennan, responds to more than 250 fires each year, along with around 70 motor vehicle incidents and a further 80 calls for assistance.

“These Brigade members are also committed to helping their colleagues in other areas, sending their specialist personnel to fires throughout the State and in Queensland and Victoria.

**For more information contact NSW RFS Media on 9898 1855.**