

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Central West volunteer firefighters awarded for long-standing service

16 May 2012

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Region West Manager Mr Paul Smith has congratulated the dedication of Rural Fire brigade members from across the Mid Lachlan Valley, at a ceremony acknowledging their long service.

Presenting 11 volunteers with Long Service Medals, Mr Smith paid tribute to their hard work and professionalism noting their combined experience and expertise.

"All of the members being recognised here today have more than 30 years service under their belt. This level of commitment is nothing short of inspirational, and these volunteers play a pivotal role in protecting their communities in times of emergency.

"Whilst members of our Rural Fire Brigades are widely acknowledged for fighting bush and grass fires, they are also called upon night and day to respond to all manner of emergencies such as traffic accidents, structure fires and assisting other agencies when required," Mr Smith said.

"These 11 members have more than 400 years experience between them, experience that continues to serve them and their communities well".

As part of the formal proceedings, Mr Smith paid particular tribute to the keen interest shown by all of the medal recipients, over a sustained period of time.

"Many of the members here today have held positions of great responsibility such as Group, Captain, Deputy Captain, and Senior Deputy Captain. This level of achievement demonstrates the skill and professionalism that is thriving in our Rural Fire Brigades.

"The leadership and guidance that these individuals have brought to their brigades and their communities is invaluable, and we should all be most grateful for their efforts.

"I know that all of the members being awarded today give up their time selflessly, and are driven by their commitment to helping others in times of emergency.

"Whilst these volunteers certainly don't expect awards or accolades, all of them are most worthy of our appreciation and thanks," said Mr Smith.

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