



MEDIA RELEASE

Praise for Northern Beaches long-standing volunteer firefighters

12 October 2017

Volunteers were today honored by the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) for their ongoing commitment to the local community.

A total of 46 volunteers from the Northern Beaches District were presented with Long Service and National Medals by NSW RFS Assistant Commissioner Steve Yorke AFSM at a special ceremony in Terrey Hills.

Assistant Commissioner Yorke recognised that in total, these medal recipients have accumulated an impressive 1102 years of service between them.

“This is testament to the ongoing commitment shown by Northern Beaches District volunteers to both the NSW RFS and the local community,” Assistant Commissioner Yorke said.

“One volunteer, Peter Gatien, was honoured for giving 58 years of dedicated service to his Brigade and the local community.

“Receiving the National Medal 4th Clasp, Peter has filled various ranks since joining the Belrose Brigade at the age of 16, holding the roles of Deputy Captain and Captain, as well as becoming a Life Member in 1995.

“Peter is now an active member of the Catering Brigade, making a valuable contribution to the Service and his community.

Assistant Commissioner Yorke also made note of Christopher Ballantine, founding member of the Davidson Brigade and current District Coordinator for the Rural Fire Driver Course; and Robert Conroy, current Deputy Captain of the Coal & Candle Brigade for his 49 years’ service.

“The hard work and professionalism of all Northern Beaches District volunteers does not go unnoticed,” Assistant Commissioner Yorke said.

“Today’s recipients, as do all NSW RFS volunteers, dedicate themselves to providing a vital service to the community and these medals are our proud acknowledgement of their efforts.

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