



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Tamworth District RFS members honoured for service

23 July 2023

Almost ninety members of the RFS Tamworth District were recognised for their dedication and achievements at a special ceremony in Tamworth today.

Assistant Commissioner Jayson McKellar presented 73 Long Service Medals, 16 National Emergency Medals and one Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal at the event.

Assistant Commissioner McKellar said the medals, recognising more than 1,950 years of combined service, are a proud acknowledgement of the commitment shown by these individuals over the years in New South Wales, and abroad.

“We recognised members for long service tenures ranging from 10 to more than 50 years of service, with a special mention of Alan Thirlwell and Ivan Fenner of the Watsons Creek Brigade and Douglas Rixon of the Ogunbil Brigade for their impressive 50 or more years of service each to the RFS,” he said.

“I would like to also personally extend my gratitude to the members being recognised for their sustained or significant service during the devastating 2019/20 fire season, who received their National Emergency Medal,”

“Members of the Tamworth District played an integral part in the firefighting response during the 2019/20 fire season and rose to the challenge to protect communities,” Assistant Commissioner McKellar said.

“You only have to look at that season to see how hard our skilled firefighters and support crews work to keep us safe when fires threaten, as experienced across the state during the Black Summer fires.

Assistant Commissioner McKellar also presented a Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal for services rendered in Canada in 2017.

“Brent King of the Tamworth City Brigade since 2003 is to be congratulated on his long service recognition and representing not only the RFS, but Australia when he was deployed to assist our Canadian counterparts,” he said.

“I would like to take this time to also thank the family, friends, employers and colleagues of all RFS volunteers. We know it takes their ongoing support and patience to assist and enable our volunteers to do what they do to save lives and property.”

For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on 9898 1855
For current incidents or major fire updates visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au