



Mid Lachlan Valley volunteers recognised for service

20 July 2011

Four NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) volunteers from the Mid Lachlan Valley Team have been recognised for their long-standing commitment to the Service.

Presenting the awards, NSW RFS Membership Services Manager Andrew Dillon said that the volunteers have made an invaluable contribution to their community, and their dedication to the local community should be commended.

"These volunteers have served with distinction, accumulating more than 200 years of service between them which is an incredible milestone".

Mr Dillon presented the volunteers with their medals at a ceremony held in Forbes today.

"Each of these volunteers have dedicated in excess of 45 years to the Rural Fire Service with one member reaching 59 years of service.

"These members have played an integral role in their communities, whether fighting bush fires or assisting during storms, floods or road accidents.

Mr Dillon paid tribute to their efforts in assisting with major fire emergencies over the past 45 years.

"It is the experience and expert knowledge of these volunteers that ensures that the professional and high quality service is maintained throughout the region.

"Geoff Buttenshaw, John Wood, Allan Ridley and John Whatmore collectively have made a significant commitment in attending local emergencies, delivering training to other members and facilitating brigade activities over the last 45 years."

Mr Dillon said that volunteers are the backbone of the NSW RFS and deserved sincere gratitude from the community for their selfless work.

"It's wonderful to see today's medal recipients receiving recognition for their dedication as volunteers. It's an indication that the NSW RFS tradition in this area is continuing.

"While our members don't volunteer for awards or accolades, this is a way for the Mid Lachlan Valley and wider NSW community to express our sincere thanks for their ongoing contribution," Mr Dillon said.