



MEDIA RELEASE

Praise for Sutherland Shire District long-standing volunteer firefighters

29 April 2017

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

A total of 33 volunteers from the Sutherland Shire District were presented with National and Long Service Medals by Member for Miranda Ms Eleni Petinos and NSW RFS Assistant Commissioner Stuart Midgley AFSM at a special ceremony in Heathcote.

Ms Petinos recognised that in total, these medal recipients have accumulated an impressive 781 years of service between them.

“This is testament to the ongoing commitment shown by Sutherland Shire District volunteers to both the NSW RFS and the local community,” Ms Petinos said.

Assistant Commissioner Stuart Midgley said one volunteer, Hilton Penfold, was honoured for giving 47 years of dedicated service to his Brigade and the local community.

“Receiving the Long Service 1st, 2nd and 3rd Clasp, Hilton has been a member of the Grays Point Rural Fire Brigade since 1970. A very active and dedicated member, Hilton has also previously received the National Medal and Life Membership of his Brigade,” Assistant Commissioner Midgley said.

Three other volunteers were also recognized for more than 40 years of service to their Brigades, including Rodney Crane, an active member of the Heathcote/Headquarters Brigade since 1975, and Niall Pettit who joined the Grays Point Brigade in 1970.

Assistant Commissioner Midgley also recognized the 45 years service given by Martyn Kiellor who sadly passed away late last year.

“Martyn was a founding member of the Headquarters Brigade in 1971 and went on to Captain when amalgamated with Heathcote. The commitment to his Brigade and community was outstanding,” Assistant Commissioner Midgley said.

“The hard work and professionalism of all Sutherland Shire District volunteers does not go unnoticed.

“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 honor to present these awards and to take a moment in which we can reflect upon the outstanding achievements of these members.”