



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Illawarra District volunteers recognised for long service

21 May 2019

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Illawarra District will tonight recognise and celebrate the dedication and commitment of long serving members.

Member for Kiama Gareth Ward and NSW RFS Assistant Commissioner Stuart Midgley AFSM will join local volunteers to present two National Medals and two National Medals and 24 Long Service Medals at a special ceremony to be held at the Illawarra Fire Control Centre.

“These members do not volunteer their time for the accolades, however these medals are a proud acknowledgement of the commitment shown by these individuals over the years,” Mr Ward said.

“More than 665 years of service will be recognised this evening recipients and I know that the community is thankful for the world-class level of fire protection afforded to them by volunteers across the Illawarra District.

“I personally extend my gratitude to all of our dedicated firefighters for their continued service to and for the community.”

Assistant Commissioner Midgley is honoured to present Allan ‘Curly’ Wilson with the NSW RFS Long Service Medal and 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Clasps.

“Curly has been a dedicated volunteer member of the NSW RFS for 62 years after first joining Albion Park Brigade in 1957 where he is now a Life Member and is also now a member of Calderwood Brigade,” Assistant Commissioner Midgley said.

“Over his six decades with the Service, he has fought fires locally and assisted communities further afield.

“Curly continues to be a dedicated member of his brigades and has been a pillar of the work they do within the community.”

Assistant Commissioner Midgley also acknowledged the contribution of John Bourke, who will receive the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Clasp of his Long Service Medal in recognition of his 45 years of service.

“John joined the Mt Kembla Brigade in 1974 was elected Captain for nine years from 1980.

“He is a well-respected and an integral part his team, mentoring other members and assisting where he can.”

Assistant Commissioner Midgley said that each volunteer being recognised tonight has demonstrated an exceptional level of commitment to their community.

“I offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to all the NSW RFS staff and volunteers who continue to work hard for their communities,” Assistant Commissioner Midgley said.

“We must also thank the family, friends, employers and colleagues of these and all volunteers. We know it takes their support and patience to help Rural Fire Service members do what they do.”

For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on 9898 1855
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