



RFS

Media release

Celebrations for Northern Tablelands RFS members

22 June 2024

The dedication and generosity of more than 70 NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) volunteers will be recognised today, with the presentation of awards and medals in recognition of their service in two ceremonies in the Northern Tablelands District.

RFS Area Commander, Chief Superintendent Michael Brett, will be joined by special guests at events in Inverell and Liston for the presentation of 50 Long Service Medals, 20 National Emergency Medals, three National Medals and 3 Life Memberships to the Ashford Brigade.

“With years of service ranging from 10 to 60 years, many of these volunteers have dedicated a significant portion of their life to protecting others,” Chief Superintendent Brett said.

“Their professionalism has not gone unnoticed and while they don’t do the work for praise, today’s events provide us with an opportunity to acknowledge their commitment.”

Chief Superintendent Brett said a number of RFS members deserved special mention.

“Noel Bonner has been with the Liston/Wylee Brigade since 1970, where he has been the Permit Officer from 1999 and helping to protect his community. He is a worthy recipient of the 50 years Long Service Medal 4th Clasp,” he said.

“I also note the posthumous presentation of the same medal to Barry Maxwell, who joined the Service in 1965 and was a founding member of the Sandy Flat Brigade in 1969.

“While Barry is sadly missed, his commitment and rich local knowledge continues to live on in those he mentored and worked with.”

Ten National Emergency Medals will be presented at each of the ceremonies, acknowledging those who rendered sustained or significant service during the 2019/20 fire season.

The first of today’s events will be held at the Liston/Wylie Creek Brigade Station on Stanthorpe Street Liston, where members will celebrate the 10th anniversary of their station which was built in 2014.

Chief Superintendent Brett said this brigade was heavily involved in the 2019/20 fire season with members attending many fires in their own area.

“Today we honour not only their dedication to our own local communities but also those further afield who need help when fires strike,” he said.

“I also acknowledge those who support volunteers in what they do - the family, friends, employers and colleagues. We know it takes their ongoing support and patience to assist and enable our volunteers to do what they do to save lives and protect property.”