

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Celebrations for Orana's volunteers

9 May 2012

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons officially declared the Mt Arthur Rural Fire Station open today while presenting almost 50 brigade members with Long Service Medals.

At the opening, Commissioner Fitzsimmons said that the new station has excellent facilities and will provide a tremendous boost for the brigade's volunteer firefighters.

"In a major step forward for local members, this spacious and well designed new station allows all of the brigade's equipment and trucks to be housed under one roof for the first time.

"As well as having ample space for all of the crews' trucks, this station has additional areas that are already being used for brigade meetings and training days.

"It took almost a year to construct this building and the toil was well and truly warranted. I have no doubt that not only this busy brigade but the entire community will benefit from the development of this first-class facility.

"This station goes a long way in demonstrating the ongoing support from communities in the broader Orana area for local NSW RFS brigades and their members.

"The station is also a testament to the strong relationship that exists between the Wellington Council, who generously contributed to the building of this station, the NSW RFS and State Government," said Commissioner Fitzsimmons.

At the ceremony Commissioner Fitzsimmons also presented Long Service Medals to dedicated members from a variety of brigades in the Orana area who between them have amassed more than 1,600 years of experience.

"On average there are around 350 bush and grass fires in this area each year and without the knowledge and experience of these long standing members we would not be in such a strong position to quickly bring these fires under control.

"I'd also like to make particular mention of Gary East who is receiving a National Medal Clasp for 28 years service today - a rare and special honour reserved only for our most committed firefighters.

"On behalf of the community and the NSW RFS I'd like to encourage all of the members receiving medals here today to keep up the excellent work and thank you for your dedication," concluded Commissioner Fitzsimmons.

Media Contact: NSW RFS State Duty Media Officer (02) 9898 1855