



MEDIA RELEASE

Celebrations for Mid Murray Zone

12 May 2017

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Mid Murray Zone has recognised the achievements of veteran volunteers, celebrated the official opening of the new Jerilderie airstrip and the handover of a new vehicle.

At a ceremony held in Jerilderie today, NSW RFS Senior Assistant Commissioner Bruce McDonald presented 17 Long Service Medals to volunteers in recognition of their ongoing commitment to the local community.

“The 17 medal recipients have accumulated a total of 571 years of service between them, with one member having dedicated more than 60 years to their Brigade,” Senior Assistant Commissioner McDonald said.

“Phillip Rose joined the Conargo Brigade in 1955 and has consistently shown his dedication to the local area over the last 62 years.

“Each of the volunteers being recognised has demonstrated an exceptional level of commitment to their community over the years and these medals are our proud acknowledgement of their efforts.

“I know they will continue to serve their local communities for many years to come and share their knowledge, experience and firefighting skills both locally and further afield.”

Senior Assistant Commissioner McDonald also congratulated the members of the Mid Murray Zone on the official opening of their new airstrip.

“The new airstrip will enable volunteers to provide an even greater level of protection to the local community and was constructed to improve the aviation response capabilities to Jerilderie and surrounding areas,” Senior Assistant Commissioner McDonald said.

“The existing airstrip was often unavailable due to its positioning in relation to wind direction on the majority of high fire danger days. Works included the addition of a 100,000 litre water tank to facilitate quick turnaround for aviation firefighting resources.”

During the ceremony a new Command Vehicle was also officially handed over to the Mid Murray Zone. Senior Assistant Commissioner McDonald said the vehicle will enable the Zone to continue their outstanding efforts.

“The NSW RFS, State and Local Governments are committed to providing volunteer firefighters with the infrastructure and equipment they need to carry out the important work they do to protect their local communities from fire.”