



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



MEDIA RELEASE

Hunter Valley District volunteers recognised for their continued dedication

30 August 2017

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

A total of 85 volunteers were presented with Long Service Medals by NSW RFS Acting Regional Manager Chief Superintendent Jayson McKellar AFSM and Member for Upper Hunter Michael Johnsen MP.

Mr Johnsen recognised that in total, these Medal recipients have accumulated an impressive 2251 years of service between them.

“This is testament to the ongoing commitment shown by Hunter Valley District volunteers to both the NSW RFS and the local community,” Mr Johnsen said.

Chief Superintendent McKellar noted six of the recipients today have given 60 or more years each in service to their communities.

“I’d like to give particular mention to Alan MacDougall from the Albano/Bowmans Brigade, who has been a valued member of the NSW RFS for 75 years,” Chief Superintendent McKellar said.

“Congratulations also to Ernie Bendeich from the Belford Brigade on his 61 years’ service.

“Thanks also to Ron Jurd from the Albano/Bowmans Creek and Goorangoola Brigades, Errol Smith from the Bulga Brigade and Eric Worth from Wittingham Brigade on their 60 years’ service each.

“I would also like to recognise the late Reg Watts, who has received his Long Service Medal posthumously for 67 years’ service.

“A member of the McCully’s Brigade, Reg has been a well-respected member who has given so much to protect his local community.

“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,”

“The hard work and professionalism of all Hunter Valley District volunteers does not go unnoticed and this is a great opportunity for the broader community to express their gratitude and say thank you.

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

“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.”

**For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on (02) 9898 1855.
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