



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Clarence Valley volunteers praised for their continued dedication

30 June 2018

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) today honoured Clarence Valley volunteers for their ongoing commitment to the local community.

A total of 51 volunteers were presented with Long Service Medals by Member for Clarence Mr Chris Gulaptis and NSW RFS Assistant Commissioner Steve Yorke AFSM.

Mr Gulaptis recognised that in total, these Medal recipients have accumulated an impressive 1,174 years of service between them.

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

“Notably three of the recipients today have given 50 or more years each in service to their communities.”

Assistant Commissioner Yorke gave particular mention of Keith Taylor from the Coutts Crossing Brigade and Ken Ellem of the Kangaroo Creek Brigade for their 60 years’ service each.

“Keith Taylor has been a valued member of the NSW RFS since 1958 and was awarded with Life membership of the Brigade back in 2002,” Assistant Commissioner Yorke said.

“I also congratulate Ken on being a worthy recipient, a member whose vast local knowledge and experience is highly respected and was also awarded Life Membership of his brigade in 2000.

Assistant Commissioner Yorke also praised Brian Williams, a current member of the Gulmarrad Brigade, who has given 50 years’ service to protecting the communities he has lived in.

“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,” Assistant Commissioner Yorke said.

“We must also thank the family, friends 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.

“It is an absolute honour to present these awards and to take a moment in which we can reflect upon the outstanding achievements of these members.”



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