



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Northern Rivers Zone volunteers recognised for long service

23 May 2019

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Northern Rivers Zone will tonight recognise and celebrate the dedication and commitment of long serving members.

Member for Clarence Chris Gulaptis and NSW RFS A/Regional Manager Chief Superintendent Tim Butcher will join local volunteers to present 54 recipients with Long Service Medals at a special ceremony.

"These members do not volunteer their time for the accolades, however these medals are a proud acknowledgement of the commitment shown by these individuals over the years," Mr Gulaptis said.

"More than 1200 years of service will be recognised this evening and I know that the community is thankful for the world-class level of fire protection afforded to them by volunteers across the Northern Rivers Zone.

"I personally extend my gratitude to all of our dedicated firefighters for their continued service to and for the community."

Chief Superintendent Butcher is honoured to present Vinnie Johnson with the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Clasp of his NSW RFS Long Service Medal.

"Vinnie joined the Shannonbrook Brigade at the age of 16, just two years after it was formed following a fire that swept through the area in 1952," Chief Superintendent Butcher said.

"A mentor to many over the years, Vinnie was Captain of the brigade for 11 years and is now still very active as Deputy Captain and I congratulate him on 67 years' service."

Chief Superintendent Butcher also acknowledged the contribution of Cecil Battistuzzi, Robbie Graham and Stan Hogan for their respective 50 years of service to the community.

"Cecil joined the Clunes Brigade in 1968 as a founding member and continues to deliver his commitment to protecting the community and supporting his colleagues," Chief Superintendent Butcher said.

"Well done to Robbie on his 50 years' service with the Goolmangar Brigade of which he has been a member since 1969. He is a dependable, experienced and respected member of his brigade.

"Stan continues to be a valued member of the Grevillia Brigade, and has been instrumental in training many young members over the years after instigating a Junior Brigade."

Chief Superintendent Butcher said that each volunteer being recognised tonight has demonstrated an exceptional level of commitment to their community.

"I offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to all the NSW RFS staff and volunteers who continue to work hard for their communities," Chief Superintendent Butcher said.

"We must also thank the family, friends, employers 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."



For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on 9898 1855
For current incidents or major fire updates visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au