



RFS

Media release

Eight RFS members recognised in Australia Day Honours

26 January 2024

Eight outstanding members of the Rural Fire Service (RFS) have been honoured with the Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM) in the Australia Day Honours, recognising their unwavering commitment and exemplary service to the community.

Established in 1988, the AFSM pays tribute to individuals who have shown distinguished service as dedicated members of an Australian fire service.

Commissioner of the RFS Rob Rogers AFSM congratulated the members, commending their significant contributions to protecting the state.

“These eight RFS members have shown diligence and sustained dedication in keeping communities safe.

“It is important to acknowledge and celebrate their more than 350 years of combined service, marked by many notable achievements - from pivotal leadership roles to accomplishments in training, mentoring peers, and their skilled response and coordination during major fires and emergencies.”

Commissioner Rogers made note of the the selfless nature of RFS members.

“Our members don’t do it for the awards or praise, but it is important that they are recognised for their commitment to help others.”

“They, like all our members, are a credit to the Service, and they truly deserve this honour.”

The RFS recipients are:

- Deputy Captain Roberta (Bobbie) Colbran, Hawkesbury Communications/Grose Wold Rural Fire Brigades (Hawkesbury)
- Group Captain (Retired) Keith Thomas Driver, Lowanna Rural Fire Brigade (Coffs Coast)
- Group Captain Michael Gilder, Gummun Rural Fire Brigade (Upper Hunter)
- Superintendent Paul William Jones (Lake George)
- Group Captain Barry William Myers, Kariong Rural Fire Brigade (Central Coast)
- Group Officer George Alfred Nicholson, Grattai Rural Fire Brigade (Cudgegong)
- Group Captain John Thomas Page, Coaldale Rural Fire Brigade (Clarence Valley)
- Group Captain Barry Lawrence Richard, Jenolan Caves Rural Fire Brigade (Chifley Lithgow)

Full citations for all recipients are available on the [RFS website](https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au).