



# RFS

## Media release

### RFS members across Far South Coast celebrated for dedicated service

**24 August 2024**

The dedication and generosity of more than 100 NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) volunteers will be recognised across two ceremonies on the state's far south coast this weekend, with the presentation of awards and medals.

RFS Deputy Commissioner Peter McKechnie will be joined by special guests at Batemans Bay Soldiers Club to present three National Emergency Medals, four National Medals and 13 Long Service Medals on Saturday.

A further 27 National Medals and 59 Long Service Medals will be presented at the Bega Civic Centre on Sunday.

"Many of these volunteers have dedicated a significant portion of their life to protecting others, including Les Preston who is being recognised for an incredible 72 years of service," Deputy Commissioner McKechnie said.

"Since joining Bemboka Brigade in 1952, Les has served in numerous roles including the Brigade Equipment and Maintenance Officer, a role he only recently stepped down from.

"Known as a quiet achiever, Les has spent huge amounts of time at the station checking, maintaining and servicing the equipment firefighters depend on to protect others."

Deputy Commissioner McKechnie said it was also impressive to see 10 members being recognised for 50 or more years of service.

"The professionalism of our volunteers has not gone unnoticed and while they don't do the work for praise, this weekend's events provide us with an opportunity to acknowledge their commitment.

"I also acknowledge those who support RFS members in what they do – the family, friends, employers and colleagues. We know it takes their ongoing support and patience to assist and enable our volunteers to save lives and protect property."