

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Coonamble volunteers honoured for dedication

30 April - 1 May 2013

Eighteen dedicated NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Coonamble volunteers have been awarded long service medals by the NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons.

The NSW RFS Commissioner is visiting the area over two days to present the medals to the members, inspect seven new fire trucks and five new Brigade Stations and meet with local RFS members and their families.

"Some of the members being recognised have been serving with their brigades for more than 30, 40 & 50 years which is an admirable achievement," said Commissioner Fitzsimmons.

"All members present at these services are shining examples of the steadfast dedication demonstrated by NSW RFS volunteer firefighters right across the state. Whilst these volunteers certainly don't expect awards or accolades, all of them are most worthy of our sincere gratitude and thanks," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

Six brigades in the Coonamble area – Quambone, Willow Downs, Combarah, Bourbah, Gulargambone and Coonamble - have also benefited from seven fire trucks that will help them fight fires more efficiently. Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said the new fire trucks were a major step forward for firefighting in the area.

"The NSW RFS is committed to providing volunteer firefighters with the equipment they need to carry out the important work they do in protecting their local communities from fire.

"These new vehicles, some of which have already been in service for some time, have replaced older style models and allow firefighters to continue providing a high level of emergency service to residents in the Coonamble area.

"These firefighting trucks will put these brigades in good stead to fight bush and grass fires, as well as provide the unique equipment required to put out car and house fires," said Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons also formally opened new or upgraded Brigade stations at Quambone, Willow Downs, Combara, Bourbah and Gulargambone.

"In several instances these are the first Stations for these deserving Brigades. While many have been in operation for some time, I am pleased to be able to visit the area to officially open the facilities and meet personally with so many of our local members.

"It is a wonderful day for members of the Coonamble area not only to be receiving the impressive new firefighting resources and stations but also to the dedicated members who have received awards for long service," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

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