



Cessnock volunteer firefighters recognised for service

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NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons has praised volunteer firefighters from the Cessnock area for their long-standing allegiance to the Service.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said the volunteers' efforts are tireless and their contribution to the community worthy of recognition.

"We are here today to acknowledge the ongoing diligence and professionalism demonstrated by members of the NSW RFS.

"The level of hard work and commitment demonstrated by volunteers across the State does not go unnoticed and today is an opportunity for the community to express their gratitude and say thank you".

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said that between them, the 68 medal recipients had a combined service record of close to 1,500 years.

"This amount of experience is invaluable to the community. RFS volunteers are consistently giving up their time to assist during times of emergency as well as dedicating hours to training and honing their skills.

"Whether fighting bush and grass fires, helping residents build their resilience or assisting other agencies, RFS volunteers are always on hand.

"I note that 14 of the volunteers being recognised today have dedicated 30 or more years to their brigades. This is a clear indication of the level of commitment demonstrated by our members.

"I would particularly like to acknowledge Les Goldie and Chris Fallon who have been members of the Kearsley Rural Fire Brigade for 42 years, and also Kevin Bristow (AFSM) who is celebrating 43 years with the Mulbring Rural Fire Brigade.

"Over the years these three gentlemen have proven to be steadfast and reliable leaders, and like all of the volunteers being recognised today this level of commitment is worthy of thanks and recognition," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

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