



**NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE**



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Monomie and South Bogan Gate volunteers' commitment praised**

**Thursday 29 September 2016**

Longstanding volunteers from the Mid Lachlan Valley Team were honored yesterday by the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) for their ongoing commitment to the local community.

NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons presented 33 volunteers with their Long Service Medals acknowledging their unfailing dedication to the Service during a ceremony held in Bogan Gate.

"In total, these 33 recipients have accumulated an incredible 1210 years of service between them," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

"Each and every one of these volunteers are worthy of our most sincere thanks and I would like to personally commend them, not only for their commitment to the Service, but also to their community."

Commissioner Fitzsimmons made particular mention of James (Jim) Percival, who has been a valued member of the Service for 69 years.

"Jim joined the Rural Fire Service in 1947. A member of the South Bogan Gate Brigade, he is a well respected member of the community and his experience and knowledge of emergency incidents in the area, along with his dedication is greatly appreciated," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

"I also acknowledge David Nock who has reached 67 years of service along with William Coombs and William Scott who have both committed 66 years of service with the RFS."

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said the 99 brigades in the Mid Lachlan Valley Team area respond to a range of bush and grass fires, as well as motor vehicle accidents and other emergencies each year.

"The NSW RFS is at the cutting edge of bush firefighting due to significant improvements in technology, training, equipment and communications, however the real strength of the Service is its people," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

"These men and women have been part of the Service during an incredible period of growth and transformation and the experience and knowledge within their ranks illustrates this.

"All of the volunteers here today have demonstrated an exceptional level of commitment to their community over the years and these medals are just a small token of our appreciation."

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**For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on (02) 9898 1855.  
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