



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



MEDIA RELEASE

Praise for Coobang Brigade's long-standing volunteer firefighters

18 October 2017

Volunteers were today honored by the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) for their ongoing commitment to the local community.

A total of 29 volunteers from the Coobang Brigade were presented with Long Service Medals by NSW RFS Assistant Commissioner Jason Heffernan at a special ceremony in Parkes.

Assistant Commissioner Heffernan recognised that in total, these medal recipients have accumulated an impressive 954 years of service between them.

"This is testament to the ongoing commitment shown by Mid Lachlan Valley Team volunteers to both the NSW RFS and the local community," Assistant Commissioner Heffernan said.

"One volunteer, John Somers, was honoured for giving 64 years of dedicated service to his local community.

"First joining Coobang Brigade in 1953, through the years John has held the positions of Captain and President.

"Congratulations also to Leon Laidley, for his 55 years to his local community.

"First joining the Leppington Brigade in 1962, Leon transferred to the Coobang Brigade in 1983 and continues to make a valuable contribution.

Assistant Commissioner Heffernan also made note of Neil Unger, for his 54 years of dedication to the Coobang Brigade since 1962.

"The hard work and professionalism of all Mid Lachlan Valley Team volunteers, especially within the Coobang Brigade, does not go unnoticed," Assistant Commissioner Heffernan said.

"Today's recipients, as do all NSW RFS volunteers, dedicate themselves to providing a vital service to the community and these medals are our proud acknowledgement of their efforts.

"It is an absolute honour to present these awards and to take a moment in which we can reflect upon the outstanding achievements of these members."

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