



RFS

Media release

Lake George RFS members honoured

8 June 2024

The commitment of 89 NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) volunteers who have collectively dedicated more than 400 years of service to the Lake George District will be recognised at a ceremony today.

Chief Superintendent Paul Simakoff-Ellims will be joined by Member for Monaro, Steve Whan MP, and special guests to present 40 National Emergency Medals, 10 National Medals and 39 Long Service Medals.

“With between 10 years and more than seven decades of service, our volunteers have contributed a sizeable portion of their life to protecting others, including John Maddrell who is being recognised for an impressive 75 years of service,” Chief Superintendent Simakoff-Ellims said.

“Originally joining the RFS as an 18-year-old in 1949, John has held various roles over the years and contributed greatly to the development of Lake George into the District we know today.

“He has also been instrumental in introducing new technologies, updating firefighting trucks and establishing the Tallaganda Shire’s first Fire Control Centre.”

Chief Superintendent Simakoff-Ellims said 40 RFS members will also receive the National Emergency Medal today.

“They displayed bravery, selflessness and willingness to assist communities in need in extraordinary circumstances, during the devastating 2019/20 bush fire season,” he said.

“And a heart-felt special mentioned to John ‘Jack’ Sealy, posthumously receiving a Long Service Medal for more than 60 years of loyal service.

“Since joining the RFS in 1960, John’s knowledge of the local area, radio communications and reliability were highly regarded by all who knew him.”

Mr Whan said many RFS members go above and beyond for their brigades and local community, including the 10 receiving the National Medal today.

“This is a fitting time to recognise the dedication they all show and share in protecting our local community,” Mr Whan said.

“Their professionalism does not go unnoticed and while they don’t do the work for praise, their bravery and commitment should be acknowledged.

“I also acknowledge those who support volunteers 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 do what they do to save lives and protect property.”