

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Two million dollar boost and praise for volunteer firefighters

29 May 2011

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Assistant Commissioner Keith Harrap has praised Rural Fire Brigades from across the Illawarra on their commitment to their communities.

Assistant Commissioner Harrap presented 54 volunteers with Long Service and National medals at an official ceremony held today at the Illawarra Fire Control Centre where he also presented brigades with the keys to nine new Service vehicles.

Assistant Commissioner Harrap said the volunteers had selflessly dedicated years to their communities, always on hand to assist with fires and other emergencies.

“These volunteers have served the community with distinction in RFS brigades right across the district.

“Between them, these 54 men and women have more than 1400 years of experience in the Rural Fire Service. This is a remarkable achievement, with many of the recipients here today dedicating more than 40 years to their local brigades and communities.

“I would particularly like to pay tribute to Terry Rogers from the Otford Rural Fire Brigade. Sadly Terry is being awarded his Long Service medal posthumously, and I would like to thank his daughter Shane and other family members for accepting the accolade on his behalf,” Assistant Commissioner Harrap said.

“Like all of the Members being recognised here today, Terry was an inspirational demonstration of the steadfast allegiance of our volunteers that the RFS prides itself on.”

Assistant Commissioner Harrap also officially handed over nine bush fire trucks and operational vehicles worth almost two million dollars to the Carrington Falls, Oak Flats, Mount Kembla, Foxground, Dapto and Illawarra Support brigades.

“The NSW RFS is committed to ensuring that our volunteers are equipped with the necessary equipment needed in order to go about their duties. These new vehicles are replacing the older style models and will help the volunteers continue their outstanding work in the community.

“Whether fighting fires, assisting with flood and storm recovery or attending road accidents, the men and women here today are always on hand when needed, and the Illawarra community should be most proud” he said.

For inquiries contact the NSW RFS State Duty Media Officer: 9898 1855