



MEDIA RELEASE

Long serving MIA District volunteers honoured

14 September 2018

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) volunteers from across the MIA District have been honoured for their longstanding commitment to the local community at a special medal presentation this evening.

Member for Murray Austin Evans and NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM presented 54 Long Service Medals to volunteers in recognition of their service and dedication to the community, with two of those given posthumously.

“In total, this represents 1730 years of combined service across the MIA District,” Mr Evans said.

“There are eleven members at this evening’s presentation who have each given 50 or more years’ service to their Brigades and their communities.

“The dedication of all the volunteers being recognised is inspiring.”

Commissioner Fitzsimmons made particular mention of Robert Hurst of the Carrathool Brigade, who has received posthumously the Long Service Medal 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Clasps in recognition of his 63 years of service.

“Made a Life Member in 2008, Robert held many positions during his dedicated time with the brigade, including Senior Deputy Captain and Captain,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“Sadly, Robert passed away earlier this year and I thank his family for being able to accept his well-deserved medal of recognition.

“I would also like to acknowledge Gordon Heffer of the Warburn Brigade, who is being recognised for his 62 years’ active service.

“A member since 1956, Gordon continues to support his Brigade and local community.

“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 said the hard work and professionalism of all MIA District volunteers does not go unnoticed and this is a great opportunity for the broader community to express their gratitude and say thank you.

“We must also thank the family, friends and colleagues of these and all volunteers,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“We know it takes their support and patience to help Rural Fire Service members do what they do.

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