



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Celebrations for Helensburgh Rural Fire Brigade on 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary

15 February 2020

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) members will gather tomorrow to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Helensburgh Rural Fire Brigade and honour the long-standing dedication and commitment to protecting the community by its members.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services David Elliott and NSW RFS Assistant Commissioner Kelly Browne AFSM will congratulate members past and present for building the brigade into the community institution it is today.

“This Brigade has a proud history and has put in a lot of effort developing its members over the years and strengthening its relationship with the community,” Mr Elliott said.

“Today, the brigade responds to a wide range of emergency incidents ranging from bush and grass fires, to motor vehicle accidents and fires, to lending a helping hand at community events and helping residents prepare for the fire season.”

Assistant Commissioner Browne said long serving volunteers will also be acknowledged with the presentation of one National Medal and two NSW RFS Long Service Medals representing a combined total of 74 years of service. Another 23 members will also receive Life Membership Certificates.

“Congratulations to Gregory Chrystal on his 29 years of service, who will be receiving the National Medal 1<sup>st</sup> Clasp,” Assistant Commissioner Browne said.

“A member of the Helensburgh Brigade since 1990, Gregory has been instrumental in many areas of the brigade and was recently elected Captain last year.

“We will also show appreciation to Aaron West for his 23 years of service and Marc Rayner for his 22 years of service, both receiving the NSW RFS Long Service Medal 1<sup>st</sup> Clasp.

“The hard work and professionalism of all NSW RFS members does not go unnoticed and while they do not ask for praise, we should take this milestone to acknowledge their contribution and commitment and I congratulate the 23 members receiving Life Membership Certificates.

Assistant Commissioner Browne said the Illawarra is afforded a world-class level of fire protection due to the experience and dedication of its 22 Rural Fire Brigades.

“We must also thank the family, friends, employers and colleagues of these and all volunteers, we know it takes their support to help Rural Fire Service members do what they do,” Assistant Commissioner Browne said.

**For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on 9898 1855**  
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