

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Celebrations for Greater Taree's long-standing volunteer firefighters

21 April 2012

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers has paid tribute to the dedication of Rural Fire brigade members from across the region, presenting 21 members with Long Service Medals at a ceremony held in their honour.

Deputy Commissioner Rogers acknowledged the volunteers' unwavering dedication to their local communities, noting their long-standing commitment.

"The Greater Taree area is no stranger to bush fires and everybody living in this region knows all too well the hard work, professionalism and pride that comes with being an RFS volunteer.

"Whether it's responding to bush fire emergencies, like we've seen on many occasions over the years, or more recently assisting with flood rescue and recovery – our volunteers are on hand 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Some of the members being recognised today have been serving with their brigades for more than 20, 30 and 40 years which is an astounding achievement."

Deputy Commissioner Rogers made particular mention of Bill Snowden and Bruce Weller who have been members for 40 and 49 years respectively, each notching up a noteworthy career.

"Bruce was a founding member of the Nabic brigade who, along with his father built the brigade's very first fire shed. More recently Bill joined the thousands of volunteers who travelled to Victoria during the tragic 2009 bush fires and was awarded Life Member of the Tionee brigade.

"Both of these gentlemen are shining examples of the steadfast dedication demonstrated by RFS volunteers right across the state," Deputy Commissioner Rogers said.

"I know that all of the members being awarded here this morning give up their time selflessly, and are driven by their commitment to helping their communities in times of emergency.

"Whilst these volunteers certainly don't expect awards or accolades, all of them are most worthy of our gratitude and thanks."

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