



**NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE**



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Praise for Cumberland Zone's long-standing volunteer firefighters**

**29 July 2016**

Some of the Cumberland area's most experienced volunteer firefighters are being celebrated today for helping to protect their local communities from the ravages of fire.

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Assistant Commissioner Jason Heffernan presented six volunteers with three Long Service and three National Medals at the annual Cumberland Zone Ball.

Assistant Commissioner Heffernan acknowledged the dedication of the six medal recipients and thanked them for selflessly giving up their time, between them an accumulated 116 years of service.

"I would like to make particular mention of Wendy Graham, who has been a member for 41 years and a worthy recipient of the Long Service Medal 3<sup>rd</sup> Clasp," Assistant Commissioner Heffernan said.

"Wendy joined the Scofield Brigade in 1976 and attended many local fires before devoting her time to the Communications Brigade, becoming an integral part of the Blacktown District's forward command vehicle while mentoring many newcomers.

"Today, Wendy is an active member of the Regentville Brigade where she continues to mentor new members while also being heavily involved in community engagement for the zone."

Assistant Commissioner Heffernan said everyone living in the region is aware of the hard work and commitment that comes with being a NSW RFS volunteer.

"The members receiving medals today are shining examples of the steadfast dedication demonstrated by NSW RFS volunteer firefighters right across the state," Assistant Commissioner Heffernan said.

"Whether it's responding to bush fire emergencies, like those we've seen in recent times, or assisting fellow emergency services, or the broader community in whatever their needs are our volunteers are on hand 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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