



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Shoalhaven volunteers' commitment praised**

**22 September 2017**

Longstanding volunteers from the Shoalhaven District were honored tonight by the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) for their ongoing commitment to the local community.

Member for Kiama Mr Gareth Ward MP and NSW RFS Assistant Commissioner Steve Yorke AFSM presented 13 Long Service Medals and three National Medals to volunteers, acknowledging their unflinching dedication to the Service during a ceremony held in Ulladulla.

"In total, these 16 recipients have accumulated an incredible 369 years of service between them," Mr Ward said.

"Each and 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."

Assistant Commissioner Yorke made particular mention of Suzanne Borrowdale and Greg Judson, who have both been valued members of the Service for 33 years each.

"Suzanne joined Callala Bay Brigade in 1983 and currently holds the positions of Captain, President and Permit Officer." Assistant Commissioner Yorke said.

"Greg is currently Deputy Captain of the Cambewarra Brigade and is heavily involved in the training of members as a Driving Instructor, among other roles.

"Well done also to Gary Sims for his 30 years' service, currently a member of the Conjola Brigade."

Assistant Commissioner Yorke said the 35 brigades in the Shoalhaven area respond to a range of bush, grass and house fires, as well as motor vehicle accidents and other emergencies, each year.

"The NSW RFS is at the cutting edge of bush firefighting due to significant improvements in technology, training, equipment and communications, however the real strength of the Service is its people," Assistant Commissioner Yorke said.

"The hard work and professionalism of all Shoalhaven 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 all these and all volunteers. 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."