

MEDIA RELEASE

Shoalhaven District honours long serving volunteers

8 December 2018

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

Member for Kiama Gareth Ward and NSW RFS Regional Manager Chief Superintendent Ken Hall presented one National Medal and 18 Long Service Medals to 19 NSW RFS volunteers in recognition of their service and dedication to the community.

"In total, this represents 306 years of combined service across the Shoalhaven District, which is quite remarkable and certainly worth celebrating," Mr Ward said.

"The dedication of all the volunteers being recognised is absolutely inspiring."

Mr Ward said the hard work and professionalism of all Shoalhaven District volunteers does not go unnoticed, and this special ceremony is a wonderful opportunity for the broader community to express their gratitude and thanks.

"We must also thank the family, friends and colleagues of these and all volunteers, we know it takes their support and patience to help RFS members do what they do best – protect lives and property right across this state," Mr Ward said.

Chief Superintendent Hall made particular mention of Allan Baldwin of the Callala Beach Brigade, who has received the Long Service Medal 2nd Clasp in recognition of his 31 years of service.

"A well respected member, Allan has held many positions during his time with the brigade, including Permit Officer, Deputy Captain and Senior Deputy Captain," Chief Superintendent Hall said.

"Allan has attended many incidents over the years from fires to floods and motor vehicle accidents.

"I would also like to acknowledge Paul Gleeson, current Group Captain and member of the Cunjurong Brigade, who is being recognised for his 30 years' service.

"A member since 1988, Paul continues to support his local community and further afield with countless deployments to assist with major fires, and is worthy of the Long Service Medal 1st and 2nd Clasps.

"Every one of these volunteers deserve 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."

