



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Northern Tablelands RFS members honoured for service at opening of new Mingoola Brigade station

25 June 2022

Members of the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Northern Tablelands District have been recognised for their dedicated service during the 2019-20 fire season at the official opening of the Mingoola Brigade station.

Deputy Commissioner Peter McKechnie presented the National Emergency Medal to 63 NSW RFS members today for those who provided sustained or significant service during the devastating 2019-20 fire season.

“The National Emergency Medal is awarded to persons who rendered sustained or significant service during nationally-significant emergencies in Australia,” Deputy Commissioner McKechnie said.

“We recognise the hard work and incredible contribution of volunteers and staff across the region.

“Every single one of these members should be proud of themselves and their dedication to protecting local communities,” Deputy Commissioner McKechnie said.

“They stood side-by-side with their fellow firefighters across NSW and faced fierce blazes during one of the most destructive fire seasons in recent memory. It is important to have these volunteers on deck to mentor and guide the younger generation joining the Service.”

Long Service Medals were also presented, with 37 recipients clocking up a total of 700 years of service.

“I’d particularly like to recognise Dennis Hill of the Urbenville Brigade, Robert Kneipp of the Tannum/Torrington Brigade and Rodney Dowe from Homestead Brigade who have each been recognised for their impressive 50 years of service,” Deputy Commissioner McKechnie said.

In a boost to the region’s firefighting capabilities, today’s ceremony also included the handover of a Bulk Water Cat 6 truck to the Northern Tablelands Logistics Brigade and Mingoola Brigade members were excited to have their new station officially opened. With funding assistance from Tenterfield Shire Council, the \$210,000 station features two vehicle bays, kitchenette and bathroom amenities.

The new facility commenced building in September 2021 and was completed in May this year.

Deputy Commissioner McKechnie also thanked the family, friends, employers and colleagues of all NSW RFS volunteers.

“We know it takes their ongoing support and patience to assist and enable our volunteers to do what they do to save lives and property,” he said.



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