



RFS

Media release

Weekend of celebrations for South West Slopes firefighters

19 August 2024

Two celebrations were held on Saturday in the South West Slopes region to recognise almost 100 NSW Rural Fire Service volunteers, open a new fire station, and handover a new fire truck.

RFS Superintendent Trevor Reeves was joined by special guests at the new Yannawah Rural Fire Brigade Station to present 13 Long Service Medals in the morning and another 84 at the Harden Fire Control Centre in the afternoon.

“With years of service ranging from 10 to more than 70 years, many of these volunteers have dedicated a significant portion of their life to protecting others,” Superintendent Reeves said.

“These ceremonies are an important opportunity to recognise the hard work and incredible contribution of RFS volunteers across the region, particularly those who have given decades of service.”

Superintendent Reeves said every recipient should be proud of themselves and their commitment to local communities, including five surpassing 60 years’ service.

“Since joining the Bribbaree Brigade 69 years ago, Brian McNair has held the positions of Captain and President, and it’s great to see his two of children also now serving as firefighters,” he said.

“I also note the posthumous presentation of the Long Service Medal 5th clasp to Morris Hunter, who as a member of the Bribbaree brigade for 74 years, was the longest serving volunteer in the South West Slopes region.

“I would like to thank his family for accepting his medal and providing the support he needed to carry out his role in protecting the local community.”

The ceremony in Yannawah also marked the official opening of a new station, the first for the area that will provide the brigade a space to train and house equipment.

“More than \$340,000 has been invested in the facility, which features two vehicle bays, kitchen, training room and amenities, and accommodate the brigade’s new fit-for-purpose fire truck,” Superintendent Reeves said.

“The RFS is committed to ensuring its members have access to modern firefighting technology when preparing for and responding to fires and other incidents.

“These men and women remain on-hand 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and we are extremely proud and grateful for their contribution to the community.”

For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on 9898 1855
For current incidents or major fire updates visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

