



MEDIA RELEASE

Lithgow volunteers' commitment praised

14 July 2016

Longstanding volunteers from the Lithgow District were honoured today by the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) for their ongoing commitment to their local community.

Chief Superintendent Benjamin Watson presented 37 volunteers with Long Service and National Medals and acknowledged their unfailing dedication to the Service during a ceremony held at Lithgow Fire Control Centre.

"In total, these Long Service and National Medal recipients have accumulated 1,332 years of service between them," Chief Superintendent Watson 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."

Chief Superintendent Watson made particular mention of Verna Gibson, who has been a valued member of the NSW RFS for 74 years.

"Verna joined the Rydal Brigade in 1942. She has had both fire fighting and support roles, clearly showing that Verna was ahead of her time."

Chief Superintendent Watson said the 18 brigades in the Lithgow District 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," Chief Superintendent Watson said.

"These men and women have been part of the Service during an incredible period of growth and transformation and the experience and knowledge within their ranks illustrates this.

"The time our volunteers spend with their brigades volunteering is time away from their work, businesses and families. Each of the volunteers here today is a shining example to the community and we thank our volunteers for that sacrifice. These medals are just a small token of our appreciation."