



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Namoi-Gwydir celebrates volunteers and new tankers

27 October 2018

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Namoi Gwydir Team has celebrated the achievements of veteran volunteers while welcoming the handover of four new vehicles worth more than \$1 million at two ceremonies held in the region.

At today's event held at the Stonefield Brigade station, NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons recognised more than 185 years of service between eight members.

"I'd particularly like to congratulate Tim Nicolle on his 36 years with the Service, including holding the role of Deputy Captain for 10 years," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

"Congratulations also to Matthew Walker and David Farrell on their 32 years dedication. As active members since 1986 they both continue to participate in a range of activities across the region."

Commissioner Fitzsimmons also officially handed over two new trucks, with Gineroi Brigade receiving a new Category 7 tanker and Gravesend Brigade a new Category 1 tanker.

"The NSW RFS, along with state and local governments are committed to providing volunteer firefighters with the equipment they need to carry out the important work they do to protect their local communities from fire," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

At a separate ceremony last night Commissioner Fitzsimmons also presented a new Category 1 tanker to the Moree Brigade and Mungindi Brigade received a new Medium Rescue vehicle.

"This vehicle is the first of its kind in the Service which is especially designed for rescue operations," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

"It is important that we continue to provide vehicles that are fit for purpose and that suit the types of incidents that our volunteers attend.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons also last night presented Old Bar Brigade member Stephen Carstens with a National Medal and recognised his diligent service to the community during his 17 years of service.

"Awarded Life Membership of the Old Bar brigade in 2014, Stephen continues to play an important role by contributing to the training of members in the Namoi-Gwydir Team," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

"Each volunteer being recognised has demonstrated an exceptional level of commitment to their community and these medals are our proud acknowledgement of their efforts.

"We continually see how hard our skilled firefighters work to keep us safe and I offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to all the NSW RFS staff and volunteers for their outstanding efforts.

"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."

For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on 9898 1855
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