



RFS

Media release

Double celebration for firefighters in the Hunter Valley

20 July 2024

Two celebrations will be held today in the Hunter Valley to recognise more than 35 NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) volunteers and open a new facility worth almost one million dollars.

RFS Assistant Commissioner, Jayson McKellar, will be joined by special guests at the Hunter Valley Fire Control Centre in Bulga, to present 19 Long Service Medals in the morning and another 17 at the new Kuyuga Rural Fire Brigade Station in the afternoon.

“With years of service ranging from 10 to 62 years, many of these volunteers have dedicated a significant portion of their life to protecting others,” Assistant Commissioner McKellar said.

“Their professionalism has not gone unnoticed and while they don’t do the work for praise, today’s events provide us with an opportunity to acknowledge their commitment.”

Assistant Commissioner McKellar said a number of RFS members deserved special mention, with four dedicating 40 or more years to the Service.

“Jill Kranias joined Lochinvar Brigade in 1976, holding a number of positions including Captain from 2004 to 2008, then moved to Thornton Brigade and on to Bulga Brigade, where she has held the role of Captain, Senior Deputy Captain and Permit Officer,” he said.

“Jill is receiving the Long Service Medal 3rd Clasp, along with Edward Burley who joined the Warkworth Brigade in 1978, before going on to be an active member of the Scotts Flat, Bulga and Hunter Valley Comms Brigades.

“I also note the posthumous presentation of the Long Service Medal 5th clasp to Glen Shearer, who joined Lower Belford Brigade in 1966 where he held the role of Captain from 1986 until 2018.”

This afternoon’s ceremony in Kayuga will also see the official opening of a new station, the first for the area that will provide the brigade space to train and house equipment.

More than \$960,000 has been invested in the facility, situated on land provided by Muswellbrook Council, which features two vehicle bays, kitchen, storerooms, solar power system and amenities.