



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Southern Highlands volunteers receive medals and new vehicles

21 September 2023

Fifty-one medals will be presented to RFS firefighters from across the Southern Highlands District tonight, in recognition of their collective contribution for more than 1,400 years of service to their communities.

District Manager, Superintendent Daniel Osborne and Operational Officer Gary Hansen will present the Medals as well as officially hand the keys of four brand new fire tankers and support vehicles to senior District volunteers.

Superintendent Osborne said the 14 National Medals, 1 National Emergency Medal, 4 Humanitarian Overseas Service Medals and 31 Long Service Medals are a proud acknowledgement of the commitment shown by these individuals over the years, both at home and internationally.

“The members being recognised tonight have dedicated much of their lives to protecting others, with a special mention of Michael Course of Balmoral Brigade, who will receive both Long Service and National Medals for his impressive 62 years’ service.

“I acknowledge the tireless efforts of these wonderful RFS members, for their work firefighting, support behind the scenes and leadership roles amongst their brigades.

“Tonight four firefighters will be presented with the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal and British Columbia II Clasp for recognition of their deployment to Canada in 2017 and they are to be commended for their service to the global community.

Operational Officer Hansen celebrated the official handover of four brand new fire tankers and support vehicles, valued at a total of more than \$650,000.

“These vehicles will replace existing District vehicles which have served the community well for many years.

“Tonight the Buxton and Yerrinbool Brigades are excited to officially receive the keys to their brand new category 7 fire tankers which will provide them with upgraded capability and safety features.

“The District will also take receipt of two new category 12 vehicles for use by the Southern Highlands Support Brigade and a District Group Captain.

“Tonight is also an opportunity to say thank you to the family, friends, employers and colleagues of all our members. It takes their ongoing support and patience to assist and enable our volunteers to do what they do to save lives and property.”

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