



# RFS

## Media release

### RFS Northern Beaches District applauds dedicated volunteers

**12 March 2024**

The RFS Northern Beaches District will tonight celebrate the achievements of 17 volunteers, who will be presented with medals recognising their service and commitment over almost half a century.

Minister for Emergency Services Jihad Dib and Commissioner of the RFS Rob Rogers have congratulated those members who combined will receive six National Medals and 11 Long Service Medals and Clasps, amassing a total of more than 450 years' service.

Minister Dib said members of the Northern Beaches District played an integral role in emergency response, not only within their local area but also across the state.

"These members do not volunteer their time for the accolades, however, these medals are a proud acknowledgement of the commitment of these individuals over many decades," Minister Dib said.

"Every one of the volunteers being recognised tonight is worthy of our most sincere thanks for their commitment to the Service and their communities."

Commissioner Rogers, who will present the medals tonight at the Duffys Forest Brigade Station, said the National Medal was awarded to those who had served for 15 years, with a clasp presented for every additional 10 years.

"This medal is presented to those members who go above and beyond what is expected of active members within their brigade," he said.

"I particularly acknowledge Jeff Cree, who has more than 55 years of service across various roles within multiple brigades, including Belrose, Forestville and Davidson. Jeff's commitment to serving the community has not gone unnoticed, with the award of the Australian Fire Service Medal in 2013 and the Order of Australia in 2021."

Commissioner Rogers said the 11 worthy recipients of the Long Service Medal were a fine example of the compassion and dedication of RFS members for their communities on the Northern Beaches.

"These members have served for between 10 and 55 years, with a special mention to Robert (Bob) and Christine Mitchell, who are celebrating 50 years of active and dedicated service each.

"The husband-and-wife duo have together served their community for half a century, acting in various leadership and mentoring roles, including training new members.

"From those with decades of experience to our members who are being acknowledged tonight for their first 10 years, all are well-deserving of recognition.

"I would also like to take this time to praise all our volunteers in this District and across the state for their ongoing efforts each day.

"Thanks also to the families, employers and support networks of RFS volunteers, without whom we could not be as resilient and effective in our mission to support and protect lives and property."