



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



MEDIA RELEASE

South West Slopes Zone volunteers' commitment praised

6 September 2014

Longstanding volunteers from the South West Slopes Zone were today honoured by the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) for their ongoing commitment to the local community.

NSW RFS Assistant Commissioner Bruce McDonald presented a total of 34 volunteers from Young and Harden with Long Service Medals at two ceremonies.

"In total, these Long Service Medal recipients have accumulated an amazing 1063 years of service between them," Assistant Commissioner McDonald 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.

"It is an absolute honour to present these awards and to take a moment in which we can reflect upon the outstanding achievements of these members."

Assistant Commissioner McDonald said nine of those medal recipients have individually given more than 40 years of dedicated service to their Brigades and local community.

"They have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to their community over many years and these medals are a fitting token of our appreciation," Assistant Commissioner McDonald said.

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

"Their hard work and professionalism doesn't go unnoticed and this is also a great opportunity for the community to express their gratitude and say thank you."

Assistant Commissioner McDonald said the 50 Brigades in the South West Slopes Zone respond to a range of bush, grass and house fires, as well as motor vehicle accidents and other emergencies.

"The NSW RFS is at the cutting edge of firefighting due to significant improvements in technology, training, equipment and communications, however the real strength of the Service resides in the quality, capability and tenacity of its people," Assistant Commissioner McDonald said.

**For more information contact the South West Slopes Zone on 02 6386 3170
For current incidents or major fire updates visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au**
