



RFS

Media release

Cumberland RFS members to be honoured for service

18 July 2024

The dedication and generosity of more than 30 NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) volunteers will be recognised at a special ceremony in Sydney's west tonight, with the presentation of awards and medals.

RFS Area Commander, Chief Superintendent Greg Wardle, will be joined by Member for Penrith, Karen McKeown OAM MP and other guests at Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, for the presentation of 18 Long Service Medals, 11 National Medals, four National Emergency Medals and one Commissioner's Unit Citation for Bravery.

"With years of service ranging from 10 to more than 30 years, many of these volunteers have dedicated a significant portion of their life to protecting others," Chief Superintendent Wardle said.

"Their professionalism has not gone unnoticed and while they don't do the work for praise, tonight's event provides us with an opportunity to acknowledge their commitment."

Chief Superintendent Wardle said a number of RFS members deserved special mention, including Shane Wilson who will be awarded the 25 years National Medal 1st Clasp, 35 years National Medal 2nd Clasp and 45 years National Medal 3rd Clasp, having started his national service with the Navy in 1976 before joining the RFS Mulgoa Brigade in 1992.

"Shane has been a great mentor to those around him as Captain, Senior Deputy Captain and currently Deputy Captain, a position he has held since 2005," he said.

"Congratulations also goes to the convoy of Crew 91 Alberta Canada, whose members were on international deployment to Canada last year when they came across a two-vehicle accident.

"Three members of the crew rushed to assist the driver of one of the cars who was trapped in their overturned vehicle, which was close to the other car that was on fire.

"While sadly the occupant passed away, these members showed bravery and are most worthy of receiving the Commissioner's Unit Citation for Bravery.

"Today we honour not only these members but also acknowledge those who support them and all our volunteers in what they do. We know it takes the ongoing support and patience of family, friends and employers to assist and enable our volunteers to do what they do to save lives and protect property."