



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Canobolas Zone honours volunteers and celebrates new stations

15 December 2018

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Canobolas Zone today celebrated the achievements of veteran volunteers while celebrating the official opening of two new stations in the region.

NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons attended two events, with ceremonies held at both the new Moorbel and Clifton Grove – Ophir Rural Fire Brigade Stations.

“These new facilities provide enhanced support to Canobolas Zone volunteers and the communities they protect,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“The investment of \$500,000 across these two stations delivers more facilities for volunteers and will enable them to provide a higher level of protection to the communities they serve.

“The new two bay station replaces the former Moorbel Brigades facility and Clifton Grove – Ophir Brigade now have a new three bay station, with its former location to now be utilised for storage and training.”

Twelve Long Services Medals were also presented to members of the Clifton Grove – Ophir Brigade, in recognition of their dedication, commitment and service to the local area.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said the 12 recipients have accumulated a total of 310 years of service between them.

“I’d particularly like to congratulate the four members who have given 30 or more years’ service, including Geoffrey Selwood who was recognised for 50 years commitment,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“Geoffrey is currently President and Treasurer of the Clifton Grove Brigade - Ophir and is a well-respected member of the community.

“John Pankhurst must also be commended for his 42 years’ service, most recently as a dual member of the Clifton Grove – Ophir and North West Brigades.

“Congratulations also to Wayne Gallagher and Ray Astill, on their 31 years’ service.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said each volunteer recognised has demonstrated an exceptional level of commitment to their community.

“These medals are our proud acknowledgement of their efforts,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“I know these Brigades will continue to serve their local communities for many years to come and share their knowledge, experience and firefighting skills both locally and further afield.”

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