

# MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

## Praise for New England's long-standing volunteer firefighters

27 April 2013

Some of the New England areas most experienced and well seasoned firefighters were applauded today for helping protect their local communities from the impact of fire.

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Chief Superintendent Bruce McDonald acknowledged the volunteers' unwavering dedication to their local communities and thanked them for selflessly giving up their time.

"The New England area is no stranger to bush fires and locals know all too well the hard work, professionalism and pride that comes with being a NSW RFS volunteer.

"Whether it's vehicle incidents, working with flood victims, or responding bush fire emergencies, like those we've seen in recent times, our volunteers are on hand to assist 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Some of the members being recognised today have been serving with their brigades for more than 30, 40 and 50 years which is an outstanding achievement," said Chief Superintendent McDonald.

Chief Superintendent McDonald made particular mention of Allan McRae and Peter Elliott, who have been members 57 and 58 years respectively, each notching up a noteworthy career.

"Allan McRae has been a member of the Wollomombi Brigade since 1956. Allan's dedication throughout those 57 years has seen him attend numerous major fires in the area and across the state.

"Peter Elliott, a member of the Dangarsleigh Brigade, has held almost every position within the brigade including Captain during his 58 years of service. Peter is currently the Fire Permit Officer for the area and still actively participates in the delivery of training, passing on his knowledge and skills.

"Both of these members are shining examples of the steadfast dedication and commitment to their communities that is demonstrated by NSW RFS volunteer firefighters right across the state.

"Whilst these volunteers certainly don't expect awards or accolades, today provides a fabulous opportunity to let them all know, they are most worthy of our sincere gratitude and thanks," said Chief Superintendent McDonald.

**For more information contact State Duty Media Officer on (02) 9898 1855**