

# MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

## **Celebrations for Central West's long-standing volunteer firefighters**

**28 April 2012**

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons has paid tribute to the dedication of Rural Fire Service volunteers from the Canobolas and Cargo areas, presenting 46 members with Long Service Medals at two ceremonies held in their honour.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons acknowledged the volunteers' unwavering allegiance to their brigades, noting their long-standing commitment to the community.

"Everybody living in this region knows all too well the dangers that bush and grass fires present to life, property and livelihood. This is why the two thousand plus RFS members that we have in this area are an invaluable asset.

"Whether it's responding to bush fire emergencies like we've seen on many occasions over the years, assisting at road accidents or carrying out essential hazard reduction work – our volunteers are on hand 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Some of the members being recognised today have been serving with their brigades for more than 40, 50 and 60 years which is an astounding achievement."

Commissioner Fitzsimmons made particular mention of Ron Laner and Barry Davis who have been members for 62 and 67 years respectively.

"These gentlemen remain integral members of their brigades and have both carved out noteworthy careers. They are shining examples of the staunch commitment demonstrated by RFS volunteers right across the state, and like everyone being awarded today deserving of our gratitude," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

"I know that all of the members receiving service medals today give up their time selflessly, and are driven by their commitment to helping others in times of emergency."

During the ceremonies Commissioner Fitzsimmons also officially handed over the keys to North West Orange and Cargo Brigades' replacement bush fire trucks.

"These new tankers will enable the brigades to continue their outstanding work, and I would personally like to congratulate everybody on their ongoing hard work and professionalism."

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