

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

## Celebration for Ilford Rural Fire Brigade on 80th anniversary

30 August 2019

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) members will gather tomorrow to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Ilford Rural Fire Brigade and honour the long-standing dedication and commitment to protecting the community by its members.

Member for Bathurst Paul Toole and NSW RFS Regional Coordinator Inspector David Curry will congratulate members past and present for building the brigade into the community institution it is today.

"This Brigade has such a proud history of community service and spirit," Mr Toole said.

"Formed in December 1939, the brigade has transformed from originally obtaining three pumps from subscriptions collected by local landholders to the two Category 7 and Category 2 tankers it has today.

"Over the years, this brigade has also put in a lot of effort developing its members, especially through monthly training and strengthening its relationship with the community.

Inspector Curry said the brigade currently has 62 members and responds to a wide range of emergency incidents.

"The brigade attends bush and grass fires, structure fires and during the past year more than half the incidents attended were motor vehicle accidents," Inspector Curry said.

"The Ilford Brigade also helps the community prepare for the fire season and is gearing up to meet with residents during the annual Get Ready Weekend on 14 and 15 September."

Inspector Curry said the hard work and professionalism of NSW RFS members does not go unnoticed and while they do not ask for praise, this milestone is an opportunity to acknowledge their contribution and commitment.

"The Cudgegong District is afforded a world-class level of fire protection due to the experience and dedication of its 27 Rural Fire Brigades," Inspector Curry said.

"We must also thank the family, friends, employers and colleagues of these and all volunteers, we know it takes their support to help Rural Fire Service members do what they do."

