

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

TWO ERAS PRAISED IN INVERELL TODAY

6 August 2013

Some of the Northern Tablelands most experienced and well seasoned volunteer firefighters were applauded today in Inverell for helping protect their local communities from fire, as a new generation of school students graduated from the NSW Rural Fire Service's cadet program.

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Assistant Commissioner Stuart Midgley acknowledged the thirty six long serving volunteers' unwavering dedication to their local communities and thanked them for selflessly giving up their time.

"This area is no stranger to bush fires and everybody living in this region knows all too well the hard work, professionalism and pride that comes with being a NSW RFS volunteer.

"Some of the members being recognised today have been serving with their brigades for more than 30, 40, or 50 years, which is a remarkable achievement," said Assistant Commissioner Midgley.

Assistant Commissioner Midgley made particular mention of Geoff Mather who has been a member for 60 years.

"Mr Mather has been a member of Nullmanna Brigade since 1952, holding many leadership positions including serving as Brigade Captain for four years. He's a great example of the dedication and community commitment of NSW RFS volunteers in this area.

"In total the thirty six volunteers being recognised today have given 1,077 years of service to the Northern Tablelands area.

"Whilst these volunteers certainly don't expect awards or accolades, all of them are most worthy of our sincere gratitude and thanks," said Assistant Commissioner Midgley.

The twenty four students graduating from the Cadet program were also praised by Assistant Commissioner Midgley.

"These cadets from Inverell High School have completed a 10 week course that has given them skills that will last a lifetime. The Program also offers students the opportunity to experience first-hand the commitment and camaraderie that comes with volunteering.

"The NSW Cadet program is an ideal way to introduce young people to the important role volunteer firefighters play within communities.

"I would encourage these graduating students to now join the NSW RFS, and hope that one day we will also be presenting them with their own long service medals.

Assistant Commissioner Midgley also paid tribute to the staff and volunteers from the Northern Tablelands team who facilitated the course, particularly the Martin Mooney and the Principal Karen Roberts, teachers and staff from Inverell High School for helping to make this Program such a success.

For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on 9898 1855.