

# MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

## Macarthur's volunteer firefighters go over and above

20 October 2012

The Macarthur area is no stranger to major bush fires and this summer the skills and experience of local NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) firefighters will be in demand.

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons congratulated 31 of the Macarthur area's most experienced volunteers in an official Long Service Medal Ceremony today.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said the group of outstanding volunteers, who attend incidents throughout the Campbelltown, Liverpool and Camden areas, have made an invaluable contribution to their communities.

"Each and every one of these volunteers have served with distinction, maintaining a high level of training and professionalism throughout their many years with the Service.

"These members have accumulated more than 623 years of service between them. That sort of commitment is not common in many organisations and we are very lucky to have at the NSW RFS.

"In particular I would like to acknowledge Mr Jeffery Wood who has dedicated more than 26 years to the Service, his steadfast commitment to the safety of the community is an inspiration.

"Throughout the last 26 years Mr Wood has held a number of senior positions within his Brigade and has most recently risen to the most senior volunteer position of Group Officer.

"Mr Wood also uses his experience to instruct and assess volunteers at numerous training courses; helping to ensure volunteers from the Macarthur area keep their skills sharp.

"Each of these members has played an integral role in their communities, whether they are fighting bush fires, attending road accidents or assisting during storms and floods.

"It is wonderful to see so many of our volunteers being recognised for their years of dedication. I believe this is an indication that the strong NSW RFS tradition in this region is thriving," said Commissioner Fitzsimmons.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said volunteers are the backbone of the NSW RFS and deserve sincere gratitude from the community for their selfless work.

"While our members don't volunteer for awards or accolades, this is a way for the Macarthur area and broader NSW community to express their sincere thanks for these members ongoing contribution," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.