

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Northern Rivers RFS volunteers recognised for long service

20 May 2011

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons has congratulated 94 volunteer firefighters from the Northern Rivers who have been recognised for their long and diligent service.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said the RFS members from brigades across the region had made an invaluable contribution to their communities and were worthy of praise and recognition.

"I know that our members don't volunteer for awards or accolades, however these men and women have served with distinction, accumulating more than 1,800 years of service between them which is an incredible accomplishment.

"I would particularly like to acknowledge Cyril Burnett and Keith Cole from the Rappville Brigade, and Kenneth McLennan from the Woodenbong Brigade who have each notched up more than 50 years experience with the RFS.

"This is an inspirational example of the dedication displayed by RFS volunteers across the state."

The volunteers were presented with their Long Service and National Medals by Commissioner Fitzsimmons at a ceremony at Casino RSM yesterday evening.

"It should be noted that while many of the members being recognised tonight have dedicated 30, 40 and 50 years or more to the Rural Fire Service, there is also a significant number being awarded for 10 and 15 years service.

"This commitment demonstrates that the tradition of volunteering is thriving in this region," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

"Whether fighting fire, assisting with flood recovery and rescue or responding to car accidents, it's evident by tonight's medal presentation that the Northern Rivers community is very fortunate to have men and women of this calibre to help them in times of emergency.

"Volunteers are the backbone of the NSW Rural Fire Service and today is a way for the local and wider NSW community to express our sincere thanks for their ongoing contribution.

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