



Far North Coast RFS volunteers recognised for service

5 February 2011

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons has congratulated 56 volunteers from the Far North Coast who have been recognised for their long and diligent service.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said the volunteers from Bilambil, Burringbar, Chillingham, Cudgen, Kunghur, Tyalgum, Alstonville, Byron Bay, Federal, Main Arm, Meerschaum, Mullumbimby, Newrybar, Wardell and Wilson's Creek, have made an invaluable contribution to their communities.

"These volunteers have served with distinction, accumulating more than 1,300 years of service between them which is an incredible milestone.

"Three of the volunteers receiving Long Service Medals today have each recorded 40 or more years in the NSW RFS – with one member reaching an impressive 51 years.

"Keith Moss, Raymond Kuhnell and Bruce Bartrim are all shining examples of the dedication displayed by RFS volunteers."

Commissioner Fitzsimmons presented the volunteers with their medals at two ceremonies held at Murwillumbah and Wardell NSW RFS stations today.

"These members have played an integral role in their communities, whether fighting bush fires or assisting during storms, floods or road accidents.

"It's wonderful to see so many of today's medal recipients receiving recognition for 10, 20 or 30 years as volunteers. It's an indication that the NSW RFS tradition in this region is continuing. .

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said that volunteers are the backbone of the NSW RFS and deserved 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 Far North Coast and wider NSW community to express our sincere thanks for their ongoing contribution," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.