



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Celebration for dedicated MIA District volunteers

23 September 2022

More than 60 members of the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) MIA District will be recognised for their dedication and achievements at a special ceremony in Griffith tonight.

Twelve National Medals and 54 Long Service Medals will be presented to the members by Area Commander Chief Superintendent Kelwyn White at a ceremony at the MIA Fire Control Centre.

Chief Superintendent White said these medals, recognising more than 1,800 years of combined service, are a proud acknowledgement of the commitment shown by these individuals over the years.

"I know that the community is thankful for the world-class level of fire protection and assistance afforded to them by volunteers across the MIA District," Chief Superintendent White said.

"I personally extend my gratitude to all of our dedicated firefighters for their continued service."

Chief Superintendent White acknowledged the contribution of Colin Smeeth AFSM, who is being awarded the National Medal 3rd Clasp, a medal that recognises those who go above and beyond what is expected of active members within their brigade.

"Colin joined the Wyangan Brigade in 1967 and has been Captain and Group Captain since 1996. Colin has been a well-respected member with much experience and I praise his dedication and leadership."

"I also note that six members will be recognised for 60 or more years' service including John Cattanach who will be awarded the Long Service Medal 6th Clasp for his 70 years' service.

"John took on the role of Deputy Captain after joining the Boyd Brigade in 1951 and held the position an impressive 66 years until 2017, and is still a great supporter of the brigade sharing his knowledge.

"Members of the MIA District have always answered the call, not only assisting with incidents locally but also to communities in need across the state.

"The hard work and professionalism of all NSW RFS members does not go unnoticed and while they do not ask for praise, we should take every opportunity to acknowledge their contribution and commitment to their community.

"We also thank the family, friends, employers and colleagues of all NSW RFS volunteers. We know it takes their ongoing support and patience to assist and enable our volunteers to do what they do to save lives and property."



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