

# MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

## Volunteers' dedication in the Far North Coast acknowledged

3 March 2013

A number of dedicated volunteers on the State's North Coast were joined by NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons at a ceremony held to recognise their contribution to the community.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said he was pleased to be able to present 40 members with awards for their commitment to the Service and their hard work.

"I note that nine of today's medal recipients have given more than 30 years of service to the RFS; that really is an outstanding milestone," said Commissioner Fitzsimmons.

During the ceremony, Commissioner Fitzsimmons made mention of one special volunteer.

"Ben McClymont who has dedicated 67 years of his life to serving the community. This is an amazing achievement that goes beyond the ordinary definitions of 'long service'.

"I have been very proud of the outstanding efforts made by members across the Ballina and Byron area during the recent surge in fire activity. Many members have put in some big hours fighting fires and their dedication has been well and truly on show.

"Their job is an important one, and they do it out of the goodness of their heart. They do their job quietly, never asking for praise, awards or accolades.

"I want to make it clear that the rewarding – yet dirty, often physically exhausting and mentally challenging work that our members undertake – is appreciated.

"I congratulate them all for their hard work, dedication and commitment to the community and to the service. They should all be very proud, as should their families," said Commissioner Fitzsimmons.

**Media Contact: NSW RFS State Duty Media Officer (02) 9898 1855**