

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Facilities for Far South Coast volunteers bolstered

11 August 2012

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Superintendent John Cullen ushered in a new era for the Central Tilba Rural Fire Brigade when he officially declared their brand new station open today.

Superintendent Cullen also presented one volunteer, Captain Michael Marchini with the National Medal and 16 Tilba volunteers with Long Service Medals, recognising combined service of 357 years.

Superintendent Cullen said the Central Tilba brigade had a proud history.

"This Brigade began when a group of rural farmers came together to defend their properties and the local community in the 1950s.

"While Tilba now faces a major fire around every ten years, each and every year these volunteers fight bush fires, structure fires and attend a number of other incidents in the area.

"This new building will help the Brigade continue its important work in the local area, particularly in the lead up to the Bush Fire Season, and is dedicated to working with the local community to raise fire awareness.

"The new Station has two vehicle bays, training room, store room and kitchen, a major step up from the original shed of the 1970's.

Superintendent Cullen praised the service of all 16 Brigade members who were recognised with Long Service medals today.

In particular, Captain Michael Marchini, who has served 16 years with the NSW RFS and today received the National Medal, has made a huge difference to his district by training and mentoring local members throughout the district.

"His strong leadership has ensured that more than 50 juniors have been trained to senior levels and that his colleagues remain inspired and motivated by his example," Superintendent Cullen said.

Captain Marchini has led Eurobodalla teams to the Black Saturday Fires in Victoria as Sector Commander at Yarra Valley as well as the Canberra, Coonabarabran, Wyong, Shoalhaven and Sydney Storm emergencies.

"Alongside Mick work more than 20 volunteers who remain on-hand 24 hours a day, seven days a week to help their local community. We should be extremely proud and grateful for their contribution," said Superintendent Cullen.

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