



## Wollondilly's volunteer firefighters applauded

4 August 2012

Some of the most experienced and dedicated NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) volunteers in the Wollondilly area were recognised with Long Service Medals in an official ceremony today.

NSW RFS Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers said there are around 50,000 people in the Wollondilly area who rely on the protection of NSW RFS volunteers during times of emergency.

"The 42 recipients receiving awards today are some of our longest standing members in this area, many of whom have been involved in fighting major fires, both in the local area and further afield over the years.

"Wollondilly's volunteers are very active, responding to around 600 incidents a year, however due to the terrain in this area more than half of all incidents they attend are bush and grass fires," said Deputy Commissioner Rogers.

Deputy Commissioner Rogers paid particular tribute to Colin Miller who celebrated a remarkable 72 years of Service to both his brigade and community today.

"Mr Miller first joined the Tahmoor Brigade in 1940 and since that time he has seen a number of advancements in firefighting strategies, equipment, training and communications.

"Mr Miller is a valuable source of historical fire information for his fellow firefighters in the area who rely heavily on his experience and local knowledge during fires.

"Robert Bonnett is another member who has dedicated a large part of his life to helping protect his community - notching up an impressive 49 years service with the Mt. Hunter Rural Fire Brigade in the process.

"Like his fellow volunteer firefighters, I know that Mr Bonnett certainly doesn't volunteer his time and effort for awards or accolades, and I would like to acknowledge the dedication demonstrated by all of today's medal recipients.

"The Rural Fire Service prides itself on the professionalism and commitment of its volunteers, two qualities that set us in good stead in the lead up to the bush fire season," said Deputy Commissioner Rogers.

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