

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Cudgegong's volunteer firefighters awarded for dedicated service

21 April 2012

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Region West Manager Paul Smith has paid tribute to the hard work and professionalism of Rural Fire brigade members from across Cudgegong, presenting 22 members with Long Service Medals at a ceremony held in their honour.

Mr Smith acknowledged the volunteers' unwavering dedication to their local communities, noting their long-standing commitment.

"Everyone living in the Cudgegong area knows how daunting the threat of bush fires can be, and we've seen a number of serious fire seasons over the years.

"It is the commitment and hard work of our volunteer firefighters that plays a pivotal role in protecting communities in times of emergency – and it is that dedication that we are recognising today," Mr Smith said.

"These 22 members receiving Long Service Medals have more than 700 years experience between them, experience that continues to serve their communities well.

"Whether it's responding to bush, grass or structure fires, assisting with storm rescue and recovery or attending road accidents, our volunteers provide invaluable help 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Many of the members being recognised today have been serving with their brigades for more than 20, 30 and 40 years which is an astounding achievement."

Mr Smith praised the efforts of seven NSW RFS volunteers who have each served for more than 40 years.

"Lyll Woods, Val Stubbs, Bob Colley, Errol Edwards, Peter Rayner, Bill Suttor and Eric Colley are admirable examples of the steadfast dedication demonstrated by RFS volunteers right across the state.

"I know that all of the members being awarded here this morning give up their time selflessly, and are driven by their commitment to helping their communities in times of emergency.

"Whilst these volunteers certainly don't expect awards or accolades, all of them are most worthy of our gratitude and thanks," said Mr Smith.

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