

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Medals and fire truck for Central West volunteers

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NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons has recognised the commitment of nearly 40 long-serving members from across the Cudgegong area.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons has presented 37 members of the families and friends of former members with long service medals during two ceremonies on Saturday.

“These volunteers have served with distinction, accumulating more than 800 years of service between them which is an incredible milestone.

“In particular I would like to acknowledge Jack Suttor and David Lawson who have each dedicated more than 50 years to the NSW RFS, their commitment to the safety of the community is an inspiration.

“Barry Hewitt is also a shining example of the dedication displayed by RFS volunteers, serving for more than 40 years.”

The award presentations were made at a ceremony at Cudgegong Fire Control Centre in Mudgee and at the Rylstone Rural Fire Brigade. Four of the awards have been presented posthumously.

In Mudgee, Commissioner Fitzsimmons also handed over a new firefighting truck to the Mudgee Rural Fire Brigade. The truck, which is worth more than \$250,000, is capable of carrying six firefighters and will assist in protecting local communities.

“The NSW RFS is committed to ensuring that our volunteers are equipped the necessary equipment needed in order to go about their duties.

“It’s wonderful to see so many of our volunteers receiving recognition for their years’ of dedication. It’s an indication that the NSW RFS tradition in this region is thriving.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said that volunteers are the backbone of the NSW RFS and deserved sincere gratitude from the community for their selfless work.

“While our members don’t volunteer for awards or accolades, this is a way for the central west and wider NSW community to express our sincere thanks for their ongoing contribution,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

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