

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Celebrations for Mid Lachlan Valley NSW RFS volunteers

12 April 2012

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Assistant Commissioner Dominic Lane has praised the long standing commitment of a small volunteer brigade from the Mid Lachlan Valley, at a ceremony held in their honour.

Assistant Commissioner Lane presented all ten members of the Monwonga Rural Fire Brigade with Long Service Medals, and formally opened their new station which will house the brigade's bush fire tanker.

"Up until now the brigade's truck has been kept in a private building thanks to the generosity of a local farmer, and this new RFS shed has been placed on the same property, which is indicative of the community's commitment to the Service.

"The Monwonga RFS brigade may be one of the smallest in the Mid Lachlan Valley area, but between them these ten members have more than 320 years of experience.

Assistant Commissioner Lane paid particular tribute to Robert Hoswell who has held the position of Brigade Secretary for more than 30 years, before passing the role on to another member.

"Robert has notched up a total of 51 years service with the Monwonga Rural Fire Brigade which is a tremendous achievement.

"Like his fellow volunteer firefighters, I know that Robert 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.

"Like we see in rural communities right across New South Wales, these ten gentlemen have come together to help protect the land from the potential threat of grass or bush fires.

"Whilst mitigating and fighting these fires may be our core expertise, our members are pivotal when it comes to all manner of emergencies such as traffic accidents and structure fires.

"It is this diversity that the Rural Fire Service prides itself on, and I would personally like to acknowledge the contribution of everyone here today," Assistant Commissioner Lane said.

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