

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Awards for NSW RFS volunteers across The Hills

Embargoed – 6.30pm 17 May 2011

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons has recognised the contribution of volunteers across The Hills District, during an awards ceremony at Castle Hill.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons has presented nearly 40 volunteers with long service awards, recognising their ongoing commitment to the community of The Hills.

“These volunteers have served the local community with dedication and commitment, accumulating hundreds of years of experience between them,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“Some members have dedicated more than 40 years of their lives to assisting their community.

“In particular, it’s worth recognising the commitment of Sam Bolzan, Neville Durrant and Stanley McDowell, who have all given more than 40 years of service.

“This is a tremendous achievement – as is the commitment of all of the volunteers receiving awards,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said many of the volunteers being presented with awards have not only served their local communities but in towns and villages outside of the Hills and even interstate.

“Some of these men and women have served at major incidents across NSW or even interstate, such as in the recent Victorian bush fires.

“Some have also served in important behind-the-scenes roles, such as in training, welfare, communications and support functions.

“This is a demonstration of the fact that there is a role for nearly everyone in the NSW RFS.

“Our volunteers, whether it’s at the end of a hose or behind the scenes, don’t do it for awards or accolades such as this, however it’s only fitting that the community recognises their ongoing contribution.

“It’s also important to recognise the commitment of their family, friends and employers, whose contribution is just as important,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

NSW RFS State Duty Media Officer (02) 9898 1855