



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Central Coast District thanks volunteers and honours veteran firefighters

**20 May 2018**

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) today honoured Central Coast District members for their long-standing commitment and thanked volunteers from all agencies and organisations for their continued dedication towards both helping and protecting the community.

Member for Terrigal Adam Crouch MP and NSW RFS Senior Assistant Commissioner McDonald attended a ceremony as part of Central Coast Volunteer Appreciation Day, where they presented 19 National Medals and 30 Long Service Medals to 48 recipients in recognition of their extraordinary achievements and combined 1,050 years of service.

"The hard work and professionalism of these and indeed all NSW RFS members does not go unnoticed and, while they do not ask for praise, we gladly award these medals as a proud acknowledgement of their contribution and commitment," Mr Crouch said.

"The Central Coast District is afforded a world-class level of fire protection due to the experience and dedication of our 57 Rural Fire Brigades and we cannot thank them enough."

Senior Assistant Commissioner McDonald said 24 of the 48 medal recipients have dedicated more than 20 years each to the Service and the community.

"Every member is worthy of the highest praise, however I would like to make particular mention of Darryl McCutcheon, who is being awarded the Long Service Medal 4<sup>th</sup> Clasp and Glen Howe, who is receiving the National Medal 2<sup>nd</sup> Clasp," Senior Assistant Commissioner McDonald said.

"Darryl joined the Kariong brigade and the Gosford Communications Unit in 1967, serving as Communications Captain, Communications Deputy Captain and Communications Senior Deputy Captain before being elected Deputy Captain of the Central Coast Communications Brigade.

"Glen is a life member of the Kariong Brigade, having joined in 1978 and serving in a variety of roles including Captain, Senior Deputy Captain, Deputy Captain and Brigade President.

"It is an absolute honor to present these awards and to take a moment to reflect upon the outstanding achievements of all of these members."

Senior Assistant Commissioner McDonald thanked the Central Coast public for embracing the opportunity to say thanks to local volunteers, who selflessly spend time away from their family and friends to contribute to the community.