



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Far North Coast volunteers recognised for long service

6 April 2019

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Far North Coast Team today recognised and celebrated the dedication and commitment of long serving members.

NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM joined local volunteers to present 49 long service medals at a special ceremony today.

“These members do not volunteer their time for the accolades, however these medals are a proud acknowledgement of the commitment shown by these individuals over the years,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“More than 1,100 years of service was recognised today and I know that the community is thankful for the world-class level of fire protection afforded to them by volunteers across the Far North Coast.

“I personally extend my gratitude to all of our dedicated firefighters for their continued service to and for the community.”

Commissioner Fitzsimmons was also honoured to present Keith Moss with the 4th Clasp of his NSW RFS Long Service Medal.

“Keith has been a dedicated volunteer member of the NSW RFS for 53 years after joining Burringbar Brigade in 1966. He was also a salaried member for ten years during this time before retiring in 2015.

“Today Keith is a valued member of the Far North Coast Support Group where he plays an instrumental behind-the-scenes role during major emergencies.”

Commissioner Fitzsimmons also acknowledged the contribution of William (Bill) Blanch, who received the 4th Clasp of his National Medal in recognition of this 60 years of service to the community.

“Bill has been a diligent member of the NSW RFS for an exceptional period of time for which we are truly grateful,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“He is a well-respected mentor and an inspiration to many within his brigade and across the Far North Coast area.”

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said that each volunteer being recognised has demonstrated an exceptional level of commitment to their community.

“Northern NSW has seen a number of significant fires this year and I offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to all the NSW RFS staff and volunteers who continue to work hard for their communities.

“We must also thank the family, friends, employers and colleagues of these and all volunteers. We know it takes their support and patience to help Rural Fire Service members do what they do.”

For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on 9898 1855
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