



**NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE**



# MEDIA RELEASE

## **Long serving Northern Rivers volunteers honoured**

**5 July 2014**

Volunteer firefighters from the Northern Rivers zone had their long and dedicated service recognised during an official ceremony this week.

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Assistant Commissioner Stuart Midgley presented Long Service Medals to a group of 15 volunteers who have amassed an impressive 309 years of service between them.

“This significant commitment demonstrates that the tradition of volunteering is thriving in this region,” Assistant Commissioner Midgley said.

“Each of these men and women provide a vital service to their community, whether they’re fighting bush fires, attending road accidents or assisting during storms.

“It is an honour to present these awards and reflect upon the outstanding achievements of these members.

Assistant Commissioner Midgley said the Long Service Medal recipients demonstrate the same selfless commitment shown by all NSW RFS volunteers.

“I would particularly like to acknowledge Neville Battistuzzi and Russell Johnston, who are today receiving awards for more than 30 years of dedicated service to the community.

“Neville joined the Clunes Brigade in 1982. Since then he has held a number of positions, including Captain which he holds today. I’m told the Brigade has benefitted greatly from his leadership.

“Russell can tell the story of when The Channon Brigade station was built. He even helped pour the slab. He has continued to contribute to the Brigade since then, particularly in keeping the Brigade truck ‘Paw Paw’ operational.

“The hard work and professionalism of both of these men, and indeed all those receiving medals today, doesn’t go unnoticed and this is a great opportunity for the broader community to express their gratitude and say thank you.

“I would like to take this time to praise all our volunteers for their ongoing efforts each and every day, particularly when dealing with emergencies here in the Northern Rivers Zone,” Assistant Commissioner Midgley.