



Wingecarribee volunteers' commitment praised

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Sixty six longstanding volunteers from the Wingecarribee area have been acknowledged for their commitment by NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Chief Superintendent Bruce McDonald.

Chief Superintendent McDonald said there are 21 brigades in the Wingecarribee area that respond to a range of bush, grass and house fires as well as motor vehicle accidents and other emergencies each year.

Chief Superintendent McDonald presented each of the volunteers with Long Service Medals and recognised their on-going dedication in an official presentation in Mittagong today.

"Each and every one of the volunteers here today is worthy of our most sincere thanks and I would like to personally commend them, not only for their commitment to the Service, but also to their community," said Chief Superintendent McDonald.

Chief Superintendent McDonald said that between them the 66 volunteers presented with medals had managed to accumulate an incredible 1,592 years of service between them.

"These men and women have all witnessed a lot of changes over the years and they have many stories to tell, from fighting fires to brigade life.

"Amongst these stories, there are many examples of the selfless and unwavering dedication that our volunteer members display seven days a week, 365 days a year.

"I would like to make particular mention of Alan Kerslake and Brian Coates who have been valued members of the Service for 58 and 63 years respectively.

"Alan's ongoing contribution to the Alpine brigade has been immeasurable. He was Captain for 12 years before stepping down into the position of Senior Deputy Captain.

"Brian Coates is another committed member who has been instrumental in fighting a number of major fires in the area throughout the years including the Christmas fires of 2001," said Chief Superintendent McDonald.

"All of the volunteers here today have demonstrated an exceptional level of commitment to their community over the years and these medals are just a small token of our appreciation," Chief Superintendent McDonald said.

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