

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

South Coast volunteers recognised for service

4 November 2011

More than 30 volunteers from the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) and State Emergency Service (SES) have had their selfless dedication recognised at a ceremony held in their honour.

NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons and SES Deputy Commissioner Steve Pearce congratulated the volunteers from the South Coast and praised their long and diligent service.

"All of the volunteers here today have served their community with distinction, many for 30 years or more. This is an inspirational achievement and a clear indication that the tradition of volunteering, and the associated values are still thriving in this region.

"The 29 Rural Fire Service volunteers being presented with Long Service medals tonight have between them accumulated more than 700 years of service, which is an incredible milestone.

"I would particularly like to pay tribute to Jeanne Harrop from the Headquarters Brigade who is sadly no longer with us, however it is a tremendous honour to present her award posthumously to her son Michael," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

Nine members of the Ulladulla and Nowra SES Units were presented with Long Service Awards and Certificates of Appreciation in recognition of their ongoing commitment.

NSW SES Deputy Commissioner Steve Pearce said that the awards were fitting recognition of the ongoing commitment of these volunteers.

"SES volunteers are often out in the worst of weather providing assistance to communities affected by storms, floods and a range of other disasters."

"These awards recognise outstanding volunteer commitment and achievement and the local community should be justifiably proud of their dedication to help in times of need."

NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said that volunteer members all play an integral role in their communities and they are the backbone of the Service they represent.

"Whether fighting bush or structure fires, attending road accidents or undertaking rescue and recovery work during storms and floods – our members are on hand 24 hours a day, seven days a week providing critical assistance during emergency situations".

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