

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Celebrations for Cumberland's long-standing volunteer firefighters

28 July 2012

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Chief Superintendent Bruce McDonald has paid tribute to the dedication of Rural Fire brigade members from across the region, presenting 21 members with Long Service Medals at the annual Cumberland Ball.

Chief Superintendent McDonald acknowledged the volunteers' unwavering dedication to their local communities, noting their long-standing commitment.

"The Cumberland area is no stranger to bush fires and everybody living in this region knows all too well the hard work, professionalism and pride that comes with being an NSW RFS volunteer.

"Whether it's responding to bush fire emergencies, like we've seen on many occasions over the years, or more recently assisting with flood rescue and recovery – our volunteers are on hand 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Some of the members being recognised today have been serving with their brigades for more than 30, 40 and 50 years which is an astounding achievement."

Chief Superintendent McDonald made particular mention of Stephen Gregory and Kevin Crameri who have been members for 41 and 50 years respectively, each notching up a noteworthy career.

"Stephen has made a notable contribution to his community serving in a number of roles throughout the brigade and still holds the position as Deputy Captain and President. Also significant is the ongoing dedication of Kevin who has devoted the past 50 years in a number of areas including committees and currently as a Deputy Captain.

"Both of these gentlemen are shining examples of the steadfast dedication demonstrated by RFS volunteers right across the state," Chief Superintendent McDonald said.

"I know that all of the members being awarded here this morning give up their time selflessly, and are driven by their commitment to helping their communities in times of emergency.

"Whilst these volunteers certainly don't expect awards or accolades, all of them are most worthy of our gratitude and thanks."

Media Contact: NSW RFS State Duty Media Officer (02) 9898 1855