

# MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

## Praise and award for Mid Lachlan Valley volunteers

17 June 2011

Five long-standing members of the Emu Creek NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) have had their commitment to the community recognised with the presentation of Long Service Medals.

The dedicated volunteer firefighters received their awards at an official ceremony held today at Weddin Fire Control Centre.

NSW RFS Region West Manager, Mr Paul Smith said that volunteers are the backbone of the Service, and that each of these men had served with distinction.

“Between them, these five men have accumulated more than 220 years of service which is an incredible accomplishment.

“I would particularly like to note that each of the medal recipients here today have been a part of the NSW Rural Fire Service for more than 40 years.

“Their ongoing selfless commitment to the safety of their communities is an inspiration. Kenneth Edwards, Gregory Wheatley, Leo Wilder, Maurice Birch and Stan Hazell are all most worthy of our gratitude and thanks.”

Mr Smith said that over the past ten years the Goobang ranges, Weddin Mountain, Alectown, Lake Cowal and Burcher have all been affected by bush and grass fire, and that the five medal recipients had all been an integral part of the local volunteer firefighting community.

“Whilst our members don’t volunteer for awards or accolades, today is the ideal opportunity for the Mid Lachlan Valley and wider NSW community to express our sincere thanks for their ongoing contribution,” Mr Smith said.

**For inquiries or interviews contact the NSW RFS State Duty Media Officer: 9898 1855**