

# MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

## Million dollar upgrade and Long Service Medals for Mid Murray volunteers

2 April 2011

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons has congratulated 43 NSW RFS volunteers from Mid Murray RFS brigades who have been recognised for their long and outstanding service.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said the volunteers had made an invaluable contribution to local communities and were the backbone of the Service.

“Between them, these men and women have served with distinction for more than 1,200 years which is an astounding achievement.

“I would particularly like to acknowledge Donald Douglas and Keith Berryman who have both been committed to Rural Fire Service for over 60 years. Their dedicated and steadfast leadership skills have served their brigades well and, like all the recipients here today, they are well deserving of the community’s thanks.

“Many of the members being recognised today have more than 30 years experience with the Service and they are all shining examples of the selfless commitment demonstrated by volunteers across NSW,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

The volunteers were presented with their medals at the official opening ceremony of the brand new Hill Plain RFS Station where Commissioner Fitzsimmons also handed over six new bush fire trucks worth more than \$1.6 million dollars.

“The NSW RFS is committed to ensuring that our volunteers are equipped the necessary equipment needed in order to go about their duties.

“This new purpose built station is a tremendous boost for local volunteers providing them with a significantly upgraded facility.

“The station will also house the new trucks which are replacing the older style vehicles and will help the volunteers continue their outstanding work in the community,” he said.

“These men and women have each played an integral role in their community, whether fighting bush fires or assisting during storms, floods or road accidents. It’s inspiring to present these awards in recognition of their years as committed volunteers”.