

# MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

## Multi-million dollar upgrade and awards for RFS volunteers

23 July 2011

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) brigades from the Mid North Coast have celebrated their members' long and dedicated service at a ceremony held in their honour.

NSW RFS Regional Operational Manager Superintendent Bryan Daly presented 17 volunteer firefighters with Long Service Medals at an official ceremony in Coffs Harbour, where he also handed over the keys to seven brand new fire trucks.

Superintendent Daly said the volunteers from brigades across the Mid North Coast have each made an invaluable contribution to local communities and are the backbone of the NSW RFS.

"Between them, these men and women have served with distinction for more than 450 years.

"This is an inspirational achievement and a clear demonstration that the tradition of volunteering, and assisting the community in times of need is thriving in this region.

"I would particularly like to pay tribute to Col Noble, Eileen Noble and Wal Gately who have each been committed to their local brigades for more than 40 years.

"Their dedicated and steadfast leadership skills have served their communities well and, like all the recipients here today, they are most deserving of today's accolades," Superintendent Daly said.

The volunteers were presented with their medals at today's ceremony where Superintendent Daly also handed over the keys to seven brand new bush fire trucks worth \$1.8 million, to members of the Country Club, Fernmount Coramba, Lowanna, Sandy Beach, Boambee and Bonville Rural Fire Brigades.

"The NSW Rural Fire Service is committed to ensuring that our volunteers have the necessary equipment needed in order to carry out their valuable work.

"These new tankers are replacing the older style models and will help the volunteers continue protecting their communities in times of emergency."

**For media inquiries and interviews contact the State Duty Media Officer: 9898 1855**