



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



MEDIA RELEASE

Long serving Illawarra volunteers honoured

16 March 2014

Volunteer firefighters from Illawarra will have their long and dedicated service recognised during an official ceremony today.

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons presented Long Service Medals to a group of 32 volunteers who have amassed an impressive 592 years of service between them.

“This significant commitment demonstrates that the tradition of volunteering is thriving in this region,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“Each of these men and women provide a vital service to their community, whether they’re fighting bush fires, attending road accidents or assisting during storms or floods.

“It is an honour to present these awards and reflect upon the outstanding achievements of these members.”

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said the Long Service Medal recipients demonstrate the same selfless commitment shown by all NSW RFS volunteers.

“Their hard work and professionalism doesn’t go unnoticed and this is a great opportunity for the broader community to express their gratitude and say thank you,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“I would like to take this time to praise all our volunteers for their ongoing efforts each and every day, particularly when dealing with emergencies here in the Illawarra area.

“Today we are also celebrating the completion of refurbishments to the Dapto Rural Fire Brigade Station.”

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said the new station is a testament to how diligently and tirelessly the Dapto Brigade volunteers have worked to turn their dream of a refurbished station into a reality.

“Together, over many years, these volunteers managed to fundraise \$82,695 towards the overall cost of the station,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“Upgrades were needed to house a new Category 1 tanker as well as improve existing facilities including amenities, kitchen and training areas within the station.”

**For more information contact the Illawarra Fire Control Centre on 02 42308200
For current incidents or major fire updates visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au**
