

# MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

## Celebrations for Namoi Gwydir RFS volunteers

14 February 2012

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons has acknowledged the long standing commitment of volunteer firefighters from the Namoi Gwydir region at the official opening of a brand new station.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons presented 24 members with Long Service Medals and formally handed over the keys to five new bush fire trucks as he unveiled the new Tibberenna RFS Station.

"The new brigade station has been purpose built with the support of Council and is a tremendous boost to the community; its development is an indication of the brigade's value in this region.

"Whilst our members don't volunteer for awards or accolades, I would like to acknowledge the dedication demonstrated by today's medal recipients.

"Together, these men and women have amassed more than 600 years service between them, an admirable achievement, and one worthy of our gratitude.

"I would particularly like to pay tribute to John Alker and Neil Smith who have both been with the Boggabri RFS brigade for 61 years. Serving as Senior Deputy Captain and Captain, the steadfast commitment of these gentlemen is inspiring".

Commissioner Fitzsimmons also congratulated the Jacks Creek, Tibbereena, Narrabri HQ, Turrawan and Bullawa/Eulah Creek brigades on the acquisition of their new trucks.

"These five tankers have a combined worth of more than one million dollars, but they are an invaluable asset to our volunteer brigades and the communities they protect.

"These brigades have more than 140 volunteers who remain on hand 24 hours a day, seven days a week ready to assist with all manner of emergencies.

"Whilst mitigating and fighting bush fires may be our core expertise, our members are pivotal when it comes to traffic accidents, structure fires, and assisting with flood rescue and recovery. It is this diversity that the Rural Fire Service prides itself on, and I would personally like to acknowledge the contribution of everyone here today," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

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