

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

A day to remember for Barwon Darling's NSW RFS volunteers

18 May 2012

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons presented members from the Barwon Darling area with Long Service Medals, while officially opening their new equipment store.

The Barwon Darling area is home to almost 350 NSW RFS volunteers who had a lot to celebrate today with the presentation of 42 medals, as well as members from the Goodooga brigade receiving their prestigious St. Florians Day award.

"During the floods in the Barwon Darling area in early 2010 the community of Goodooga was isolated, prompting the local SES to request additional resources," said Commissioner Fitzsimmons.

"The Goodooga Rural Fire Brigade went over and above the call of duty by opening a temporary shop, pumping out the levee and even put on BBQ's for their out of town colleagues

"I am proud to officially present this brigade with the Commissioner's Certification of Commendation for a unit – a highly regarded St Florians Day award.

"Also today there are five gentlemen being awarded with National Medal clasps, a very special honour reserved only for our most dedicated and worthy members.

"Unfortunately both Bob Loughrey and Mal Robinson from Brewarrina have passed away but today they were honoured for their service, to both their brigade and community, for the best part of 50 years.

"The dedication and passion exhibited by all members being honoured with long service medals is nothing but an inspiration for younger members of the community looking to become volunteers.

"Collectively today's medal recipients have notched up more than 1000 years of service between them, representing a wealth of experience and fire fighting knowledge.

"Back in 2008 the Barwon Darling equipment store succumbed to wind gusts measured at around 130km per hour. This solid, newly constructed store boasts six storage bays allowing the area's trucks, and other equipment to once again all be stored in one secure location," said Commissioner Fitzsimmons.

During proceedings Yantabulla Brigade Captain Des O'Malley was also handed the keys to a newer and more efficient 4WD vehicle worth almost \$60,000.

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