



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Gresford Rural Fire Brigade celebrates 60<sup>th</sup> year and veteran volunteers

**14 July 2018**

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) members today gathered to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gresford Rural Fire Brigade (RFB) and honour Lower Hunter District volunteers for their long-standing dedication and commitment to protecting the community.

State Member for Upper Hunter Michael Johnsen and NSW RFS Acting Director, Regional Services Chief Superintendent Peter McKecknie congratulated members past and present for building the Gresford RFB into the community institution it is today.

“This Brigade has a proud history of community service and spirit, with the brigade in its early days being resourceful and full of community spirit,” Mr Johnsen said.

“Today, the brigade of 97 members continues that level of dedication and responds to a wide range of emergency incidents ranging from bush and grass fires, motor vehicle accidents and flood events, as well as lending a helping hand at community events and helping locals prepare for the fire season.”

Long Service Medals and National Medals were also presented to 26 members, with Chief Superintendent McKecknie recognising this represented their combined 767 years of service.

“Every member is worthy of the highest praise, however I would like to make particular mention of John Richardson, who is receiving the Long Service Medal 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Clasp in recognition of his 53 years of service,” Chief Superintendent McKecknie said.

“John, whose local knowledge is highly valued, joined the Gresford Brigade in 1965 and held the position of Brigade Secretary through most of the 1970s.

“I’d also like to congratulate Neville Lawrence on his 52 years with the Service and receiving the Long Service Medal 4<sup>th</sup> Clasp and National Medal 3<sup>rd</sup> Clasp.

“The hard work and professionalism of NSW RFS members does not go unnoticed and, while they do not ask for praise, we gladly award these medals as a proud acknowledgement of their contribution and commitment.”

Chief Superintendent McKecknie said Gresford’s 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and medal presentation was a great opportunity for the Service and community to say thank you to all volunteer members.

“The Lower Hunter District is afforded a world-class level of fire protection due to the experience and dedication of our 44 Rural Fire Brigades and we cannot thank them enough,” Chief Superintendent McKecknie said.

For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on (02) 9898 1855.  
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