



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Celebrations for Valley Heights Brigade members on 60th anniversary

20 October 2018

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) members gathered today to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Valley Heights Rural Fire Brigade (RFB) and honour volunteers for their long-standing dedication and commitment to protecting the community.

NSW RFS Regional Manager Chief Superintendent Jayson McKellar said members past and present should be congratulated for building the Valley Heights RFB into the community institution it is today.

“This Brigade, formed in 1958, has a proud history of community service and spirit,” Chief Superintendent McKellar said.

“Today, the 83 members of the Valley Heights Brigade continue this level of dedication and respond to a wide range of emergency incidents ranging from bush and grass fires to motor vehicle accidents, as well as lending a helping hand at community events and helping locals prepare for the fire season.”

As part of the celebration at the Valley Heights Brigade station, four National Medals and six Long Service Medals were presented to 10 members, with Chief Superintendent McKellar recognising this represented their combined 185 years of service. Seven members also received Brigade Awards for one year service.

“Every member is worthy of the highest praise, however I would like to make particular mention of Stephen Price, who is receiving the National Medal 1st Clasp in recognition of his dedicated 27 years of service,” Chief Superintendent McKellar said.

“Stephen, who has been a committed member since joining in 1990, has held many roles including Brigade Captain for 5 years and Deputy Captain for 14 years along with receiving recognition from the NSW RFS Commissioner following the Linksvie Fire in 2013 for his courage and actions assisting the community.

“I’d also like to congratulate Hugh Patterson on being awarded the National Medal for his 24 years’ Service, an active firefighter who continues to share his knowledge and experience with his brigade.

“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 McKellar said Valley Heights Brigade’s 60th anniversary was a great opportunity for the Service and Blue Mountains community to say thank you to all volunteer members.

“We must also thank the family, friends and colleagues of these and all volunteers, as it takes their support and patience to help Rural Fire Service members do what they do,” Chief Superintendent McKellar said.

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