

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

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Lifetime commitment to Trajere and Nyrang Creek Brigades

The dedication of local volunteers in the Eugowra area was acknowledged during a recent medal ceremony for the Trajere and Nyrang Creek Brigades.

33 recipients were awarded medals, with the total years of service totalling 1347.

Canobolas Zone Manager, Superintendent David Hoadley said the awarding of so many medals for such a long period of service was testimony to the dedication of all the local brigade members.

“There were two families, the ‘Herberts’ and ‘Townsend’s’, who have been involved with the brigades since they were started back in 1928 and they continue to take an active role in the two brigades operations,” Superintendent Hoadley said.

“It’s so pleasing to see so many people being acknowledged for their commitment to supporting and protecting the local community during a time of greatest need.

“The willingness and readiness of the members to attend a blaze was demonstrated during the Nangar road fire in January of this year, when the local brigades contained a major blaze in mountainous country to just over 220 hectares.

“They worked together rapidly to contain the blaze under adverse weather conditions and in rugged terrain and successfully protected properties from damage.”

RFS Assistant Commissioner Steve York presented the medals to the 33 recipients. Those receiving medals were:

Max Loomes, 63 years of service, Don Herbert and Dennis Abbott, 62 years of service, Bruce Herbert, 60 years of service, Dugald Wright, 58 years of service, Anthony Townsend, Colin Herbert and Ross Herbert, all 55 years of service, Peter Townsend, 53 years of service, Tony Street, 50 years of service, William Johnston, 49 years of service, John Cartwright, 47 years of service, Jack Barnes, Detre Jackson and Kelvin Herbert, all with 43 years of service, John Chittick, 42 years of service, Richard Wilcox and John Payten, both with 41 years of service, Greg McSpadden and Robbie Lawrence each with 40 years of service, Andrew Herbert, 34 years of service, Oliver Stone, 33 years of service, Craig Loomes and Ian Cassidy, 32 years of service, Ray Townsend, Kevin Townsend and David Herbert, 31 years of service, Timothy Wright, 28 years of service, Kevin Howell, 27 years of service, Andrew Naylor, 23 years of service, Robert Pearce, 17 years of service, John Tidsley 14 years of service, and Warren Frazer 12 years of service.

“It is so impressive that so many people have worked to protect and assist their community during fires, floods motor vehicle accidents and other disasters,” Superintendent Hoadley said.

“We value the level of on the ground experience these local volunteers have and fully utilise this experience to manage fires and other incidents in the local area.

These are the people with local knowledge and they know best how to contain and control blazes and they tell us what is required to achieve the best fire fighting outcome for the local community,” he said.

Media Contact: Superintendent David Hoadley 02 6363 6666