

Media Release

Blue Mountains Unit

2300hrs 13 February 2015

Blue Mountains Volunteers Acknowledged for Long Service

Volunteers from the New South Wales State Emergency Service (NSW SES) Sydney Western Region were recognised for their diligent service to their community at an awards ceremony at Faulconbridge last Friday.

The Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mr Stuart Ayres officially presented awards to volunteers from the NSW SES Blue Mountains Unit with Long Service Awards ranging from 10 years to 30 years of service with the NSW SES.

The Minister was joined at the ceremony by Blue Mountains State Member Roza Sage, Federal Member for Macquarie Louise Markus NSW SES Commissioner Adam Dent, Blue Mountains City Council Mayor Mark Greenhill, colleagues from the NSW Police Force and Rural Fire Service along with the SES senior staff from Sydney Western Region to acknowledge the SES volunteers and their families.

In handing over the awards, Mr Ayres thanked the volunteers for their outstanding work on behalf of the community.

“These awards are in recognition of the diligent service shown by these members who have dedicated many years to volunteering for the NSW SES. In fact when you add up their years of service together it equates to over 400 years of experience,” Mr Ayres said.

“While all volunteers in the NSW SES show an extraordinary level of commitment to their communities, award presentations such as these provide special recognition to those volunteers whose accumulated wisdom and experience is irreplaceable.

“It is a fantastic achievement that the Region’s volunteers are being awarded with Long Service Awards today. There is obviously a huge wealth of knowledge in the NSW SES Sydney Western Region.

“It is a tribute to the dedicated volunteers of the NSW SES that so many have achieved this important milestone,” the Minister stated.

NSW SES Sydney Western Region Controller, Peter Cinque also acknowledged the hard work and dedication of each volunteer who received their awards today.

“One of the strengths of the NSW SES is the great team spirit and friendships that develop and this strength sees volunteers staying with the service for many years,” he said.

In 2014, the volunteers of the Blue Mountains Unit, led by Local Controller John Hughes have attended more than 600 calls for assistance in storms, bushfire and search operations and provided nearly 14,000 volunteering hours during that time including 6000 hours of training.

“Whilst it wasn’t our busiest year, we had some very busy times” Mr Hughes stated.

“In October we experienced snow that closed the Great Western Highway for a number of hours and within weeks we were assisting the RFS with bushfires in Katoomba and Warimoo”

The Blue Mountains SES, being one of the busiest Units in NSW, will be recruiting for new members at Katoomba on the 18th March. Members of the public wishing to join should contact the Unit on 4782 3200 for further information.

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Released by John Hughes – Local Controller 2300hrs 13 February 2015

Photos:

SES 2014-18-2: Left to Right: Deputy Mayor Clr Chris Van der Kley, Federal Member for Macquarie Louise Markus, State Member for Blue Mountains Roza Sage, Commissioner of the NSW SES Adam Dent, Mayor Mark Greenhill, Minister for Emergency Services Stuart Ayres, Police Local Area Commander Superintendent Darryl Jobson, Local SES Controller John Hughes, Rural Fire Service District Manager Superintendent David Jones and SES Region Controller Peter Cinque

Glen Minister: 30 year member Glen Thomson and Emergency Services Minister Stuart Ayres.