

# Nimbin RFS chawks up 70 years

by Marcus Mantscheff, captain

Nimbin RFS would like to thank all community members who attended the Brigade's 70th anniversary on Saturday 28th October.

Some past members were present and as the day progressed perhaps future members also made themselves known.

As a volunteer collective, we only become stronger when people such as yourselves step up and choose to give your time so selflessly.

NSW RFS was represented by Nimbin volunteers and members from neighbouring RFS brigades, plus some from farther afield.

RFS Deputy Commissioner Kyle Stewart shared some fond memories of a lad growing up in a Nimbin "fire brigade family", and

Brad Soward delivered a history of Nimbin Brigade from 1953 to the present.

The Honourable MP Janelle Saffin and DC Stewart awarded a total of 17 long service medals, recognising a cumulative 282 years of service from those recipients.

Among those were Janet, Greg and Brad Soward receiving their 30-year and 2x 40-year medals, plus Charlie Cohen receiving his 40-year long service medal.

Nimbin Brigade extend our heartfelt thanks to the Nimbin CWA for catering; the Nimbin A&I Society for hosting; the Rural Fire Service Association for their advocacy and funding; our colleagues from NSW SES Lismore Unit and Police Rescue for their time and involvement; NSW Police for their on-going collegiality; the


Nimbin HEMP Embassy for their marquee; plus staff from Northern Rivers Fire Control Centre and RFS Headquarters for expediting the awards.

Lastly, our enduring gratitude to current and previous members of Nimbin brigade who have defended homes, businesses, livelihoods and the environment, both within and beyond our largely peaceful valleys.

Clockwise from right: Charlie Cohen accepts his medal from RFS Deputy Commissioner Kyle Stewart, with Janelle Saffin MP and Marcus Mantscheff, brigade captain; Lisa Costello wearing her 10-year service medal; Greg Soward accepting his 40-year medal; the Nimbin CWA caterers; and part of the crowd of emergency services personnel and community members in attendance.




Photos: Sue Stock



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