



Media release
Friday 13 March 2015

Selwyn Firefighters recognised for service

Selwyn District firefighters were recognised for their volunteer service at the Forest and Rural Fires Association of New Zealand awards night held last month.

The evening was held last month at the Council headquarters, and celebrated the rural volunteer firefighters' long service and good conduct.

Selwyn Mayor Kelvin Coe awarded four firefighters medals for 14 years of long service and good conduct. They were: John Doherty (West Melton), Derrick Elliot (West Melton), Robert Peard (Selwyn District Rural Fire Authority) and Bruce Simpson (Lake Coleridge).

"Rewarding long service is an important part of officially recognising firefighter's commitment to our Selwyn community," says Selwyn Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer Douglas Marshall.

Wives and partners were an important part of the awards and were recognised for the first time.

"They hold the fort when their partners are called out to attend emergencies, so we wanted to recognise the valuable support they provide," says Mr Marshall.

Nineteen more service medals were handed out to recognise volunteer service to rural fire. They were: Nigel Birse, Kelvin Green, Chris Mehrtens, Chris Caldwell, Richard Coombes, John Hinchliff, Steve Hirsch, Brian Saywood (West Melton Brigade); Janet Derham, Blair Evan, Neil Fraser, Kerry Munro (Lake Coleridge Brigade); Douglas Marshall, Mark Strowger, Lindsay Snow (Selwyn Rural Fire Authority).

Bob King was awarded a 25 year gold star dedication to service.

Mr Marshall says the event was very successful, and will be held again in the future.

Ends

Photos: Mayor Kelvin Coe presents John Doherty with his award for 14 years of long service and good conduct.

Mayor Kelvin Coe presents Mark Strowger with his award and his wife Roslyn is presented with flowers.

For media enquiries please contact:

Allanah Jarman

Selwyn District Council

Phone 03 347 2807

Allanah.jarman@selwyn.govt.nz