

National medals reward 14 for dedicated service

SIX long-serving CALM staff have been honoured with National Medals for their dedicated service in protecting Western Australians from devastating bushfires.

Terry Hales from Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Planning, Charlie Broadbent and Ron Newman from South West Capes District, Ron Giles from Narrogin, Audie Kearn from Dwellingup and Neil Scott from Exmouth have given almost 200 years of fire service among them.

The six were part of 14 CALM firecrews, officers and specialist staff who were awarded National Medals by Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes at CALM's Field Officers' Graduation Ceremony in Bunbury.

Twenty medals and clasps were presented to other staff from CALM's Southern Forest Region in May.

"Overall, this means that CALM National Medal awardees this year have dedicated more than 600 years to protecting human life, property and valuable bushland from fires," Mrs Edwardes said.

The National Medal is awarded for 15 years service; clasps are presented for each subsequent 10 years service. Awards are given to members of groups such as defence forces, police, ambulance services and fire agencies involved in protecting human life and community values.

Mrs Edwardes said a requirement for eligibility for the National Medal was that

the work required great skill, risks to personal safety, dedication and long-term commitment.

"There is an expectation in the community that lives and property will be protected from natural and human-caused disasters by well-trained and disciplined emergency forces," she said.

"However, CALM fire crews do far more than suppress wildfires. They also are involved in nature conservation, wildlife management, tourism and recreation, timber harvesting and plantation development.

"The community therefore benefits from this wide range of expertise as CALM has integrated fire management with its other important activities."

Start training for relay now

MOST CALM people will have received an emailed circular regarding this year's Big Brook Relay, but for those who have filed and forgotten it, Pemberton District ranger-in-charge Rod Annear would like to hear from you.

He would also like to hear from any slackers among us who are putting off contacting him because they haven't

started warm-up training yet.

To motivate yourselves, make the first commitment by phoning him on 9776 1207 or emailing him at rod@calm.wa.gov.au

The Big Brook Relay will be held on Saturday, November 20. So start organising your teams without delay.

More information and team registration forms are on their way—even as we write.



One of the six National Medal recipients Softwood Plantations area co-ordinator Ron Newman with Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes, and Ron's four-year-old grandson Noah Moore.

Photo by Paul Webster





