## **GEO IN THE MEDIA**



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## Hard work is recognised

## Top honours for correctional centre staff

IT'S been a long time coming, but staff at the Junee Correctional Centre have been acknowledged for their long standing commitment to serve and protect the community.

On Friday, 34 staff members were presented with their National Service Medals for 15 years of continuous service.

Of that number, three were presented with a clasp to mark 25 years of service.

One of those staff members was correctional centre general manager Andy Walker. Mr Walker began his career in corrections in Geelong, Victoria in March 1978 as a work supervisor.

He then moved into the prison service in June 1983 and has worked his way through the ranks to his current position.

The recognition for the staff has been a long time coming.

"It has taken some time for the commonwealth to show recognition for people working in private prisons," Mr Walker said.

While those working in public prisons were eligible to receive the award, the issue came to a head last year with the commonwealth announcing those in private service were eligible as well.

To see so many staff recognised in such a way gave Mr Walker a fantastic feeling.

"There have been a lot of people who have remained here in Junee for that long period of time without moving on," he said.

"It's a very good feeling (to see them rewarded)."

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Thirty-four staff at Junee Correctional Centre (JCC) have been recognised for their service in protecting the community. JCC operations manager Greg Farnsworth and general manager Andy Walker proudly display their national service medals.

Picture: Alastair Brook

