



Hon Michael Gallacher MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Minster for the Hunter

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 12 May 2011

MINISTER ANNOUNCES RFS AND SES CADETS OF THE YEAR

NSW Minister for Police and Emergency Services Michael Gallacher today presented the Rural Fire Service (RFS) and the State Emergency Service (SES) Cadet of the Year Awards as part of National Volunteers Week.

“I have the strongest admiration and appreciation of our Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service volunteers,” Minister Gallacher said.

“One of the aims of the RFS and SES Cadet Programs is to inspire young people to take up volunteering.

“Our volunteers come from all walks of life and are committed, caring and highly skilled people who give up their time in service to others and this is the time we pay special tribute to them.

“The RFS and SES Cadet of the Year awards are open to students who have completed the relevant Secondary School Cadet Program.

“The RFS Cadet Program has proven a great success since its launch six years ago to develop an interest in the NSW RFS and its traditions,” Minister Gallacher said.

“RFS Cadets gain a foundation in fire fighting knowledge and participate in practical exercises, team building and safety training.

“The SES Cadet Program has also been a great success and is now in its third year of operation, giving volunteers an understanding of role during flood and storm events.

“Participants in both programs develop qualities of leadership, self-discipline, self-reliance, initiative and team work. These qualities are not only crucial in emergency situations but are also important in their daily lives.

“It is my pleasure to announce that the 2011 RFS Cadet of the Year is James Petty from Gundagai High School.

“James completed the Secondary Schools Cadet Program, as a Year 8 student, with an exceptional degree of energy and commitment, showing a great deal of initiative and passion for the RFS’s work throughout the course.

James was also part of the Riverina Highlands Zone Team in the RFS State Championships, placing third overall in the Fire Ground Procedures event.

“I am also pleased to announce that the recipient of this year’s SES Cadet of the Year is Jasmyne Lee from Ulladulla High School.

“While completing the SES Cadet Program Jasmyne became known for her abilities to mentor, encourage and support her peers and demonstrated a high level of leadership skills throughout her studies.

“I congratulate both James and Jasmyne for their outstanding achievements.

“I understand that more than 3000 cadets have graduated from the RFS Cadet Program some of whom have gone on to become dedicated volunteer fire fighters with their local brigades.

“The SES has had 703 cadets graduate from its Cadet Program over the past 3 years, with 23 going on to join an SES unit.

“This is commendable, and I would like to encourage the young people of NSW to consider membership with the RFS or SES, or taking up other volunteering roles in the community,” Minister Gallacher concluded.

MEDIA: Clint McGilvray 0413 285 186