## **MEDIA RELEASE**

## Manilla cadets gain practical firefighting skills

## 5 December 2014

More than 5000 students have completed the Secondary Schools Cadet Program since it began and today the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) welcomed a further 14 young firefighters to its ranks.

NSW RFS Assistant Commissioner Steve Yorke congratulated the cadets from Manilla Central School in the Tamworth District at a graduation ceremony held in their honour at the NSW RFS Headquarters in Homebush.

"During the nine week program these students learnt valuable lessons about fire safety and developed both leadership and team work skills," Assistant Commissioner Yorke said.

"They are a credit to their school and the local community and I wholeheartedly congratulate them on their successful completion of the program."

Assistant Commissioner Yorke also paid tribute to the NSW RFS volunteers and staff who were fundamental in the Program's success at Manilla Central School.

"In addition to the dedicated members who have run the course, I would also like to extend a special thanks to the Principal and staff from Manilla Central School for helping make the Cadet Program such a success," Assistant Commissioner Yorke said.

"The NSW RFS Secondary School Cadet Program is going from strength to strength at Manilla Central School, with this being the third year students have elected to take part in the Program.

"The Service is proud to pass on the ideals of community service, dedication and teamwork to the next generation through the Secondary School Cadet Program."

The Secondary Schools Cadet Program provides students with a unique opportunity to gain practical firefighting skills and an appreciation of the ideals and values unique to the NSW RFS.

It includes training in the areas of fire awareness, leadership, fire science, personal development and accident prevention in the workplace.