



NSW Rural Fire Service celebrates young volunteers

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As Australia acknowledges the achievements of young people during National Youth Week, the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner, Shane Fitzsimmons has praised the dedication of the Service's young volunteers.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said that the NSW RFS has more than 6000 members aged between 18 and 25 who are making valuable contributions to communities across the State.

"Volunteers are the backbone of the NSW RFS and it's inspiring to see so many young people keen to join the Service and offer assistance to their communities in times of emergency.

By volunteering their time and taking on a proactive role, our young members are demonstrating that they have the skills, abilities and attributes to be future leaders.

"Initiatives like the Secondary School Cadet Program and the Young Members Group are a great way to engage young people and encourage them to become actively involved in the Service," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

"Since its introduction in 2005, the NSW RFS has conducted over 185 Secondary School Cadet Programs with the successful graduation of over 3000 students.

"By being part of the world's largest volunteer firefighting agency, young people are getting the opportunity to learn firefighting and fire safety skills as well as gaining an understanding of fire behaviour and the important role of the NSW Emergency Services.

"They also acquire practical life and safety skills and benefit from the camaraderie and satisfaction that comes with being part of a volunteer organisation".

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said that the recently formed NSW RFS Young Members Group gives young volunteers a stake in the direction of the Service.

"The Group is about developing communication channels between young members and the broader membership base."