



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



MEDIA RELEASE

Praise for Picton High School cadet firefighters

20 September 2017

Sixteen students from Picton High School were congratulated today by NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Southern Highlands Team Manager Superintendent Martin Surrey for their successful completion of the NSW RFS Secondary School Cadet Program.

Superintendent Surrey said the cadet program is the ideal way to introduce young people to the important role volunteer firefighters play in protecting communities from fire.

"The 10-week course has provided these cadets with skills and knowledge that will last a lifetime," Superintendent Surrey said.

"As well as examining fire behaviour and firefighting skills, the students have been taught essential fire safety techniques and gained an appreciation of the work our emergency services do every day across the state.

"The cadet program also offers students the opportunity to experience firsthand the commitment and camaraderie that comes with volunteering."

Superintendent Surrey said this is the first time Picton High School has offered the NSW RFS Secondary School Cadet Program to its students.

"I would like to thank Picton High School Principal Michelle Sapsed for offering this important community program to students and I hope it will continue to be a part of the curriculum for many years to come," Superintendent Surrey said.

Superintendent Surrey also paid tribute to the six volunteers and staff from the Southern Highlands Team and district coordinator, Inspector Allan Budziarski, who facilitated the course.

"In addition to our NSW RFS members, I would also like to extend a special thanks to the principal and staff from Picton High School for helping to make this program such a success," Superintendent Surrey said.

"NSW RFS members thoroughly enjoy working closely with schools and communities to ensure that everyone is as well prepared as possible for the very real threat of fire.

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

**For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on (02) 9898 1855.
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