MEDIA RELEASE

Parkes cadets graduate with practical firefighting skills

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More than 5000 students have completed the Secondary Schools Cadet Program and today the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) welcomed a further 19 young firefighters into its ranks.

NSW RFS Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers congratulated cadets from Parkes High School during a graduation ceremony held today at the NSW RFS State Operations Centre in Lidcombe.

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

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

Deputy Commissioner Rogers also paid tribute to the NSW RFS volunteers and staff who were fundamental in the Program's success at Parkes High School.

"In addition to the dedicated members who have run the course, I would also like to extend a special thanks to the staff at Parkes High School for helping make the Cadet Program such a success," Deputy Commissioner Rogers said.

"The NSW RFS Secondary School Cadet Program is going from strength to strength at Parkes High School, with this being the ninth 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.