## **MEDIA RELEASE**

## St Patrick's Parish School cadet firefighters celebrate graduation

## 8 December 2017

Eighteen students from St Patrick's Parish School in Cooma have been congratulated by NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Assistant Commissioner Stuart Midgley AFSM for their successful participation in the NSW RFS Secondary School Cadet Program.

Assistant Commissioner Midgley said the program is the ideal way to introduce young people to the important role volunteer firefighters play within communities.

"The five-day course completed by the cadets has provided them with skills and knowledge which will last a lifetime," Assistant Commissioner Midgley said.

"As well as examining fire behaviour, 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.

Assistant Commissioner Midgley said the cadet program also offers students the opportunity to experience firsthand the commitment and camaraderie that comes with volunteering.

"This is St Patrick's Parish School's sixth group of graduating cadets," Assistant Commissioner Midgley said.

"It's great to see genuine enthusiasm for this important community based program and I hope it will be part of the curriculum for many years to come.

"In addition to our NSW RFS members, I would also like to extend a special thanks to the principal and staff from St Patrick's School."

Assistant Commissioner Midgley also paid tribute to the volunteers and staff from the Monaro District who facilitated the course.

"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," Assistant Commissioner Midgley said.

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

