



**NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE**

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Clarence Valley celebrates cadet firefighter graduations**

**4 July 2018**

Twenty Maclean High School students were congratulated today for their successful completion of the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Secondary School Cadet Program.

NSW RFS Superintendent Stuart Watts praised the students' commitment to the long running program, which teaches basic firefighting skills and develops confidence, team work, leadership and initiative.

"These cadets have completed a nine week course which has taught them skills and knowledge that will last a lifetime," Superintendent Watts said.

"As well as learning about fire behaviour, the students have gained an appreciation of the vital contribution emergency services make to the community and the importance of the work that they carry out every day across the state.

"The program also presented students with the opportunity to experience firsthand the camaraderie and community spirit that comes with volunteering."

Superintendent Watts thanked Maclean High School for its continued support of the program, noting that this is the fifth year that it has been offered at the school.

"It is great to see there is genuine enthusiasm for this important community based program and I would like to thank Maclean High School principal Greg Court and his staff for helping to make this program such a success," Superintendent Watts said.

"I would also like to thank the six volunteers as well as the Clarence Valley District staff who facilitated the course, under the direction of NSW RFS Operations Officer Ian Smith."

"NSW RFS members work closely with schools and communities to ensure that everyone is as well prepared as possible for the threat of fire and are proud to pass on the ideals of community service, dedication and teamwork to the next generation."