

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Northern Rivers to benefit from more cadet graduates

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The lead up to the summer months is the ideal time to be graduating from the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Secondary School Cadet Program and that is exactly what 15 students from Bonalbo Central School did today.

NSW RFS Chief Superintendent Brett Condie said that the Program was a great way to introduce young people to the important role that Rural Fire Brigades and volunteer firefighters play in our community.

"We don't just teach students about fighting bush fires. The Program offers young people the opportunity to experience first-hand the commitment and camaraderie that comes with volunteering in a team environment.

"These Year 10 cadets have completed a comprehensive 10 week course that has given them skills to last a lifetime.

"As well as examining fire behaviour, the students have been taught essential fire safety techniques and been given a comprehensive overview of the role of our emergency services," said Superintendent Condie.

This is the first time Bonalbo Central School has held the NSW RFS Secondary School Cadet Program which offers their students valuable insight into the risks associated with bush and grass fires.

"By educating and training these young people we are equipping the next generation with invaluable knowledge and skills that will be an enormous asset to the community."

Chief Superintendent Condie also paid tribute to the staff and volunteers from the Northern Rivers Team who have helped more than 40 cadets to graduate from local schools this year.

"The NSW RFS work closely with schools and communities to ensure that everyone is well prepared for the inevitable return of fire conditions.

"We hope these students are taking the lessons about fire safety and preparedness home to their families and encouraging their parents to prepare a Bush Fire Survival Plan. The Plan can be downloaded from www.rfs.nsw.gov.au," said Chief Superintendent Condie.

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