



RFS

Media release

Congratulations to Illawarra's future firefighters

3 July 2024

Some of the bush firefighters of tomorrow will graduate tonight in the Illawarra, after completing the challenging Secondary School Cadet Program run by the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS).

RFS Assistant Commissioner Kelly Quandt AFSM will present Certifications of Completion to 14 students from Figtree High School at a ceremony to be held at the Illawarra Fire Control Centre.

"As well as examining fire behaviour, the participants have learned essential fire safety techniques and gained an appreciation of the work emergency services do every day across the state," Assistant Commissioner Quandt said.

"The course teaches young people about the important contribution volunteer firefighters make to the local community, provides them with firefighting skills and knowledge, and instils values such as teamwork, leadership and confidence.

"After completing this course, we encourage the students to take the next step and join their local brigade and complete their training to become bush firefighters."

Assistant Commissioner Quandt thanked Figtree High School for offering the 10-week program to its students.

"It is fantastic to see such enthusiasm for this program and I would particularly like to thank the student's teacher, Aaron Kellaway, for his enthusiasm in undertaking the program alongside his students," she said.

"I would also like to acknowledge the 15 volunteers from several local brigades who helped deliver the program to the students, under the direction of Operational Officer Jacob Trow.

"We have been delivering this course for a couple of decades now, with thousands of students having graduated. RFS members enjoy working with schools and communities to ensure everyone is as well prepared as possible for the very real threat of fire."