

Life times

Weekly focus on events and people in our community

Fire drill for Chatham students

THIS term, a group of year 10 students at Chatham High School are learning some basic fire fighting skills, thanks to a community safety program offered by local Rural Fire Service brigades.

Volunteers from Tinonee's Rural Fire brigade are conducting the training every Tuesday afternoon, during sport time, for 10 weeks – which is enough to provide students with basic skills in fire control and preparedness.

“We give the students a basic understanding of how to fight a fire. They learn most of the procedures, but they are not yet ready to work on a fire ground. For that they need to nominate a brigade and do further training,” said advanced firefighter Bert Bennett.

After the 10 week school-based training, those interested in learning more, or joining the service, are encouraged to approach their local brigade and undertake the complete fire training course to become a fully fledged member of the brigade.

Patrick Moran, completed his training last year at Chatham High School and is now a member of the Taree Brigade.

“I thought the training was great, so I did some more training with the Taree brigade and now I am a member. It is great to learn how to control fire,” Patrick said.

Community safety education is a big part of the work achieved by the Rural Fire Service each year. There are 27 local Rural Fire Service brigades throughout the Manning Valley and between them they have approached almost 1400 households about fire preparedness and fire control.

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**Learning the basic of fire control and preparedness:
Chatham High students
Samantha Hamilton, Scott Shelton, Maron Billingsley and Jarod Gordon.**

