



Teamwork: Chatham High students Bruce Kerr, Patrick Moran, Erika Tisdell, Jess Worth, Emma Davies, Amber Loats and Crystal Stuart.

Fire drill for Chatham students

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"We haven't had a real fire season for five years, so there is a lot of fuel lying around. We want to prepare the community, particularly rural landholders, because eventually a severe fire season will come and a lot of preparation is needed," said Bert.

The Rural Fire Service is made

up of volunteers, so recruitment is always high on the agenda, particularly for younger members.

"We run a cadet program, with training one night per week in Taree. This school-based course is offered in each local high school, for one term each, and we hope that some students will be inspired to join their local brigade," Bert said.