

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



MFS firefighters donate stationery to Victor Harbor students

Monday, 17 November 2014

Today Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) firefighters who battled the Victor Harbor R-7 School fire will donate 250 stationery packs to fire-affected students as they start back at school.

The heartfelt gesture was made possible by the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation (APFF) charity, of which Minister for Emergency Services, Tony Piccolo is Patron.

“The APFF charity is run by professional MFS and Adelaide Airport firefighters who volunteer their time. The charity’s firefighters recognised that the school fire has been traumatic for students, many of whom lost school work, stationery and prized possessions.”

“As Patron of the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation (APFF), I commend its members for donating the stationery packs to students. It is a meaningful, practical gesture that will help students recover and start back at school today with the tools to create new school work,” Minister Piccolo said.

The 250 stationery packs will contain pens, rulers, erasers, books, pencil cases, colour pencils, textas, sharpeners, glue sticks, library bags and school diaries for each student.

Minister for Education Jennifer Rankine thanked firefighters and the broader Victor Harbor community for their support in what has been a challenging time.

“Special praise is also due to Principal Brenton Robins and the staff at Victor Harbor R-7 School who have worked so hard to keep the school community informed and minimise the disruption to students as a result of this fire,” she said.

Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation (APFF) Acting President and Acting MFS Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Peter Mason said Victor Harbor MFS firefighters are thrilled to help the school community.

“Often our crews see the immediate devastation caused by an emergency incident. For our Victor Harbor MFS firefighters – who are also APFF members, it will be just as healing for them to make the donation, as it will be for the students to receive it.”

“We wish the Victor Harbor Primary School community well as they commence the recovery process after the fire. We look forward to seeing the students continuing to prosper, learn and create with the local community behind them,” Acting MFS Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Peter Mason said.

The Victor Harbor Primary School fire destroyed a building containing eight classrooms and left an estimated \$1 million damage bill.

Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) and Country Fire Service (CFS) firefighters worked together to bring the fire under control, saving surrounding buildings in the process. Up to 250 students were affected by the fire only weeks before the end of the school year. Two CFS firefighters will also be present when the stationery packs are donated to students.

The APFF charity is supported by professional MFS, Adelaide Airport and private sector firefighters from Moomba and Edinburgh.

Media are welcome to attend Victor Harbor Primary School at 9.45 am on Monday, 17 November when Victor Harbor MFS firefighters (who are APFF charity members) will donate the stationery packs to the school.

For media enquiries and interviews call the MFS Media Line on (08) 8204 3770

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