

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



Applications soar as newest MFS firefighters graduate

Friday, 24 August 2018

Netball, skydiving, wine production, soccer, hospitality, construction and teaching are the backgrounds of some of the state's newest firefighters graduating today.

Minister for Emergency Services, Corey Wingard and Acting Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) Chief Officer, Michael Morgan will officiate as 17 recruit firefighters graduate at Adelaide Fire Station.

Minister Wingard said today's MFS graduates have had a long journey to reach graduation.

"These recruit firefighters first applied for a chance to join Recruit Squad 52/2018 two years ago within a pool of 2,200 applicants. Their patience and determination has paid off; today they'll officially join the MFS and start their first shifts over the weekend."

"Each recruit firefighter in Squad 52 brings different life and career experiences to their firefighting role, ranging from high school teacher and skydiving instructor through to bricklayer, wine lab technician and state soccer player. Despite their diverse backgrounds, all have a passion for community service and teamwork, which are key features of a good firefighter," Minister Wingard said.

Five of today's graduates were previously Retained (part-time) MFS firefighters in regional areas; one will now serve full-time at Port Pirie MFS, while four will become full-time firefighters at Mt Gambier MFS as staffing and full time hours at Mt Gambier expand from a five to seven days per week model.

For some graduates, firefighting is in the family - including Recruit Firefighter Oliver Moss, who will join his brother Matt and father, Graham who are already MFS firefighters.

Acting MFS Chief Officer, Michael Morgan said today's recruit firefighters are joining a modern firefighting organisation that continues to actively pursue diversity.

"Historically firefighting has been seen within society as a male domain. As an organisation, we continue to actively pursue applications from more women and people with culturally diverse backgrounds."

"This is because we'd like our fire service to increasingly reflect the community that we serve. Diversity brings new and different ideas and approaches to problem solving. It enriches an organisation's culture. If you're physically fit, a team player, problem solver and community minded, then perhaps consider a career in firefighting," Acting Chief Officer Morgan said.

Recruitment for the next round of MFS firefighters closed in late July 2018, again attracting more than 2,200 applicants, which is nearly double the amount of applications typically received four years ago. About 12 % of applicants were female this year, up from about 4.7 % four years ago – a ratio the MFS continues to work to increase.

Today's graduating firefighters will have the chance to pursue a different career paths, including operational firefighting, community education, engineering, built environs, training, fire cause investigation, emergency call taking, management, Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and Hazmat.

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