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

Fire drill for Chatham students

From page 9

“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 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 Tarre. 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.

Tom Kladis

August 15, 1940 – November 7, 2011

TOM Kladis was born on the island of Zante, Greece on August 15, 1940, the second of four sons born to Athena and Nicholas.

Growing up he had very little formal schooling as the boys were needed to work on the farm.

The highlight of his young life was a holiday given to the children of the island, after the German Occupation, by Queen Frederika of Greece. They were taken by ferry and coach to the Island of Rhodes.

The holiday made such an impact on Tom that when he visited in 2010, he could still remember landmarks and tell stories of the things seven-year-old boys got up to.

He played football and learnt how to shoot - his favourite pastime right up until his death.

When he was 18, Tom was called up for national service and joined the army as a cook. He saw lots of islands and towns during his two years of service and at the same time, he managed to catch up his lost education.

Tom spent the next four years working at any job he could find in 1963 to emigrate Australia, a Melbourne the Ellinis and April 1964.

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