

October 2015

Training tomorrow, field days, fire danger period, drones, & more

Many apologies, I forgot to distribute this email last week.

Training is **tomorrow, Tuesday, 13 October**. it will include doing inventory on the Cat 1, small pump maintenance and constructing a fire break using hand tools. There will also be a quick briefing on the field days.

Also in this email:

- Remote Area Fire Fighting Team (RAFT)
- Bush firefighter (BF) course
- Field days roster and passes
- Callouts
- Drones: if you fly, firefighters can't
- Fire danger season
- Before you light a fire
- Clearing vegetation for fire protection purposes
- RFS membership benefits from JB Hi-Fi and other retailers

Remote Area Fire Fighting Team (RAFT)

If you are interested in becoming part of this team, Peter (0427 484 237) can advise you how to go about it.

Reminder: Gundaroo/Back Creek BF course

Gundaroo/Back Creek brigades are running a bush firefighting (BF) course (the foundation course for all subsequent certificates) on the weekend of 24-25 October, 8.30–4.30 both days, with a session on the Friday evening beforehand (23rd, 6.30–9.00pm). If you're interested in attending, contact Peter Clark (0427 484 237). Some of our trainers will be helping deliver the course.

Murrumbateman Field Days this weekend

I have sent out the roster and briefing notes separately to the volunteer team and will have the volunteer passes at training tomorrow. If you won't be there, let me know so we can arrange for you to get them some other way.

Callouts

There was a motor vehicle accident on Yass River Rd on last month's training night. Fortunately, although the car was overturned, the driver was unhurt. Six crew got a chance to implement their training and experience.

Fire danger season

The fire danger season started on 1 October, earlier than usual due to forecast increased fire risk conditions. This doesn't mean you can't use fire but there are restrictions to ensure it is safe. You need a (free) permit for all pile burns and fires outside (with the exception of cooking fires). Permits can be obtained from the brigade captain, Peter Clark, 0427 484 237, or Yass Fire Control. There are heavy penalties if you don't follow restrictions or rules.

Find out the daily fire danger rating in our area (southern ranges) on the RFS website:

<http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans>

This page is updated daily and also explains what the ratings mean.

Drones: if you fly, firefighters can't

If you fly a drone, model aircraft or multicopter near a bushfire you are likely to be posing a major safety risk to firefighting personnel in the air and on the ground. Make it as easy as you can for firefighters – resist the temptation to record footage or get a personal bird's eye view. More info: casa.gov.au/rpafire

Before you light that fire

For advice on the steps you need to take before lighting a fire on your property, read the *Before you light that fire* publication on the RFS website. You will need to make sure you have:

- gained environmental approval (if required)
- been issued with a fire permit (if required)
- notified all adjoining landowners/occupiers and the local fire authority
- checked that you are not planning to burn on a total fire ban day.

Clearing vegetation for fire protection purposes

If you live in an area designated under the *10/50 Vegetation Clearing Scheme* you are allowed to:

- clear trees on your property within 10 metres of your home without seeking approval, and
- clear underlying vegetation within 50 metres, also without seeking approval.

A lot of 'duty of care' type conditions apply. To see if your property qualifies under the scheme, you only need to key your address into the tool on the website below. You will get a statement that you do or do not qualify. For the tool and full details of the scheme go to:

<http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/1050-vegetation-clearing>

RFS membership benefits

RFS membership entitles you to discounted purchases through JB Hi-Fi Solutions – on whitegoods, small appliances, computers, TVs & home entertainment, cameras, air conditioners, coffee machines and more. Delivery is available nationwide and pick up from a store may also be possible.

To obtain savings on a range of financial and lifestyle products, go to the RFS Member Benefits website:

www.memberadvantage.com.au/rfsa or call 1300 853 352.