

April 2015

Training this Tuesday, and other news

This email covers training this month and over winter, callouts and HR burns, first aid credentials, RFS review of PPE, a warning about portable butane cookers, recent improvements in and around the fireshed, this year's AGM, a project on the brigade's first 50 years, and the face mask trial.

Training

Training on is Tuesday, April 14, 6.30 at the fireshed, bbq after. **Please be punctual** as the training is offsite and if you miss your ride, you will have to contact us and make your own way to the training area. Training will cover priming and filling the trucks from a dam. Everyone will have an opportunity to participate and increase overall proficiency in this task.

Also, a reminder that you should bring PPE to all training, if you have it.

Training over winter

Midweek evening training will shut down over winter (June, July, August). Instead we will have a few sessions of maintenance work on the shed, including repainting the floor.

Callouts and HRs

Fortunately, no callouts this month.

Dave M, Glenn and Sonia participated in a joint hazard reduction at the base of Mount Coree in the Brindabellas on the 1st of April. It was a big exercise with around 6 light units from the NSW parks service, a bulk water carrier from ACT rural fire service, Wallaroo 7 and our Cat 1. Our team had a great, if long, day out, leaving at 8 am and returning at 9 pm. The burn was successful and the parks service was appreciative of our efforts, advising that we would be welcome to take part in further activities. On the same day, the Cats 2, 7 and 9, and crews, took part in a joint exercise with Murrumbateman brigade.

First Aid – do it, please

Broni supports Gareth's request for as many brigade members as possible to gain first aid accreditation, with a telling account of why it is important. During a recent trip to Sydney she needed this training on two occasions: the first was observing and stepping in when she saw a sheep exhibitor begin to experience a blood sugar episode. The second was far more involved and she was accompanied by a retired nurse and three other RFS members. An older, overweight woman had fallen on a railway platform. The whole exercise took over an hour, during which time the woman twice lost consciousness and once stopped breathing. Broni says: 'Without my continual updating of my FAA and ART, I would possibly not have had the same amount of confidence and conviction in my response to these situations'.

The next course is on 16-17 May. To do it, you will need to complete the [form at this link](#) and send it to our captain, Peter Clark (brakebed@gmail.com). Please copy it to the secretary as well (secretary@yassriverbfb.org).

The 'yellows' PPC review – have a say

The purpose of the review is to ensure PPC meets members' needs for protection, comfort and function, including specific design and sizing for women. Feedback is open until **17 April**

2015. Send feedback to PPCreview@rfs.nsw.gov.au. You can be as brief or detailed as you want. A proposed new design will be tried in the field in late 2015. Once the trial is completed and a final design chosen, the new PPC will go into production. For more information, including what is and isn't in scope, see the [Bush Fire PPC Review Memo](#) (under 'Assets and Equipment' on MyRFS). Feedback on out-of-scope items of PPE/PPC and equipment can be sent to equipment@rfs.nsw.gov.au.

Warning – portable butane 'lunchbox' cookers

NSW Fair Trading has issued a safety warning regarding portable butane lunchbox cookers, withdrawing 31 models from sale because they do not meet Australian Standards. The cookers may overheat and could explode. A list of makes and models is on the [Fair Trading website](#).

Annual general meeting

Save the date: Wednesday 6th of May. The formal invitation will come out in the next few days.

Brigade history

The brigade turns 50 in 2016. Tim B is preparing a history of these first years.

Renovations, security improvements, equipment maintenance

Rick, with help, has done a great job refitting the office/kitchen to include a comms area. He also increased our security, in the wake of recent break-ins targetting fire sheds, and improved the access road. Neville is keeping truck maintenance to high standard, including the fitout of new GPS units, a new suspension on the Cat 1, and arranging the annual inspection in Yass.

Trial of face masks

A trial of face masks to see if they are more comfortable than current issue has been postponed to next year because of lack of opportunity to test them this fire season.