

May 2015

## **Training this Tuesday, news from the AGM**

### **Training**

This is a reminder that training is tomorrow evening (**Tuesday 12 May**), **6.30pm** at the fireshed. Barbecue afterwards. Dave M will be running a session on vehicle maintenance aimed at preparing the vehicles for the winter shutdown and Gareth will be conducting some overrun exercises against the clock. Given the season, water-based activities are off the schedule for the time being, but have your PPE with you if you have it.

### **Fire season ends**

The fire season finished at the end of the month. However, if you are going to do some burning, advise your neighbours, captain Peter Clark and Yass Fire Control, to save fire personnel the unnecessary effort of tracking down the source of smoke.

### **This year's committee**

The AGM last Wednesday was warm and well attended. The incoming committee is largely the same as last year's, with the addition of Donna G as our OH&S officer and the loss of Ben D (food controller), who has left the brigade for the year. Minutes of the meeting will be on the website soon.

The office bearers for this year are:

Captain – Peter C

Senior Deputy – Stuart B

Deputies (5) – Dave M, Gareth E, Scott B, Neville McM, Rick M

President – Kane F

Vice President – Broni J

Secretary – Tim S

Treasurer – Joanne R

Training Officer – Gareth E

Equipment Officer – Neville McM

OH&S – Donna G

Food Controller – Sally K

### **Annual donation**

The AGM set the annual donation at \$50, unchanged from previous years. The treasurer advised that donations received in the past two years have amounted to about half that received in previous years. The donations made by residents and landholders and the work of our volunteers at the Murrumbateman field days are our primary sources of funding, enabling us to maintain and improve our firefighting capability and support the regular monthly training sessions. While we have had two mild fire seasons, this preparedness is vital in more difficult seasons and we are only as strong as the support we receive from the community.

### **Wearing of RFS uniforms**

The RFS has issued directions concerning the wearing of the blue uniform (**not PPE**) because the NSW police force counter terrorism and special tactics command (CTSTC) considers the similarity between police and RFS uniforms could put RFS members at risk.

Essentially, avoid wearing the uniform when travelling alone to and from fire control or fire sheds, and avoid wearing the uniform or cover it when travelling in unmarked cars. Members who need to travel or use public areas to attend meetings in the course of the day are encouraged to travel in groups or wear a covering garment. The directive is more relevant to paid personnel, but a number of brigade volunteers have blue uniform, so to the extent it is relevant to you, please be aware of it.