

June 2016

## **Training Tuesday, winter solstice fundraiser at Yarrh, winter training, and more**

Training is next **Tuesday 14 June**, 6.30 at the fireshed, bbq after. Training will be on kitchen fires.

Also in this email:

- Winter solstice fundraiser at Yarrh, Saturday week, volunteers sought
- Winter training
- Callouts
- Council mergers
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### **Winter solstice fundraiser at Yarrh – Saturday 18 June**

Yarrh winery hosts a grand winter solstice night with a huge bonfire. This year it's on Saturday 18 June and half the proceeds from the wine and ticket sales will be donated to our brigade. To help make it a roaring success, Kane is seeking:

- a few volunteers for a couple of hours to build the bonfire next Sunday, 12 June, 9am start
- a team to help set up on the day, including drivers to bring our trucks over
- one or more people who can play an instrument to help make the music.

So celebrate the shortest day of the year with delicious canapes, wine tastings, music and a roaring bonfire, and raise funds for the brigade at the same time. All welcome. Tickets \$20 per adult, \$10 for children who will eat canapes, other children free.

To buy tickets, email [info@yarrhwines.com.au](mailto:info@yarrhwines.com.au) or phone 6227 1474.

If you can help with the setup jobs or music, contact Kane. Or respond to this email and I'll pass it on.

### **Winter training**

June training is the last mid-week training night until September. During the break we will do any cleaning and maintenance required in the shed and any hazard reduction burns that have got the paperwork sorted. There are also zone training courses available throughout the break: later this month, part 2 of the three-part village firefighter course started at Wallaroo a couple of weeks ago, and the first two parts of the 3-part advanced firefighter course (two weekends in August, and the final day in October).

Broni will continue with informal first aid discussion and practical sessions throughout the winter break, for those interested. Let her know at training on Tuesday if you want to be included.

Additionally, Gareth and Broni will be attending a Rural Fire Instructors course in July.

### **Callouts**

Fortunately, no callouts for our brigade since the last newsletter, and in fact none since the Big Hill fire at Gunning in late January. However, across the state during April, RFS crews responded to 1,435 bush and grass fires, three times more than the same period last year.

### **Council mergers and the RFS**

Council mergers won't have an immediate effect on the RFS but will lead to some administrative changes down the track because our districts are based on local government boundaries and we partner with local governments.

### **Supporting Botswana's firefighters**

NSW RFS has been working closely with Botswana for six years, helping develop the Botswana Fire Management Program. More than 100 RFS members have been to Botswana to provide training. The RFS also collects surplus PPE from districts and national Parks and ships everything suitable to Botswana.