

August 2016

Off-season training tomorrow night, callouts, field days

Although the regular midweek evening training session is suspended for July and August, Broni and Neville are using the free night to run indoor sessions on topics we may not cover in the regular sessions.

Training

Neville is running a training session **tomorrow night** (Tuesday 9 August), which will include a short theory session on priming and truck valve layout, and video – 6.30pm at the fireshed.

Gareth and Broni have recently completed a two-weekend-long instructors course and are now qualified to run RFS courses when needed. 'A great effort and congratulations to them', says Peter.

Callouts

Just one cold, wet and windy night callout last month, when Ian P, Dave F and SES volunteers removed a large tree that had fallen across Nanima Road.

Field Days: October 15–16

Already! Yes. Please save the date, October 15 and 16. I will put out a call for volunteers in the next few weeks, but if you can commit now, please let me know. We need at least 30 people to help out on the Saturday (or Sunday if you can't make Saturday). The field days are our biggest fundraiser each year and vital to securing the funds we need to run the brigade for the next 12 months. Coincidentally, they are also a lot of fun and come with free entry to the grounds and a free meal after your shift. If you don't fancy helping out in AI's Kitchen, you could also help out with the parking team.

Volunteers survey

The NSW Rural Fire Service Association is surveying RFS volunteers on a range of issues chosen by emergency management volunteers as important to them. The survey is also being done by volunteer firefighters in other states and the results will be collated and analysed, providing a nation-wide snapshot of rural firefighting in Australia. The survey will take 10-15 minutes, either online or in hard copy. It's open until **29 August**, [here](#).

RFS planning for 2016-17

Initiatives for this year include continuing to assess the suitability of the large air tankers, starting to roll out the new PPC, improving the information and warnings content on the website and an enhanced strategic fire trail program.

New RFS members website ... on the horizon

The good news is that the RFS is to combine its staff intranet and MyRFS into a single member website that will provide substantially enhanced capability and third-party apps and tools as well as overcoming limitations with the current separate systems. The bad news is that it will take years. Meanwhile, some quick wins are being identified for early implementation on the current sites.