

June 2017

Just a reminder that regular training is in recess for winter. However, this month Broni is running a session on the use of radios in the regular slot, next **Tuesday, 13 June, 6.30pm** at the shed. There will be practical radio games to increase familiarity and a representative from Firecon to cover the information we need to provide when calling in an incident. The session is designed for all levels.

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#### **What we do in the winter break**

Although our regular mid-week evening training is in recess, resuming in September, that doesn't mean everything stops. In addition to Broni's sessions, work continues on our two big fundraisers, the Yarrh winter solstice celebration (more below) and the field days. Callouts don't stop because it's winter, we have had bushfires in winter, and house fires and motor vehicle accidents tend to increase.

Our field officers keep everything operational, including keeping the trucks maintained over winter. Peter, Rick, Gareth and Neville met with five of the new truck drivers – Peter McC, John S, Tibor, Glen and Troy – last weekend to brief them on what's involved. They also relocated the extinguisher and standpipe brackets from the Cat 1 crew area to the rear of the truck, freeing up the crew area and eliminating the trip hazards.

#### **Callouts**

Fortunately, we have had a callout-free month.

#### **Yarrh Winter Solstice celebration/brigade fundraiser/volunteers needed**

This traditionally great night will be on Saturday 17 June this year. As of last year's event, it has become one of our three major fundraisers for the year, alongside the field days and residents' annual donations.

Brigade volunteers are needed to help the Yarrh team build the bonfire this weekend. We also need volunteers to help on the night. We already have some but we still need: one more food/wine enthusiast to host one of the speed tasting stations (Fiona and Neil will give you a briefing), one or two people to help with parking, and a few more enthusiastic teenagers for a couple of hours for serving the canapés (this would be a opportunity to participate in a fun night with a big bonfire and help the brigade raise funds while learning a bit about hospitality at this sort of function, which would look good on the CV!). If you can help out or have anyone in the family who would like to help, please respond to this email.

The bigger program for this year's celebration will start at 3.30pm with an hour of food and wine speed tastings in the cellar, where you can mingle as you move around the stations trying out some simple tastes matched with more than a dozen wines. Following this, as dark closes in, the centrepiece bonfire will be lit and drinks and canapés served.

Tickets are \$30/head (\$10 for children partaking of the canapés, otherwise free) and Yarrh will again donate half of the proceeds from the ticket and wine sales to the brigade. Last year this donation was a generous \$3,200, a significant contribution to our coffers.

There couldn't be a more pleasant way to support the brigade so if you're interested in attending, book early as tickets are limited and were sold out before the event last year. To buy tickets, please email [info@yarrhwines.com.au](mailto:info@yarrhwines.com.au) or call 6227 1474.

### **Shed extension**

Peter, Rick and Neville met last weekend to discuss the shed extension and the required site works.

### **First meeting of the new committee**

The new exec will meet on Thursday 15 June. If you want anything raised, speak to a committee member.

### **Field Days entry prices**

Entry prices for this year's field days will remain the same as last year. Opening hours are also the same: Saturday 8–5, Sunday 8–4. Planning continues in the background with another meeting of all caterers in July.

### **Vale Bill Refshauge**

Long-timers in the brigade will be saddened to hear that Bill Refshauge passed away on the 7th May after a long illness. The Refshauges were great brigade supporters during the years they lived at Yass River. Bill was a brigade member from 1985 until the mid '90s, and was a deputy captain for some of this time. He was very active in training but he also had a few talents that we didn't immediately know about, including that he was a very good classical guitarist and played for a Spanish dance troupe in Canberra. He was also the author of many books, one of these being *Who Was the Man From Snowy River*. His wife Judy ran Yass River plant farm, from which most of the seedlings for the hundreds of tree lots in the area were grown. In the days before a dedicated fireshed, the catering for the crews fighting the big Mt Ramsay fire (February 1991) was mounted from the Refshauge's kitchen.