

YASS RIVER NANIMA BUSHFIRE BRIGADE NEWSLETTER



August 2020

Message from the Captain and President

We hope that all residents in our brigade area are keeping safe and well and are able to make the best of this challenging year. As we write this, both Victoria and NSW have tightened restrictions once again in the face of an increasing number of COVID-19 cases. Our brigade is currently in winter recess, but the uncertainty regarding restrictions means that we have decided to cancel a number of planned activities and don't yet know when we will recommence training nights. However, brigade members have been busy over the winter break ensuring that our brigade equipment is repaired and maintained and we remain ready to respond to incidents when they arise. We are also delighted to announce that our grant application for new equipment for the shed and for training purposes has been approved. We have been awarded just short of \$10,000. Further details are below.

Stuart Burrows, Captain and Peter Clark, President

Trucks on the Move

Residents may have seen Yass River Nanima Bushfire Brigade trucks out and about recently. This is because our trucks are cycling through their annual repairs and maintenance in Yass. Thus far, the Cat 1 and Cat 2 have been completed. Thank you to our volunteer drivers who are taking the trucks for repair and collecting them again.

Neville McMartin, Equipment Officer

Extra Equipment Funded

We recently applied for a grant to provide additional equipment for the brigade and have now been informed that our application was successful. We have been awarded funds for:

- A meeting table and chairs for the kitchen
- A microwave oven
- A flat Screen TV for training etc
- A tablet, for mapping etc, for the Incident Controller/Captain
- Brigade website redevelopment, and
- A Telstra Mobile Repeater for the Cat 9.

Stuart Burrows, Captain

Recent Ministerial Event

Our brigade fire shed was selected in June to be the site of an RFS sanctioned media release by the Federal Minister of Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, Paul Fletcher MP. Minister



Fletcher was announcing a program whereby some 2000 satellite dishes are to be placed on brigade premises and evacuation centres throughout the State. As a consequence of the event we have received an NBN-installed dish on our fire shed that we hope will be connected up at some stage. Unfortunately, after the media event had concluded, our Captain was unknowingly filmed showing the Liberal candidate for the Eden-Monaro by-election how to use BART. For any members and residents who saw the resulting media footage, please be reassured that brigade members who attended the event were not engaging in electioneering.

MINISTER FLETCHER ANNOUNCING THE SATELLITE DISH PROGRAM. Photo credit: Michelle Storey

Peter Clark, President

Cancellation of Planned Activities

Due to continuing concerns about COVID-19 spread, the Field Days for 2020 have been cancelled. In addition, and mindful of the fact that many of our members are in a high risk category for contracting COVID-19, we have decided to cancel or postpone a number of planned events for our brigade including the winter solstice evening, the September Bunnings sausage sizzle, and a Get Ready Weekend event at our fire shed. We will be guided by medical advice in determining when to re-start monthly training sessions, and when (and how) to hold our AGM. It may be possible to hold the AGM once the weather is warmer and people won't be tempted to cluster around the heaters, and to send out papers beforehand so that we can hold a simple short meeting in which the essential elections of office-bearers are conducted. It is a shame to miss the social benefits of the planned events, and to forgo the funds we raise through various functions, but the safety of our members remains our highest priority, and our grant funding ensures that we have some funds for desired upgrades.

Stuart Burrows, Captain

Staff Changes at RFS Southern Tablelands Zone Office

Some readers of this newsletter may have met and interacted with the Southern Tablelands Zone Operational Officer Daniel Osborne. Daniel has been based at the NSW RFS Offices in Yass for the last four years, but is now moving to Bega. He thanks members across the Zone for their commitment and dedication that has made his time in Yass so rewarding. Daniel will be missed as he has always been of great assistance to our Executive and members when required. Stuart has passed on our thanks to Daniel.

Zone Manager Peter Alley is currently on extended leave for 11 months returning July 2021. Acting Zone Manager is George Shepherd.

Troy Searles, Secretary

Information for Active Brigade Members

BART has now been chosen by the NSW RFS as the official availability app, and tenders have been let to integrate BART into the RFS dispatch and ICON systems. The RFS will pay the BART brigade membership fees. Our experience with BART should stand our brigade in good stead as it is rolled out more broadly.

Please note that, due to COVID and the infrequent use of the trucks and their pumps, separate battery chargers have been attached to the 12v pump battery on each truck. There is a note attached to the steering wheels asking drivers to disconnect the rear battery charger. Also, can members please ensure that the charger Anderson plug is fully inserted into the matching truck socket to maintain the truck batteries.

The NSW RFS issued an Operational Brief recently with information on:

- Safety labels now mandatory for NSW-registered vehicles powered by electric, hybrid or hydrogen engines
- Updates to the NSW RFS Firefighters Pocketbook smartphone app, and
- The closing date (August 31) for applications for the Volunteer Firefighter Payment.

Download: [Download the Operational Brief in PDF format](#) .



REQUIRED NUMBER PLATE LABELS FOR NSW-REGISTERED VEHICLES POWERED BY ELECTRIC, HYBRID OR HYDROGEN ENGINES

Neville McMartin, Equipment Officer