

Our rich tradition of fundraising

Even before we became a separate brigade and were part of the larger Manton–Yass River brigade, members funded much of their fire-fighting needs themselves, fitting out their own farm vehicles – initially horse-drawn but largely motorised after the Second World War – with water tanks and pumping equipment. If they were lucky, some of this equipment was supplied by local authorities. In the 1950s, this was the Yass Associated Bush Fire Brigades, not dissimilar, in essence, to its most recent incarnation, Yass Fire Control.

Our first public fundraising was to finance the brigade’s first fleet of fire-fighting trucks in the 1970s. As costs increased in the last two decades of the 1900s we embarked on a number of ad hoc activities to meet them. By the 2000s we had become quite systematic in raising funds for our annual expenses. Projects, such as our current shed extension project, require more effort.

Funding the brigade’s first fleet of fire-fighting trucks

It wasn’t until the 1970s that the brigade acquired its first dedicated fire-fighting truck. By the end of the decade it had a fleet of four vehicles. This was a major and additional cost because to acquire them, the brigade had to fund 10% of the cost. This was not feasible for individuals and the brigade ran its first public fundraising campaigns. The support from the community was gratifying and our brigade was at the forefront of those that moved to a dedicated motorised fleet.

As we continuously grow in size, activity and capability, costs increase and the support from the authorities is always limited.

Fundraising in the late 1900s

In the years following the purchase of the initial fleet, individual members sometimes door-knocked the area to raise funds, and the brigade started holding various fundraising activities each year: we held an extremely successful annual trail ride for several years, ran raffles, and put on a dinner and art show, to name a few. In the nineties, as the original fleet needed updating, we introduced the now annual request to residents and landholders for a donation. It was a request for \$50, and still is, today, although some landholders regularly make a much larger donation.

With the advent of the Murrumbateman Field Days, we started holding fundraising activities on the field days' weekend: raffles in the first years, then a small food outlet, and today the big hot food outlet jointly run by ourselves and five other brigades.

Fundraising in the 2000s

By the start of the new century our activities at the field days, coupled with the annual donations we received from the community, had become our most reliable and effective forms of fundraising. We plan our annual budget according to this income.

Fire station extension project

In the second decade of the 2000s we made the decision to extend our fire station. This decision was driven by our increasing numbers, together with more equipment to support them and the need for more space for training and other brigade activities.

For several years, we have been putting funds aside for this purpose, as well as pursuing grants and increasing our fundraising activities to raise the considerable funds needed.

We hope to have the extension completed in late 2018.