



Yass River-Nanima Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

NEWSLETTER

October 2020

Message from the Captain and President

We would like to thank brigade members for their patience and understanding during this difficult time. We are sure that you are across the challenges that COVID-19 brings us.

In time, though, we will be back to training and carrying out activities that need to be done for the upcoming fire season. Unfortunately, the social side of training may have to take a back seat for a while, so please continue to make an effort to look out for each other. This year has been a challenging year for everyone and heading into fire season it is even more important to check in on friends and neighbours to see if they are OK.

The Bushfire Danger Period starts on October 1 in our region. Further information on the rules around lighting fires in the Bushfire Danger Period is below. It is very important to prepare your home and yourself for bushfire danger. Further information is available from our brigade website at:

<https://yassriverbfb.org/preparing-a-fireplan>

Normally, we would have already begun training by this time of year, but it is important that we remain vigilant about reducing the spread of the coronavirus. With this in mind, we have been waiting for the weather to warm up before recommencing training so that social distancing will be a bit easier.

Current planning is to have the first training session in November, which will include the annual vehicle/inventory checks by a small number of people. The trucks will then need to be cleaned to stay in line with the RFS policies. We may also have a debrief for the 2019/2020 fire season. We will notify members when training is to recommence. Even once training starts the post training BBQ will not be able to be held until it is deemed safe to do so.

Due to COVID-19 risks the brigade committee is considering whether to hold an AGM this year or defer the meeting until next year. We will keep members and residents informed of any decisions that are made.

To assist in providing useful and timely information to our members and neighbours we have, over the winter, refreshed our brigade website. Please have a look at the new website at:

<https://yassriverbfb.org/>

and provide any feedback to our Information Officer, Michelle Storey, at information.officer@yassriverbfb.org .

Stuart Burrows, Captain and Peter Clark, President

Bushfire Danger Period

From October 1 we are in the declared Bushfire Danger Period. You are NOT permitted to light a fire in the open (except cooking fires) unless you notify your neighbours, the local brigade (6100 6252) and the Yass Fire Control Centre (6226 3100) at least 24 hours prior to lighting the fire. The Yass Fire Control Centre must be contacted on a business day. As an alternative to calling the Yass Fire Control Centre you can fill out the form at the following website:

<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fire-permits/burn-notifications>

You must also obtain a permit from one of the brigade permit officers. Full instructions on what you need to do are available on our brigade website at:

<https://yassriverbfb.org/lighting-fires/> .

Troy Searles, Secretary

Message to Active Members

The NSW RFS is working to deliver a new Members Availability and Response System, including a smartphone application called RFS ACTIV. The app will be a customised version of BART that will integrate with NSW RFS systems such as personal information and qualifications. It is expected that the app will be available to volunteers towards the end of 2020. At this stage, you do not need to do anything, but once the app is made available we will all need to uninstall BART and install the new RFS app. Further information is available at:

<http://rfs.e-newsletter.com.au/link/id/zzzz5f4c57f661077808Pzzzz501a49f58c051670/page.html> .

As we are still using BART for the time being can active brigade members please start filling out their availability for October on BART as the Bushfire Danger Period starts in October.

Neville McMartin, Equipment Officer