



January 2021

Message from the Captain and President

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy 2021. Let's hope for a better year than last year. We have restarted our monthly fire-fighting training and look forward to seeing members back at training over the next few months. January training will be on structural and vehicle incidents. Please note the additional precautions below to ensure that we continue to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our region. COVID-19 has not gone away and we need to remain vigilant.

Our brigade attended a vehicle fire in the last month; thank you to all the members that responded via BART enabling us to rapidly deploy a suitable team to the incident.

Also, please note the message below about the switch to RFS ACTIV. Our brigade will transition on January 15 and all active members need to have updated their details in MyRFS and installed RFS ACTIV by then; instructions and further details are below. In the meantime, please complete BART until January 15 so that we are aware who is available to attend incidents if required.

We hope that everyone has their fire plans and their properties prepared for the Bush Fire Danger Period. There is a wealth of useful information to assist you, and our brigade website is a good place to start: <https://yassriverbfb.org/preparing-a-fireplan/>.

Stuart Burrows, Captain, and Peter Clark, President

Incident in December

Members of the brigade attended a vehicle fire in the Manton area on 4 December 2020. Stuart Burrows attended in the Cat 9 and Rick Mumberson, Tibor Fekete, Peter McCaskill and David Beattie were in the Cat 1.

The vehicle had been stolen from Canberra and deliberately set alight. Luckily, the majority of the grassland in the area was still green which slowed the spread of the fire.

Stuart Burrows, Captain

January fire-fighting training

It was good to see members at the December fire-fighting training working to keep their skills current. With the wet summer we are experiencing we were able to get additional training in how to manage when a fire truck gets bogged! January fire-fighting training will be on structural and vehicle incidents. Further information is available on our website at <https://yassriverbfb.org/event/january-fire-fighting-training/>.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions everyone will need to register when they arrive at the fire shed, practice distancing and appropriate hygiene practices and remain home if feeling unwell. Unfortunately, there will be no post-training BBQ. If you can't scan the QR code on our fire shed door on your phone when you arrive then you will need to manually enter your details using <https://form.jotform.com/NSWRFS/covidcheckin/> .



FIGURE 1. RECOVERING A BOGGED FIRE TRUCK

Kylie Eggins, Training Officer

Reminder about COVID-19 health and safety precautions

Please do not attend the fire shed if you have travelled to any hotspots for COVID-19 infection. Do not attend the fire shed or any brigade events if you are feeling unwell; if you experience even the mildest COVID-19 symptoms get tested and self-isolate until you have a negative result. For those attending the fire shed, remember to always scan in regardless of the length of time of your visit and please use the hand sanitiser provided. NSW RFS members should familiarise themselves with the [2020//21 Bush Fire Season Operational Arrangements - COVID 19](#).

The Cat 1 and Cat 2 fire trucks now have latex gloves along with wipes, hand sanitiser and masks. Members should use the gloves and masks especially if they attend an MVA or structure fire, or where appropriate.

Sonia Slattery, Health and Safety Officer

New electric start transfer pump now operational

One of the items we successfully applied for funding to purchase was a new electric start transfer pump. It is now operational and can be used to fill the fire trucks from the fire shed rainwater tank. An upcoming training session will familiarise active brigade members with its operation.



FIGURE 2. ELECTRIC START TRANSFER PUMP

Neville McMartin, Equipment Officer

Message for active brigade members on transition to RFS ACTIV

Our brigade will be changing to RFS ACTIV on 15 January. BART will cease to be used by the RFS, including the Yass River brigade, on that day.

I will send out a couple of test Broadcasts and Alerts to test RFS ACTIV before the transition date.

Active members need to update their details in MyRFS as the password you use there will be needed to activate the new RFS ACTIV primary messaging system after 15 January. We will spend some time on the 12 January training session ensuring that members have the new app on their phones.

If you have problems logging into RFS ACTIV after downloading it, you first need to log into MyRFS and possibly reset your password. Then use that Username and Password to access RFS ACTIV. You will need to access the email address that was registered with MyRFS to reset your password via the MYRFS website <https://www.myrfs.nsw.gov.au/>. Otherwise, you can email the RFS ACTIV team at servicedesk@rfs.nsw.gov.au; or call 1800 005 123, select Option 1 for ACTIV.

RFS ACTIV Download Links

Android

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=au.com.emerg.bartfrs>

Apple

<https://apps.apple.com/au/app/rfs-activ/id1529573652>

Neville McMartin, Equipment Officer