



February 2021

Message from the Captain and President

Fortunately, the La Nina weather pattern we are experiencing has led to a much wetter summer than last year and a quiet month for our brigade. Most models predict that La Nina will continue through February and possibly March with a return to neutral conditions in April.

However, although the wet weather has delayed the curing of grasses there is still the potential for some hot weather to dry things out and then with so much long dry grass around there is significant risk of dangerous grass fires. Complacency is certainly not a good strategy and now, when conditions are calmer, is a good time to review your fire plans. Further information is below.

Stuart Burrows, Captain, and Peter Clark, President

Preparing Your Fire Plans

Last summer's bush fires destroyed 2,476 homes and claimed 26 lives. It can take as little as five minutes to make your Fire Plan and it can save your life and that of your family members

There is a very useful guide to preparing a Fire Plan on the NSW RFS website at: <https://www.myfireplan.com.au/>. Our brigade website also has important information, including regarding how to ensure that we can find your property and access it safely in times of emergency. For more information, see <https://yassriverbfb.org/preparing-a-fireplan/>.

Your pets' safety is also an important part of your Fire Plan. It is recommended that you have a dedicated 'Go Bag' containing registration details, medications (if required), items such as leads, harnesses and bowls, and three days dry food and some water. A smelly shirt belonging to the person who feeds the pets also helps settle animals when in the unfamiliar environment of an evacuation centre. The NSW RFS website has a useful guide on including your pets' needs in your Fire Plan, available at: <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/.../Fire-Safety-for-your-Pets...>

Stuart Burrows, Captain

Fire-fighting training

The February regular monthly fire-fighting training will be held on Tuesday, February 9 from 6.30pm to 8pm. Training will be on pumping and relays. We will be travelling away from the fire shed, so please arrive promptly so you are not left behind. Further information is available on our website at <https://yassriverbfb.org/event/february-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.

And congratulations to Joanne Byrnes for recently completing the *Aviation Radio Operator* training and to Judy Hancock for completing training in *Communications Centre Assistant 2014*.



Congratulations to Joanne Byrnes and Judy Hancock on their recent qualifications

Kylie Eggins, Training Officer

Message to active members

The NSW RFS is still resolving some issues with the RFS ACTIV system. Until further notice I request that members record their availability on both BART and RFS ACTIV. This will help to iron out issues as they arise and familiarise members with the systems. If you have not yet activated RFS ACTIV please do so as soon as possible. Instructions were in January's newsletter available at: <https://yassriverbfb.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Yass-River-Nanima-Volunteer-Bush-Fire-Brigade-Newsletter-January-2021.pdf> .

There will be new QR codes at the fire shed for members to use for checking in, which are specific to our station. Please, if possible, use the Service NSW app, COVID Safe check in, as this allows members and dependents to both check in and check out.

Stuart Burrows, Captain