MINUTES

OF

YASS RIVER-NANIMA RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL 2021

Convened by:	Peter Clark (President)
Invited Guests:	Ron Hardy (Group Captain, Group 4) Max Hedges (Group Captain, Group 3) Eric Gruber (Captain, Manton Brigade) Richard Alley (Captain, Murrumbateman Brigade) Vikki Bingley (Branch Secretary, Yass Valley Branch, RFSA Division 7)
Office Bearers:	Gareth Ellem (Acting Captain) Tim Scully (Acting Secretary & Deputy Captain 6) Joanne Reid (Treasurer) Neville McMartin (Deputy Captain 1 & Equipment Officer) Scott Burrows (Deputy Captain 2) Rick Mumberson (Deputy Captain 3) Kylie Eggins (Deputy Captain 4 & Training Officer) Sonia Slattery (Workplace Health & Safety Officer) Sally Kaufman (Catering Officer)
Ordinary Members:	BANNAN Kim, BYRNES Joanne, CLARK Shirley, DUZEVIC Ric, FEKETE Tibor, FILLINGHAM Kane, FILLINGHAM Caitlin, GEORGIEVSKI Michael, HANCOCK Judy, JEKYLL Broni, KUKIC Darko, LAVENDER Suzanne, MACDONALD Mac, MCCASKILL Peter, MORTON David, MUMBERSON Jason, NORTON Mark, ODLUM Glenn, ODLUM Karolyn, SAGE Liz, SCULLY Michelle, STOREY John, STOREY Michelle.
Attendees:	MUMBERSON Jenny, ODLUM Kaliyah, ODLUM Tarlo, ODLUM Zali.
Location:	Yass River BFB Fire Shed, “Warrumbui,” Yass River, NSW
Date and time:	31 March 2021, 1900 hrs
Apologies:	Damien Eggins, Gertraud Norton, Dave Beattie, Shanelle Burrows, Steven Burrows, Lindsey Butt, Stuart Burrows, Sandra Burrows.
Minutes by:	Acting Secretary

ITEM 1. Opening

Peter Clark declared the meeting open at 8pm and that we had a quorum.

The Acting Secretary has recorded apologies and will record attendance. Gertraud, Dave Beattie

Peter welcomed and thanked all members for their attendance. He also welcomed the following guests:

Ron Hardy, Group Captain, Group 4

Max Hedges, Group Captain, Group 2

Eric Gruber, Captain, Manton Brigade

Richard Alley, Captain, Murrumbateman Brigade

Vikki Bingley, Branch Secretary, Yass Valley Branch, RFSA Division 7

This was Peter's last address as President and as a member of the Executive Committee after more than 30 years' service to the Brigade. The full transcript of the President's opening comments is at Attachment 1.

(9 Dec 2021 Secretarial Note: Mr Neville McMartin held a proxy vote for Mr Lindsey Butt.)

ITEM 2. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2019 AGM

The President asked if any member had questions or concerns with the minutes of the previous meeting. There being no questions or concerns raised, he proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true copy of the meeting's proceeding. This was seconded by the Secretary and accepted by the meeting. The minutes are at the link above.

ITEM 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 2019 AGM.

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

ITEM 4. Annual Reports

All reports are at Attachment 1.

a. **Captain's Report.** Acting Captain, Gareth Ellem, read the former Captain's Report for the previous year. The AGM did not vote on the report.

(9 Dec 2021 Secretarial Note: The Captain's Report was accepted as submitted. See Minutes of 1 Dec 2021 General Meeting).

b. **Treasurer's and Auditor's Reports.** A proposal put by Gareth Ellem and seconded by Rick Mumberson that the Treasurer's and Auditor's Reports be accepted as a true reflection of Brigade's finances was accepted. The Auditor's report is at Attachment 2.

c. **Training Officer's Report.** A proposal put by Tim Scully and seconded by Neville McMartin that the Training Officer's Report be accepted as a true reflection of the preceding year's training activities was accepted.

d. **Equipment Officer's Report.** A proposal put by Gareth Ellem and seconded by Kylie Eggins that the Equipment Officer's Report be accepted as a true reflection of the preceding year's equipment related activities was accepted.

e. **Work Health and Safety (WHS) Officer's Report.** A proposal put by Peter McCaskill and seconded by Kylie Eggins that the WHS Officer's Report be accepted as a true reflection of the preceding year's WHS related activities was accepted.

ITEM 5. Membership Appointments

A proposal put by Gareth Ellem and seconded by Peter McCaskill that, having satisfied the RFS requirements, Rod Eade and Darko Kukic be accepted as ordinary members of the Brigade was agreed by members.

ITEM 6. Election of Office Bearers for 2019-2020

Before handing over to the Returns Officer, Ron Hardy, Gareth explained to the meeting that it was intended to elect an additional deputy captain. Gareth explained that the increased number of deputies related to the Brigade's operational capability in that it allows the Captain and Senior Deputy Captain to maintain concurrent shifts on a fire ground with an element of redundancy. This will reduce burn-out during busy operational periods and can be complimented by qualified crew leaders.

At this point the meeting was handed over to the Returns Officer.

It should be noted that Scott Burrows questioned the voting method to be used. While the Brigade Constitution states that voting will be by secret ballot, given that there was no competition for any of the office bearer positions, after some discussion, Tim Scully put a proposal, seconded by Gareth Ellem, that voting for election of office bearers be conducted openly by show of hands. This was accepted by the meeting.

Nominations were received for the following Field Officer and Executive Committee positions (note that Ron Hardy also called for nominations from the floor for all positions listed below, but none were forthcoming):

a. **President** – The nominee was Tim Scully. Proposed by Peter McCaskill, seconded by Rick Mumberson. Accepted

b. **Captain** – The nominee was Neville McMartin. 1. Proposed by Sonia Slattery, seconded by Jason Mumberson. Accepted

c. **Senior Deputy Captain** – The nominee was Gareth Ellem. Proposed by Peter McCaskill, seconded by Rick Mumberson. Accepted.

d. **Secretary** – The nominee was Michelle Storey. Proposed by Sonia Slattery, seconded by Kylie Eggins. Accepted.

e. **Treasurer** – The nominee was Joanne Reid. Proposed by Tim Scully, seconded by Peter Clark. Accepted.

f. **Deputy Captains** - One proposal was made for the election of all seven deputies. The proposal put by Peter Clark and seconded by Neville McMartin for the meeting to accept the following nominees as deputy captains was accepted:

1. Scott Burrows
2. Rick Mumberson
3. Kylie Eggins
4. Damien Eggins
5. Tim Scully
6. Sonia Slattery
7. Tibor Fekete

g. **Training Officer** – The nominee was Kylie Eggins. Proposed by Michelle Storey, seconded by Peter Clark. Accepted.

h. **Equipment Officer** – The nominee was Glenn Odlum. Proposed by Gareth Ellem, seconded by Peter McCaskill. Accepted.

i. **Work Health and Safety Officer** – The nominee was Sonia Slattery. Proposed by Dave Morton, seconded by Gareth Ellem. Accepted.

j. **Catering Officer** – The nominee was Sally Kaufmann. Proposed by Michelle Storey, seconded by Sonia Slattery. Accepted.

k. **Junior Coordinator** – The nominee was Karolyn Odlum. Proposed by Ric Duzevic, seconded by Neville McMartin. Accepted.

ITEM 7. Appointment of Auditor

Joanne Reid's proposal, seconded by Gareth Ellem, that the Brigade continue to engage Justin Steven of Deakin, ACT, as the Brigade Auditor was accepted.

ITEM 8. Annual Voluntary Donation In lieu of Membership Fee

Peter Clark's proposal, seconded by Tim Scully, that the annual voluntary donation of $50 be maintained in lieu of a membership fee was accepted.

ITEM 9. Constitution Review.

Tim Scully explained that the Brigade Management Handbook requires that the Brigade review the Constitution at each AGM. He stated that this would not occur on this occasion due to recent resignation of key office bearers. However, that it is intended to establish a small Brigade team to conduct a review of the Constitution before the next AGM, to identify and propose changes, if necessary. There is a formal process though which changes can be proposed.

ITEM 10. Other Business

a. **Awards and Presentations.** Acting Captain, Gareth Ellem, congratulated the following members on attaining the following qualifications:

Crew Leader Wildfire

- Kane Fillingham
- Sonia Slattery

Deputy to Pathway Completion

- Sonia Slattery
- Troy Searles

Wildfire Behaviour

- Peter McCaskill

Advanced Fire Fighter

- Peter McCaskill

b. **Life Membership - Peter Clark**

Stuart Burrows proposed (in writing), and Neville seconded, that Peter Clark be accepted as a Life Member of the Brigade in recognition of his outstanding devotion and commitment to the Brigade as President, Captain and as a volunteer fire fighter for over 30 years.

Ron Hardy, in concert with Max Hedges, related to the Brigade how Peter's reliability, professionalism and easy-going attitude in all circumstances has been a tribute to his service to the Brigade and the RFS. He said the Peter's leadership was instrumental in giving the Brigade the recognition that it can always be depended upon to respond whenever and however needed. Ron also said that under Peter's leadership, the Brigade has grown significantly, become more diverse in its membership and received strong community support.

Peter has been involved from the early days of the MFD and has seen the evolution of the Yass River Fire station and a focal point for the brigade with its own identity at Warrambui and recently the expansion of the station with its new truck bay. A quiet and humble leader of the brigade for many years that has led the brigade forward in many ways.

(9 Dec 2021 Secretarial Note: No record was made of the vote on the proposal to offer Mr Clark life membership. For completeness this was confirmed at the Dec 2021 General Meeting with 100% of ordinary members in favour. See Minutes of 1 Dec 2021 General Meeting).

c. **The Committee's Response to Membership Letter Concerns**

Gareth Ellem addressed the meeting regarding the concern over a letter that had been sent to members regarding their membership status.

Gareth stated that the Executive Committee had agreed to draw a line under any actions resulting from the letter. This means that no resignations or membership status changes resulting from the letter would be implemented or accepted.

He explained that the Committee would take action to mitigate the concerns raised by members and regain of the trust our members and our supporting community.

Working at the Executive Committee's direction, Tim has spoken to numerous members who received the letter and has learned that the unintended consequence of the letter was to diminish the value of some members' long and dedicated contribution to the Brigade.

As a result of the Committee's deliberations and those discussions with numerous members, following this AGM the Brigade will return to managing its membership as it was done several years ago.

d. **Brigade Training and Aboriginal Fire Techniques**

Ric Duzevic stated that he would like to see the Committee consider how the Brigade runs its training. He suggested the Brigade should do more training on weekends, including on local farms for a fee for hazard reduction (HR) burns, for example. He said

this was better than training in the shed during winter months. Peter Clark responded that the HR authorisation process was complex, while Gareth stated that the suggestion would be considered by the Committee, although charging a fee would not be considered.

Ric also elaborated on Aboriginal fire management practices and encouraged the Brigade to investigate them. This would also be considered by the Executive Committee.

ITEM 11. Next Meeting. The date of the next AGM will be confirmed later.

ITEM 12. Closure. Peter Clark declared the meeting closed at 2117 hours.

Tim Scully
For President
Acting Secretary
6 May 2021

NB: The Minutes presented are as amended as per the General Meeting of 1 December 2021.
David Beattie
A/Secretary 9 December 2021

Attachments:

1. President's Address and Brigade Reports
2. Auditor's Report

ATTACHMENT 1

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS AND BRIGADE REPORTS

President's Address

I would like to welcome you all to the Brigade's annual general meeting, special welcome to Group 4 Captain Ron Hardy and guests. Ron has been a great supporter of our brigade. It is warming to see so many members attend in what will be an important meeting as we haven't had an AGM for two years and a lot of water has flowed under the bridge since our last meeting.

The last two fire seasons could not have been more different if it had been scripted. After a severe drought leading into the 2019/2020 season conditions could not have been worse for what was to become a catastrophic season. Our brigade can hold its head high for the effort that was made to send members to the north of the state for many months leading up to the end of the year, then in the new year there was major fires closer to our vicinity and we were asked to send troops to places like Nerriga and Cooma region to help with firefighting duties. Never had the state seen fires of this magnitude and our brigade was only too happy to help when needed, ably led by Captain Stuart Burrows and our deputies, our well-trained fire fighters the team did a magnificent job. Congratulations to those who went away to help those in need you can be immensely proud of yourselves.

The last fire season pales into insignificance compared to what was experienced the year before. We did however have covid-19 hit which brought about a virtual shutdown of the brigade and all activities,

I would like to thank Neil and Fiona of Yarrh for their support to the brigade through the winter solstice event, which they hold and generously donate a large proportion to our brigade.

The Murrumbateman Field Days team once again did a magnificent to provide hungry hordes of people with excellent food in 2019. A big thank you to those that help, some members spending entire weekend as well as days before and after to run this food site should pat themselves on the back on a job well done.

Another bay has been added to the shed by the capable Jason Mumberson which was needed to accommodate our ever-increasing array of bits and pieces. There have been numerous working bees since the last AGM in and around the shed and some great days with members taking on a multitude of tasks which has included, erecting a new fence around the shed, a hose drying rack, painting the floor, improving the mobile phone reception as well as a new water tank and pump for filling trucks.

Training has taken a bit of a hit with Covid restrictions curtailing many activities, but I do congratulate Kylie and those that have helped on a job well done. Training nights have been a lot of fun with a variety of sessions at the shed as well as some at member's properties.

I would like to thank Jo and Saan and John and Michelle for allowing training to be held on their properties, your generosity is greatly appreciated. These training sessions were very interesting and included a presentation on living off the grid.

Neville as equipment officer continues to have one of the best prepared brigades in the district if not NSW, nothing is ever overlooked, and crews can go away to fires knowing they have the best prepared firefighting equipment available.

Would also like to thank Murrumbateman Rural Supplies, CTO Group, Warrambui Retreat & Conference Centre for their continued support.

I do not think I know of any volunteer organisation which goes life without difficult times and our organisation is no different, it could be named the letter gate affair which upset several members, this letter was an attempt to remove people from the registry who no longer live in the area or participate in brigade activities an initiative of the RFS, Unfortunately, it was received by some members that were offended by the way it was written and worded, to this I apologise as President of the Yass River/ BFB and accept responsibility for it. I feel the Brigade is big enough and strong enough to overcome this hiccup and return to its former glory.

We also lost two of our major executive committee members recently through their resignation. Troy Searles who had been a member for many years and secretary for a lot of this time. Troy had been a particularly good secretary obtaining many grants along the way as well as being a good fire fighter, always putting his hand up for out of area firefighting.

Stuart Burrows also resigned recently. Stuart has been a member for 30 years and Captain for the last 4, he is also a group 4 Deputy. He has been a great asset to the brigade and has always been available for any duties when requested. Stuart is a very credential firefighter and has led many task forces in our local area as well as out of area throughout the state. Stuart was senior deputy for many years while I was Captain and provided me with great support during this period.

I will not be taking on any executive positions this year. I started with the brigade over 30 years and for most of this time have been a deputy, senior to several Captains as well as Captain for 14 years. It has been a big part of my life and I have though really enjoyed every piece of it, the early years it was exceedingly difficult to have good equipment and communication. We did our best with what we had; training was almost non-existent. Eventually we received a grant to build this shed with Warrambui generously donating this piece of land. When the shed was built, I said to Gareth that we would start having regular training session whether anyone turned up or not, from that time the brigade grew into what it is today. This has been because of the members wanting to have a first-class brigade and it has been achieved by the hard work of all members.

I could not have achieved so much without the support of my wife Shirley who has stood by me through the good times and the difficult times.

Peter Clark
President
May 2021

Captain's Report

NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

CAPTAINS REPORT AGM – 28 APRIL 2021 FOR YEARS 2020/2021

This has been the quietest bush fire seasons for around a decade however once again we have had local flooding, COVID pandemic still remains, and we are moving towards this being the new normal.

The fire season commenced on the 1st October 2020 and officially ended on the 31st March 2021. There has been some significant rainfall which has topped up dams and the river systems and we once again saw some local flooding. Unfortunately, other parts of the state have been inundated with vast amounts of water and the RFS will once again offer support and personnel to assist with the clean-up.

Fundraising was put on hold due to the pandemic, so we were unable to attended Bunnings sausage sizzles, the Yarrh winter solstice and the Murrumbateman fields days. We were successful with the RFS grants application being awarded almost $10,000 which has been spent on the shed and associated items.

Fires/Incidents attended

- 5 August 2020 – Captain and offsider attended house fire 683 Yass River Rd (Manton area).
- 4 December 2020 – Captain and others attended a Passenger vehicle fire 706 Yass River Road (Manton area
-

Shed update

As a result of the RFS grants we have been able to purchase new tables and chairs, new microwave, new 75" LED TV, phone booster for the Cat 9, a tablet for the Captain and a new quick fill pump for the station tank.

NBN

As some members may have noticed we have fitted to the shed an NBN satellite dish. The good news however the satellite dish has been gifted by NBN Co. This is a generous gift.

National Emergency Medal

This medal has been enacted by the Governor General for the 2019-2020 bushfires and to be nominated for the medal a member must complete at least 5 days. A list of suitable members and the paperwork has been sent to Fire Control. We had nine people nominated for the medal.

Members

Troy has stood down from the position of Secretary for health, work and family reasons. I would just like to personally thank Troy for all the work he has done in the role of Secretary.

Kylie Eggins has informed the committee that she will not be standing as the Training Officer.

Conclusion

So, we have not been busy fighting fires this season. As stated earlier it is one of the quietest seasons for around 10 years.

Regarding my resignation, I felt that it was important to maintain the integrity of the brigade because it had been made apparent that a group of nameless members were conspiring behind my back to have me removed from the position of Captain. I'm sure they will have a different version of events but at this point in time not one of them has had the courage to approach me and tell me of their perceived issues. The brigade is bigger than any one individual and all I have ever strived to do was to improve the brigade so that the community had trust in what we do.

As my last act as Captain, I would like to nominate Peter Clark to be made a life member of the brigade. I am sure I will have several seconders to my proposal.

Stuart Burrows
Captain
Yass River

28 April 2021

Treasurer's Report

The Brigade reported a deficit of $5,333 for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The coronavirus pandemic of 2020 had a significant impact on the Brigade's fundraising activities. The Murrumbateman Field Days were cancelled and the Brigade was unable to participate in other fundraising activities such as Bunnings sausage sizzles. The year also saw a sizeable decrease in tax-deductible donations from members, receiving only $1,400 for the year.

The Brigade was successful in receiving a grant of $9,976 from the NSW RFS which enabled the purchase of important equipment for the Brigade. The grant has been fully expended.

The total funds available at 31 March 2021 is $26,309.

The NSW RFS conducted a random audit of the Public Fund in late 2020 and found no concerns with the Brigade's management of its Public Fund account.

Joanne Reid
Treasurer
26 April 2021

The Brigade Statement of Accumulated Funds is below.

YASS RIVER-NANIMA VOLUNTEER BUSHFIRE BRIGADE

STATEMENT OF ACCUMULATED FUNDS
AS AT 31 MARCH 2020

ACCUMULATED FUNDS	2020	2019
Balance as at beginning of year	$53,050.53	$34,670.08
Plus result for the year	-$21,408.20	$18,380.45
Balance as at end of year	$31,642.33	$53,050.53
REPRESENTED BY:		
Cheque account	$7,211.77	$24,527.61
Public Fund account	$11,857.17	$17,889.93
Grant funds	$1,751.10	$0.00
Term deposit	$10,742.29	$10,552.99
Term deposit interest witholding tax	$80.00	$80.00
TOTAL FUNDS	**$31,642.33**	**$53,050.53**

Signed as being a true account of the Brigade's financial position as at this date:

.....
Treasurer

Approved on behalf of the Brigade:

.....
President

.....
Date

Equipment Officer's Report

Well, it's been two years since my last AGM report. During that time, we had a very busy season followed by a season with virtually no deployments. There were no major issues with the brigade equipment during the previous 24 months. However, the Cat 7 did sustain damage to the passenger side door during a deployment to the coast fires last season. Given the age of the truck and hence the possible lack of a replacement door and a cabin, a brigade decision was made to straighten the door which was done by Diamonds in Yass and Rick Mumberson. Incidentally all our heavy annual maintenance and safety checks are performed by Diamonds. The results have been very positive with a number of previously missed items being repaired or replaced.

All our trucks are booked for late July for their annual while the Cat 9 and trailer were inspected and serviced on Monday in Murrumbateman. The cat 9 has a water tank leak which will need to be repaired or replaced.

The other items of note include the completion of the shed extension by Jasique Building and Earthworks and the replacement of the internal and external shed lights with brighter more efficient LED lights by Tom Hall Electrical.

Other items include a new high-capacity pump for the quick fill and the installation of a Honda transfer pump connected to the rainwater tank, which was part of the RFS grant. The grant also included the table and chairs, a microwave oven, a Telstra repeater for the Cat 9, a 10" tablet for the Captain and a large 75" screen for training.

We also fitted flashing led perimeter lights to all the Yass River vehicles to aid visibility especially in smoky conditions.

The shed also has an NBN internet connection which enables the display of RFSActiv in the kitchen. With the assistance of Rick Mumberson and Peter Clark we now have a hose drying solution.

Additionally, the yard is now fenced providing a clear boundary for Warrambui guests. I would like to acknowledge the help and assistance of members of the brigade and committee with the erection of the fence and especially Rick Mumberson for his donation of time and equipment for landscaping and post hole boring prior to the fencing.

We also hope to complete some internal works for a training area and undertake some additional earthworks to permanently solve the water ingress problem at the rear of the shed.

I would like to thank Dave Beatty, Stuy Burrows Rick Mumberson and Peter Clark who are always willing to empty bins, clean the toilet, give me a ride to town to pick up a truck, or drop in and help out with a job at the shed. Many members likewise are happy to provide assistance when requested and I thank you all for that.

Apart from the proposed shed works there are no other large, planned CAPEX items.

I will not be renominating for the position as I believe it's time for a change.

Thank you.

Neville McMartin
Equipment Officer
28 May 2021

Training Officer's Report

After some covid disruptions in 2020 we eventually got back into the swing of training pretty well.

We are fortunate in having such a diverse brigade with so much fire exposure (thanks to the 2019/20 season) and it's been great to see members confidence increasing and everyone getting in and having a go.

We've had some memorable training moments since last AGM. The least memorable probably being the truck getting bogged and certainly one of the most memorable being the meal last training or on by Michelle and John Story.

Special thanks to those that have allowed us to train on their properties and increase our brigade area knowledge at the same time.

The recent feedback we've been receiving about doing more training and training with other brigades has been great to hear and we hope to work towards that.

Kylie Eggins
Training Officer
May 2021

Health and Safety Officer's Report

After a very different year to the last, no Health and Safety issues have been reported over the last fire season. Although we have been dealing with changes to the way we conduct business in regard to the COVID19 pandemic things seem to have gone smoothly and everyone has been diligent in ensuring everyone's safety is taken seriously and all guidelines followed.

Just a reminder to make sure you check in via the COVID safe apps when attending the fire shed and all other facilities and keep up to date with all cleaning procedures like washing hands and wiping down of all surfaces before and after use.

I would like to remind all members to look at undertaking first aid qualifications as these valuable training courses may help in saving someone's life or at the least recognise when help is needed. Whether that be a physical injury or mental wellbeing.

For our active members please keep a look out for any courses and apply to keep your skills up to date. This not only helps update your fires skills but also can update or improve your safety procedures when out and about.

Members are reminded to keep their qualifications and training up to date and continue to keep a look out for any health and safety issues.

Safety is a shared responsibility, so let's all work together to keep our mates safe.

Sonia Slattery
Health and Safety Officer
28 April 2021

ATTACHMENT 2

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Justin Steven
Chartered Accountant
5 Carrington Street
Deakin ACT 2600

Yass River – Nanima Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
183 Butts Road
Murrumbateman NSW 2582

26 October 2020

AUDIT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

I have audited the financial statements of the Yass River – Nanima Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade ("the Brigade") for the year ended 31 March 2020. The Brigade is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information they contain. I have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express my opinion on them to the members of the Brigade.

My audit has been conducted to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free from material misstatements. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts in the financial statements. The procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Australian accounting concepts and standards and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the financial position and the results of its operations.

Independence and qualifications
I confirm that I meet the independence and qualifications requirements for an auditor of a Rural Bush Fire Brigade contained in the Constitution of the Brigade ("the Constitution") and its related documents.

Audit Opinion
In my opinion, the Brigade has maintained the financial records necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements and that the financial statements for the Brigade are properly drawn up in accordance with the Constitution, *Rural Fires Act 1997* ("the Act"), accounting concepts, Australian accounting standards and approved accounting standards, so as to give a true and fair view of:

i. the state of affairs of the Brigade as at 31 March 2020 and the results for the year ended on that date; and

ii. other matters required to be dealt with in the financial statements by the Constitution, the Act and the rules of the Brigade.

Justin Steven, CA