

# YASS RIVER–NANIMA BRIGADE

## GENERAL MEETING

10 December 2022

Location: Brigade Fireshed, 322 Greenwood Rd, Murrumbateman

## MINUTES

### 1 & 2 & 3 Opening and determination of quorum

The meeting opened at 4.26pm.

It was confirmed that the quorum of 22 ordinary members had been met.

#### PRESENT

*Members:* Dave Beattie, Liz Sage, Virginia Rawling, Neville McMartin, Sally Kaufmann, Tibor Fekete, Rick Mumberson, Joanne Byrnes, Karolyn Odlum, Glenn Odlum, Mac MacDonald, Kim Bannan, Ric Duzevich, Patti Duzevich, Suzanne Lavender, Kylie Eggins, Joanne Reid, Peter Clark, John Storey, Michelle Storey, Gareth Ellem, Paul Watson, Sonia Slattery (for part of meeting), Jonathan Rice.

*Residents:* Andrew Sage, Jenny Mumberson, Marnie Kirk

*Guest:* Richard Alley (Murrumbateman Captain)

Before proceeding, the Captain rose and addressed the meeting, explaining that the President's return from overseas, expected that morning, had been delayed 24 hours. He apologised for holding the meeting just before the Christmas party, explaining that originally it had been planned for some weeks earlier, but that difficulties in the preceding months, including pressures created by several instances of flooding which had had the effect of delaying and postponing a number of activities, had worked against us.

A motion that the captain Neville McMartin chair the meeting was proposed.

Moved: Mac MacDonald      Seconded: Gareth Ellem.      Carried unanimously.

The captain then took the chair and welcomed members, residents and guests.

### 3 Apologies & Proxies

#### Apologies:

Bron Gould, Tim Watts, Darko Kukic, Neil McGregor, Rod Eade, Kane Fillingham, Caitlin Fillingham, Judy Hancock, Troy Searles, Lindsey Butt, Scott Burrows, Saan Ecker, Shirley Clark, Ruben Slattery, Sonia Slattery (part of meeting), Kayliyah Odlum, Zali Odlum, Tarlo Odlum, Damien Eggins

#### Proxies:

Ric Duzevich for Darko Kukic  
Joanne Byrnes for Saan Ecker

Gareth Ellem for Rod Eade  
Kylie Eggins for Sonia Slattery (latter half of meeting)

#### **4 Confirmation of previous minutes**

*AGM Meeting dated 30 April 2022*

These minutes will be presented to the AGM next year for acceptance.

#### **5 Business arising from previous minutes**

Item 14: Review of Constitution: Voting protocol at GMs and AGMs: *It was agreed that Brigade Rules 9 and 12 would be reviewed by the Executive Committee in response to concerns raised relating to the lack of clarity around voting during the election process.*

For Rule 12, see Item 8b below. Re Rule 9, this matter is with the Constitution Review sub-committee.

#### **6 Captain's Report**

*See Attachment 1*

Moved: Sonia Slattery      Seconded: Gareth Ellem      Accepted.

#### **7 Treasurer's Report**

*See Attachment 2*

Moved: Gareth Ellem      Seconded: David Beattie      Accepted

#### **8 General Business**

##### **8a Membership Matters**

It was resolved that the district manager be asked to remove the following eight names from the Brigade Register: Ben Dachs, Timo Dupupet, Sean Herbert, Dennis Hussey, Barbara Hussey, Jerome Reid, Gus Sharpe, Colin Sneesby

Moved: Virginia Rawling      Seconded: Paul Watson      Accepted

##### **8b Constitution Review**

###### **8b-1 Brigade name**

A discussion of the brigade's name began with writing the three versions used since the brigade was formed in 1957 on the whiteboard and recapping their history.

Neville proposed we return to the name adopted when the brigade was formed: Yass River-Nanima Bush fire Brigade. Before a vote could be taken, Mac pointed out that the notice time required for amendments to the Constitution had not been met and that therefore we could not come to a decision on this matter at this meeting. Tibor suggested that before we make a decision, the membership should take the time to discuss the merits of each version.

In the light of the notice requirement, it was proposed that further discussion of the item be postponed until the next meeting of members

Moved: Rick Mumberson                      Seconded: Gareth Ellem                      Accepted.

### **8b-2 Composition of Executive Committee**

Neville opened discussion of this item by informing the meeting that Peter Clark had advised that before we adopted the current Constitution at the 2018 AGM, our brigade had had its own constitution, one of the few brigades to be in this position at that time. The current Constitution was drawn up by the RFS and brigades had been required to adopt it, with some mechanisms for tailoring some aspects of it their own situation, if desired. The timeframe for considering the 17-page Constitution, 100-page accompanying Handbook, as well as other guidance documents was short, and the task of comparing our own constitution against the one proposed by the RFS was large.

As one result, our historic practice of appointing all office bearers selected at an AGM to the EC for the following year was no longer automatic. The effect of this being that the current membership of the EC is not supported by the Constitution. It had only been in the few months preceding the general meeting that this situation had been identified and the ramifications fully absorbed.

A proposal to discuss the membership's preferred way of rectifying the situation was to be put to the meeting, but recognition that the 21-day notification rule had not been met meant that a decision could not be taken.

A general and constructive discussion followed. Additionally, it was proposed that we maintain the status quo until the April 2023 AGM – ie, that all office bearers elected at the 2022 AGM be considered members of the EC, but that deputies who did not wish to sit on the EC did not have to. It was also foreshadowed that a change to the number required for the EC quorum would also be reviewed at the 2023 AGM.

Moved: Dave Beattie                      Seconded: Gareth Ellem                      Accepted.

### **9 Appointment of a returning officer**

Not required as only a single, new position was to be filled.

### **10 Election: Community Engagement Representative**

*Background: At the 1 December 2021 General Meeting the membership agreed to create the position of community engagement representative.*

In inviting nominations for the position, Neville explained the role of the Community Engagement Officer, including participating in the current project to doorknock all residents, and promoting fire plans and other fire awareness information to residents.

Lizbeth Sage was nominated.                      Proposed: Dave Beattie                      Seconded: Gareth Ellem.

There being no further nominations, Liz was declared duly elected to the position.

### **11 Other Business**

## a) Presentations

Advanced Firefighter certificates were presented to Kim Bannan and Suzanne Lavender

A Certificate for Service in the 2019–20 Fires and a Letter of Appreciation from the RFS Commissioner was presented to Paul Watson, for his assistance during that difficult fire season. (Similar certificates had been presented to other brigade members at the April 2022 AGM).

## 12 Close

There being no further business, Neville declared the meeting closed at 5.05pm and invited all members and guests to join in the Christmas Party festivities.

Sally Kaufmann Secretary 3 December 2022	<i>These minutes were accepted at the AGM held on Saturday 29th of April 2023.</i> Sally Kaufmann Secretary 5 May 2023
--	---

## List of attachments

Attachment 1: Captain's Report – page 5

Attachment 2: Treasurer's Report – page 7

Agenda: page 8

## ATTACHMENTS

### Attachment 1: CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Since the last General Meeting we received three call outs, two were to flood rescue assists. A supermarket delivery truck had attempted to cross a flooded causeway and became trapped. The second call out was for a local resident who had become trapped on a flooded crossing. During these call outs and at other times the brigade's trucks were not accessible due to flooded crossings. At one stage the Yass River 1 and Yass River 2 were prepositioned at two properties north and south of the Yass River to allow crews access in the event the road to the station became impassable.

The third call out was to a grass fire on Murrumbateman Road. Yass River 7 responded from the Captain's residence but was stood down prior to arriving on scene.

Local members also assisted on a couple of occasions such as checking a smoke sighting.

As of 1 September 2022 the RFS has adopted the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS). The new roadside AFDRS signs and information will use four levels of MODERATE, HIGH, EXTREME and CATASTROPHIC with linked action items. The signs are primarily for the use of the community.

The AFDRS also comprises the Australian Fire Behaviour Index (FBI) which is designed to support fire fighters. The FBI is a simple numerical scale that can be used consistently across Australia, allowing crews to make decisions that require finer detail than the four Fire Danger Rating categories allow.

One of the important things to remember is that permit holders can only conduct an agricultural burn during the declared bush fire season if there is no fire rating. That is, the FBI is 1-11, therefore less than MODERATE for the next two days from the day of lighting the fire.

The brigade's trucks have undergone annual maintenance and safety checks in Yass. The cat 1 had significant work done on the front axle. Nothing significant was found with the other vehicles.

A reminder to check that ACTIV is working and up to date on your phone as that is the primary means of alert. Please contact the Captain if you have questions. A new ACTIV guide from the RFS has been uploaded to the brigade web site.

The group 4 captain has asked the brigade captains for feedback on the suitability of the trucks and suggestions for future builds. The brigade ops group were canvassed for suggestions and comments. Feedback has been delivered to the group 4 captain. The captain attended the RFS family day at the zoo and used the opportunity to inspect the prototype cat 1, cat 7 and cat 9 vehicles.

The Captain intends to hold an information day in the new year for landholders that would be willing to participate in the Farm Fire Fighting (FFU) scheme. The FFU is an RFS initiative for landholders that have fire fighting vehicles, including trailers, positioned on their farms and would be willing to assist the brigade with fire fighting tasks.

## ATTACHMENTS

Yass River members have been visiting new residents on a number of local roads in the last few weeks. The visits were deemed a success in that fire plans were discussed and contact details recorded. There are still three roads to visit.

Neville McMartin

Captain Yass River – Nanima

29 November 2022

## ATTACHMENTS

### Attachment 2: TREASURER'S REPORT

- Cheque account balance is \$7,304.32
- Public Fund account balance is \$7,601.90
- Term deposit is \$10,860.84, maturing on 22 December 2022
- Donations from members this financial year (since 1 April 2022) total \$350
- The Brigade received \$3,500 in proceeds from the Murrumbateman Field Days on 9 November 2022
- Following are expenses incurred by the Brigade since the beginning of this financial year, excluding expenses that were reimbursed such as the Bunnings sausage sizzle and catering for RFS driver training:

Date	Narrative	Amount
14/11/2022	Rodent baits	117.60
14/11/2022	NBN	45.40
07/10/2022	NBN	45.40
07/10/2022	NBN	90.80
14/07/2022	NBN	45.40
02/06/2022	NBN & IT Equipment May invoices	136.16
02/06/2022	Website	299.00
29/04/2022	PO Box and misc	247.39
26/04/2022	NBN	40.35

Joanne Reid  
29 November 2022

## ATTACHMENTS

YASS RIVER–NANIMA BRIGADE  
General Meeting  
10 December 2022, 4pm  
at the Fireshed, 322 Greenwood Rd, Murrumbateman  
**AGENDA**

**1 Meeting open**

**2 Determination of quorum**

**3 Apologies**

**4 Confirmation of previous minutes**

Meeting date 30 April 2022

**5 Business arising from previous minutes**

Item 14: Review of Constitution: Voting protocol at GMs and AGMs: *It was agreed that Brigade Rules 9 and 12 would be reviewed by the Executive Committee in response to concerns raised relating to the lack of clarity around voting during the election process.*

**6 Captain's Report**

**7 Treasurer's Report**

**8 General Business**

**8a Membership Matters**

**8b Constitution Review**

**8b-1 Brigade name**

**8b-2 Composition of Executive Committee**

**9 Appointment of a returning officer**

**10 Election**

**11 Other Business**

**12 Close**

Sally Kaufmann

Secretary

3 December 2022