

AGM Outcomes, Fire prevention season and Pile Burns - Winter rain, Spring ahead

Hello everyone

AGM

The brigade held their AGM on Saturday 2 May 2026 at the Fireshed, 322A Greenwood Road, Murrumbateman. 36 people attended and after enjoying a wonderful variety of dinner and dessert choices we started the meeting at around 6.30pm. Hearty thanks to the caterers and attendees!

Outcomes:

New Members

The brigade welcomed 10 new members who had completed their probationary period.

Elections

Position	Officer
Captain	Neville McMartin
President	Judy Hancock
Secretary	Andrew Sage
Treasurer	Joanne Reid
Senior Deputy	Gareth Ellem
Deputy captains (6)	1 Kane Fillingham
	2 Scott Burrows
	3 Glenn Odium
	4 Troy Searles
	5 Kim Bannon
	6 Rick Mumberson
Catering Officer	Peter Kemmis
Community Engagement Officer	Liz Sage
Equipment Officer	Rohan Shelsher
Junior Co-ordinator	Troy Shelsher
Training Officer	Shaun Fletcher
WH&S Officer	Peter Johnson
Administrative Officer	Sally Kaufmann

Meeting quorum

The meeting also agreed to vary quorum for General and Annual General Meetings from 25 to 20%.

Fire prevention and pile burns

The brigade encourages you to prepare your properties for the next fire season. A little bit of preparation during these winter months will help keep your family, property and livestock as safe as possible. Despite the great winter rain summer may be hot and dry.

Our Captain reminds those setting pile burns to check the weather, especially wind strength and direction – not just when you're lighting the pile but for the several hours it will burn. A four-day forecast is on our [website home page](#).

To avoid unnecessary brigade attendance please, at a minimum:

- notify all your immediate neighbours,
- complete the [RFS planned burn form](#) at least 24 hours before the planned burn, and
- call our captain on 6100 6252 on the morning of the day you are burning.

In addition:

- consider a broad notice through tight social media e.g. a local FB community page

Before lighting up:

- clear the ground around the burn,
- have at least 200 litres of water on hand in some form, and
- if you're relying on a pumping system and you haven't used it for a while, check it's working. We know of occasions where it wasn't!

And of course, don't leave your burning pile unattended. We've been called out to fires caused by pile burns that escaped while unattended.

Yarrh Solstice Bonfire – Saturday 20 June

A chilly evening was enjoyed by 90 or so people. Anyone who has attended will know it is a unique occasion – marking the winter solstice with wine tasting and canapes in the winery and around an enormous bonfire! A great occasion and the weather held off too!

Next year will mark the 20th anniversary of the event – pop it in your calendar as, like this and past years, tickets often sell out!

Many thanks to Caleb Wearne and team at Yarrh winery for continuing the tradition and generously sharing profits with our brigade. The night was a wonderful success due in no small part to our brigade volunteers; canape cooks, bonfire builders and wine and food servers on the night!



Murrumbateman Markets

The brigade continues to assist the Murrumbateman Community Markets each month with set up and pack down. This involves a roster of brigade volunteers putting out signage in the week leading up to the market, set up on the market day and then packing down signage and assisting the market's volunteers with packing up bunting, bins and furniture at the recreation grounds. It sees the brigade earn \$250 a month.

Fundraising and Donations

As you know, rural fire brigades are more than just an emergency fire service. They also provide significant community service, such as assisting the SES and police in search and rescue operations, helping with flood cleanups and biosecurity exercises, or assisting with non-emergency roles, such as helping landholders with pile and hazard reduction burns.

We rely on fundraising and donations to buy equipment and run our operations and member events - if you would like to donate at any time, please:

- click on this [link](#) then;
 - o under *Make a donation by credit card*,
 - o click *secure online donations* then against *Make a donation* select the second radio button *Local Brigade*,
 - o type *Yass River* into the search box and select *Yass River-Nanima Rural Fire Brigade* from the drop down, and
 - o complete the remaining fields and you're done - Thank you!!

Other news

Our Equipment officer Rohan Shelsher has agreed to step aside due to other commitments and Jordan Bartter has generously agreed to cover the duties of the role until next we hold a general meeting and elections.



Regards

Andrew Sage

Secretary YRN RFB

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Brigade [website](#)

Brigade [Facebook](#)