

AIDER Program, Fire prevention season and Pile Burns
Winter – cool, dry with some recent rain, Spring ahead

Hello everyone!

Weather wise we went from reasonable rain falls back in May/June to a few solid frosts and quite mild temperatures in July and early August. This week bang on Sunday – good rain!

When undertaking your preparation for the upcoming summer it is prudent to assume it will be hot and dry.

You may have heard about the AIDER program (see below) which could be of interest to some of you or someone you know. Of course, if you have any further questions contact the brigade for advice. Give us a call. Not via 000 though.

AIDER program - Need Assistance with Prep for Fire Season?

The RFS' AIDER program is a one-off free service provided to infirm, elderly and disabled persons who live on bush fire prone land, to help them better prepare their properties for bushfire, in conjunction with the development of a bush fire survival plan.

The service may include:

- Thinning vegetation,
- Removing leaves sticks and fallen branches,
- Trimming branches from around and overhanging the home,
- Mowing or slashing long grass,
- Cleaning gutters.

Interested or know someone who may benefit from such a service?

Please call 1300 011 737 to discuss or alternatively, use this [link](#) to complete an online request form.



Winter Training

During the winter months training is generally held the first Tuesday of every 2nd month.

- 7 July - training was focussed on pumps and hose fittings across several of our firefighting trucks,
- 4 August training involved familiarisation with and operations of hydrants and standpipes – focus on safety when setting them.

Training is followed by hearty winter warmers and sweets!

Our next training will be on Tuesday September 1st and all are welcome even if you are just curious to see what we are all about.

Risk Survey

Recently, the NSW RFS Southern Tablelands Zone (STZ) asked each of its brigades to complete a survey covering location, assets including, those within the district, topography, membership, equipment and concerns.

The purpose of the survey is to update STZ's understanding of each brigades' resources, membership, topography and any concerns. The survey responses will, amongst other things, assist the RFS by informing strategic decisions regarding the allocation of resources based on need and risk (oh and funds!).

The Brigade's senior operational leaders as well as the president met to discuss and complete the survey which was submitted on 17 July 2026.

In summary, we reported that we have a strong operational and administrative membership base, a positive and inclusive culture with many new members joining regularly, and our brigade training is regular and well attended.

In terms of brigade resources, while effective we do have an aging vehicle fleet and some trucks have persistent faults, (one vehicle is 30 years old).

Replacement is well overdue but is scheduled.

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.

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!!

The brigades most recent fundraising efforts were as volunteers at the Yarrh Winter Solstice Bonfire held on June 20, where we built and maintained the bonfire and provided volunteer services on the night. In return, Yarrh winery donated half of the proceeds of the event to the brigade. Many thanks to Yarrh for this donation, which is a major source of our brigade income.

We are still setting up and packing down the Murrumbateman markets once a month, including street signage as another fundraising activity. Come and say hello if you see us there!

Regards

Andrew Sage

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Brigade [website](#)

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