

VOL24#04

BUSHFIRE BULLETIN



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Cover photo by Meeka Bailey

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COMMISSIONER'S FOREWORD

As I write this, the first decent storm in a long long time is descending upon Sydney. Hopefully the rain now falling will be sustained and spread to the areas so desperately in need of a good soaking.

The bushfire season so far has been one of the most taxing on record and has seen many previous milestones exceeded. Our firefighters have had to contend with more than thirteen thousand incidents since the beginning of last July and have found, due to the drought conditions, many fires very difficult to contain.

Time and again containment lines have been breached, time and again firefighters have experienced fire behaviour the likes of which they rarely experience.

It is to the everlasting credit of RFS members that despite approx 1.5 million hectares having been burnt, losses have been nowhere near as great as one might have expected given the appalling conditions.

Whilst sadly some eighty-five residential properties have been destroyed, the untiring efforts of all those involved in dealing with this long and difficult season, have been responsible for the saving of many hundreds more homes.

At one stage some thirty-five "out of area" taskforces were deployed throughout the State and the community is indebted to those RFS and other firefighters who spent many long days away from home to protect other communities. Of course those who stayed at home and fought fires locally made an equally critical contribution to the statewide firefighting effort.

On a related note, the very public debate on hazard reduction is being given a high profile. Uninformed commentary might lead witnesses to the debate to believe that RFS management questions the value of hazard reduction by prescribed burning or any other method.

Nothing of course could be further from the truth.

The Rural Fire Service accepts as fundamental, the need to carry out strategic hazard reduction in order to modify fire behaviour to the point where containment as often as possible is achieved relatively quickly.

Nevertheless, the Service also accepts that under certain extreme weather conditions, lighter fuels, a product of hazard reduction or previous wildfire events may still produce fire behaviour characteristics which renders containment very difficult or sometimes, in the short-term, impossible.

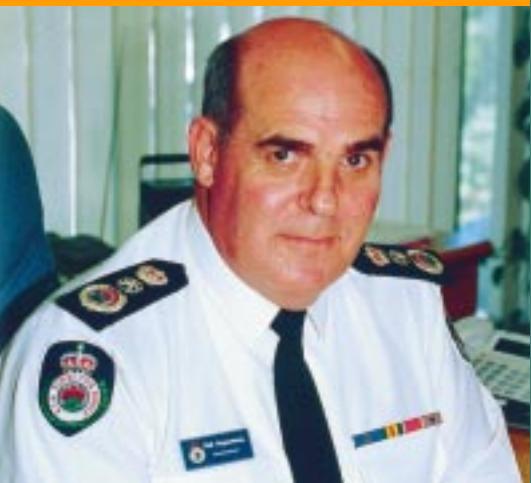
Under the provisions of the new legislation, we will work closely with land management agencies and private property owners alike to ensure that strategic hazard reduction is maximised.

To conclude, and with the fire season having still some time to run, I want to thank all RFS firefighters and staff, and those who supported them in a variety of ways, for their outstanding effort during what continues to be a difficult time.

My appreciation also to the personnel of other agencies including National Parks and Wildlife Service, State Forests, NSW Fire Brigades, State Emergency Service, Police Service and Ambulance Service for their significant contribution so far during this season.



Phil Koperberg





1 GENERAL NEWS



DINGO GATE FLARE-UP



A hot, dry and windy day on 28 November 2002 caused an outbreak of the Tubrabucca/Horse Swamp Complex of fires into the Barrington Tops National Park at the Dingo Gate.

The fire flared up from a smouldering pile of logs from the Tubrabucca/Horse Swamp Complex of fires that was started by lightning on 3 November and was being fought under the Section 44 until shortly before the outbreak.

The fire burned in an easterly direction fanned by strong west-northwesterly winds, and there were fears that it could jump firebreaks after already having jumped the Gloucester Road earlier in the afternoon. It was feared that if the fire reached the escarpment it would burn out a large amount of ground before it could be contained again. Luckily, the wind turned from the southwest late in the afternoon, which stopped embers being blown over the road and considerably slowed the fire.

The fire was further controlled by backburning from containment lines and the fire was mopped up and patrolled for the next couple of days. The forecast change from the southeast arrived near midnight but didn't cause any further spotovers. The fire burned an estimated 900 hectares of bushland during the day. The Tubrabucca/Horse Swamp Complex burned out more than 5,200 hectares of bush since its origin. Brigades attended from Parkville, Willow Tree, Dartbrook, Stewarts Brook, Ellerston and several strikers from the NPWS.

**Photos and story by Tony Hernando,
Parkville Brigade**



BOB CARR VISITS SHANES PARK BRIGADE

On Sunday 13 October 2002, the Honourable Bob Carr MP, Premier of NSW visited members of the Shanes Park Brigade in the Blacktown District when they were training.

According to members at the Brigade's station, Mr Carr walked in off the street, introduced himself and stayed for approximately

20 minutes to discuss volunteer recruitment and the good job that the RFS was doing across the State.

"It was a great morale booster for the Brigade, every one was really stoked," said Captain, Danny Busch.



ALBION PARK



These pictures were taken during a break at the Mount View Fire Cessnock. In the first photo from left to right are; Paul Strik (Deputy Captain Albion Park RFB) Bruce Devine, David Russell-Green & Hugh (Junior) Bedward, Tasmanian Fire Service and Michael Aylward (Albion Park RFB). The second photo was taken at the same location after a southerly breeze came up just goes to prove that the Tassie Fireys couldn't handle a little cold weather. In the photo is David Russell-Green Tasmanian Fire Service. The last photo shows the guys from Tassie doing some backburning at the Mount View Fire. In the photo left to right are Paul Strik, Bruce Devine and Hugh Bedward.

These three firefighters from Tasmania were great to work with. Both Paul and myself would be happy to have these guys with us anytime. We had a great time and in the process forged a good friendship.

Michael Aylward
Albion Park RFS



MAIN ARM BRIGADE PARTIES LIKE IT'S 1942

Main Arm Brigade in the Byron Shire celebrated its 60th anniversary on 30 November 2002 with a member reunion at the Durrumbul Hall with an extraordinary turnout of more than 200 people.

Guests included Federal Member for Richmond, Larry Anthony, State Member for Ballina, Don Page, Byron Mayor, Cr Tom Wilson, RFS Commissioner Phil Koperberg, Assistant Commissioner Rob Rogers, Regional Manager Ian Thomas and North Coast Zone Superintendent, Noel Blizzard.

Commissioner Koperberg presented the Brigade's captain, Ian Scott with a 60 year plaque and thanked the Brigade for its dedication to the community.

Long Service Certificates and Medals were presented to Steven Phelps (15 years), John Vanderbyl (15 years), Captain Ian Scott (15 years), Deputy Captain Bob Graham (25 years), Mick Pike (25 years) and Ben McClymont (50 years, but has actually been a member for 57 years).

While at the reunion, Commissioner Koperberg also presented the Billinudgel Brigade with the keys for their new vehicle.

Story by Zoë Townsend



ILLAWONG OPENS NEW STATION

Illawong Brigade in the Sutherland Shire recently had the official opening of its new fire station on 20 July 2002 by the Honourable Bob Carr MP, Premier of NSW.

The new station cost approximately \$550,000 to design and build and houses the 40 members of the Brigade, their two tankers and personnel carrier vehicle.

The station was designed by the Sutherland Shire Council and members of the Brigade to be one of the most modern stations in NSW.

More than 250 current and past members of the Brigade, local community members and dignitaries attended the opening.

Story by Zoë Townsend



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THE SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL AND YOU – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

What is the Service Delivery Model?

The Service Delivery Model is the system to be used in Rural Fire Districts to plan and resource all of their key activities over a 1 to 3 year outlook.

The Model is an annual process designed to blend the overall Service direction established by Government and senior management with strategies and actions that are appropriate and sensible in the local District environment.

The overall Service Delivery Model process is shown in the following diagram:

Why do we need the Service Delivery Model?

Prior to the employment of District Staff on 1 of July 2001, each Rural Fire District was the responsibility of its Local Council. As a result, there was a wide range of management systems, resource availability and levels of service both to Brigades and the community across the State.

Following that date, the Service has responsibility to provide a State-wide approach in these matters to ensure we manage the whole organisation in a consistent and fair manner. We also need to link a number of previously separate systems to better reflect the new operating environment.

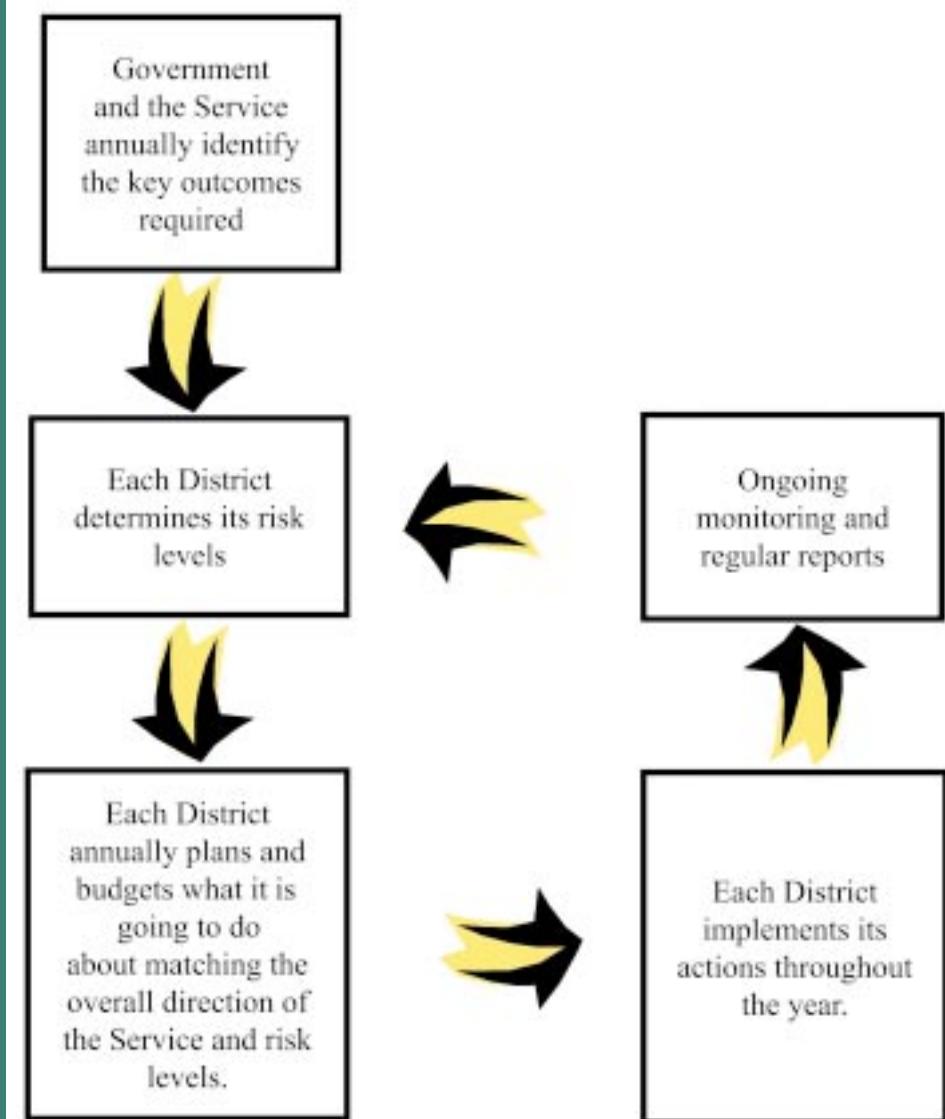
In summary, the Service Delivery Model was developed to:

- > use a consistent approach to enable more equitable budgeting across the State;
- > establish clear priorities and responsibilities to help guide Service activities;
- > implement an effective performance management system;
- > achieve more effective outcomes for Staff, Volunteers and the general community;
- > link a number of currently unrelated processes, thus making the overall task easier, and
- > provide a sound basis for determining service levels to the community.

Will volunteers have the opportunity to be involved?

Yes. The Service Delivery Model is designed to be a participative process involving district staff, volunteers and local council representatives.

A number of volunteers in each District will be asked to participate on the Planning Team. This team will have the responsibility to help undertake the risk evaluation and business planning components of the Service Delivery Model. This will mean that volunteers will have



direct input into the decisions affecting District activities and issues having potential impact on their Brigades.

What does the Service Delivery Model mean to my Brigade and me?

Brigades will be much better informed of and will have input to the issues that directly affect their future. These issues will potentially include areas such as:

- > training and competency levels;
- > brigade stations and equipment;
- > community education initiatives and
- > planning operational service delivery to the community.

Specifically the advantage for brigades will be that volunteers will have:

- > input into the decision-making of the District;
- > a better understanding of the issues

- > influencing the direction of their brigades;
- > an opportunity to exercise or obtain new skills, and
- > consultation regarding the level of service to be provided.

When will the Service Delivery Model process start?

The Service Delivery Model will be an annual process, which will be undertaken between April and September each year.

The first round of the Service Delivery Model has commenced with key staff from all regions and districts having completed a training course in the process. Districts will then start work on their plans in April-May this year ready for completion by the end of September.

PUTTING SPARK BACK INTO THE OLD MAPLE LEAF

Marravale Brigade is restoring the first tanker to be put into service in the Coolamon Shire, a 1947 Chevrolet Maple Leaf.

Coolamon Council bought the Maple Leaf for the Coolamon and Marravale Brigades to share. The decision of which brigade at the time would have the truck for incidents was made with the toss of a coin.

In 2000 when Commissioner Koperberg visited Coolamon and Marrar, Mrs Barbara Carmichael of the Marravale Brigade successfully requested financial assistance of \$6,000 for the restoration of the Maple Leaf to its original condition.

"The Maple Leaf is an important part of the Marravale Brigade's history, which we all wanted to keep and protect for future generations," said Barbara.

Restoration of the vehicle started in June 2001 and is expected to finish in mid-2003.

"It's in pretty good condition, all it needs is a new battery, new spark plugs, the water tanks taken off and a fresh coat of paint."

Once restoration is completed, Marravale Brigade will use the Maple Leaf for parades and special events.

Story by Zoë Townsend



THE BLACKEST CHRISTMAS

Through the blood, sweat and swollen tears,
Against the shade of memories fears,
Uprises a hand to play the game,
To extinguish this furious flame,
Upon the tray of an old red truck,
They ravish through leaves, through water, through muck,
The silent hero's of this December day,
Keeping natures violence at bay,
Their pearl white helmets, the yellow fire suits,
Following the smoke, feeling the heat, with the fire in pursuit,
Time out for a drink and a snack,
Then on their way down that blackened track,
With no time to rest their eye,
The black smoke keeps rising high,
Mixed emotions they all feel,
Not an eye winks, cause it's all too real,
They battle in the fields, battle in there minds,
With no time to clear the lines,
We do it not for money,
Nor for the rush,
Cause at the end of the day,
With a stubby to say,
These people are our true hero's
And the Aussie spirit runs high,
Cause they laugh about near misses,
As they gaze at the smoke blackened sky.





COMMUNITY COMES TO PLUMPTON

About 750 people received FireWise messages at the Plumpton Brigade Open Day on Sunday 29 September 2002.

Visitors were treated to firefighting demonstrations involving cars and structures set alight and extinguished using tankers, hydrants, hoses and extinguishers. Oil trays were set alight to show audiences how different extinguishers are used to put out an oil fire.

Visitors inspected the different appliances and tools used in fighting fires, photos and video of previous fires and enjoyed displays by the NSW Fire Brigades, NSW Police, Blacktown SES and St John first aid volunteers.

"We have already experienced a number of fires locally and around western Sydney so it is vital that people prepare their homes and adopt FireWise attitudes now," Plumpton member Trevor Haskins said.

"The community support for the Open Day was fantastic, it was an opportunity to have fun and meet the local community, while showing people how to prepare for the fire season, exhibit our firefighting skills and encourage them to join their local RFS Brigade".

"The kids enjoyed the day, checking out equipment, watching demonstrations, learning about fire safety and winning prizes. We are hoping to attract cadets as well as

senior volunteers."

Visitor prizes such as Fire Safety Packs, First Aid courses, Sydney Opera House Tour, Sports Bag, 2Day FM pack and Children's Toy Chainsaws were given away.

Dignitaries who attended the day included RFS Commissioner Phil Koperberg, Mr Frank Mossfield, Member for Greenway, The Hon John Aquilina MP, Member for Riverstone, and Mayor of Blacktown Council, Cr Allan Pendleton.

Story by Zoë Townsend



BEGA VALLEY FIRE CONTROL CENTRE

Bega Valley Fire Control Centre has experienced some major changes in July this year with the retirement of Phil Collins as Fire Control Officer after 25 years and the opening of the new Fire Control Centre.

Mr Collins started work as a part-time Fire Control Officer with the Imlay Shire Council in 1975. The position became full-time when the Imlay and Mumbulla Shires amalgamated with the Bega Municipality in 1981 to form the Bega Shire.

Mr Collins said that he approached his job with two different philosophies in mind: "do what you can with what you've got" and "today's problem is tomorrow's history."

He said that he always believed in looking after the volunteers because "if you look after the troops the troops will look after you."

Mr Collins' retirement comes less than a month after the opening of a new \$300,000 Fire Control Centre in Maher Street, Bega.

Bega Valley Shire Council mayor, Cr David Hede, said completion of the building could be largely attributed to Mr Collins' vision and would stand as a lasting reminder of his efforts over a very long period of time.

Praising the efforts of Bega Council in building the new Fire Control Centre, RFS Region South Manager Peter Ryan said that the facility would enable training, an appropriate workplace for staff and, more importantly, a focal point for volunteers to conduct their

business and feel a part of the RFS.

"It will also be wonderful asset for the Bega Valley community and will meet the needs of the Shire for many years to come."

Story by Zoë Townsend

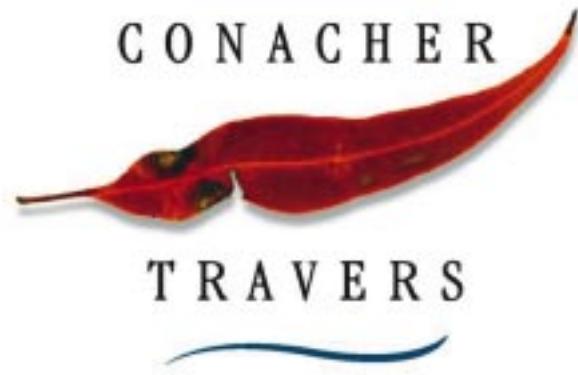


ENGADINE PHOTO



This picture was taken at the last fire threat at Engadine where fire threatened a number of houses. This picture was taken at about 1800hrs where the front came over the ridge and threatened houses and we could only conduct fire protection. The member in the frame is from Shoalhaven District. The flame height can be measured from the clothes line on the bottom left side and the distance from flame was about 40 metres.

Photo by Troy Cashen



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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN STYLE

The Kurrajong Heights Rural Fire Brigade celebrated its 50th anniversary on 7 May 2002 at Loxley on Bellbird Hill.

Two of the original members from the meeting on 7 May 1952 attended, Arthur Poole and his wife Aileen, who also celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 9 May 2002 and Max Dunstan and his wife Val.

The first meeting was held at the home of Len Brocks, who was voted the first captain, his daughter Di Knol and her husband Ron represented him. The second captain of the Brigade, Phil Peck and his wife Ellenna, also attended.

Other special guests were: Commissioner Phil Koperberg; Chief Superintendent Bruce Holz, Regional Manager, Region East; Kerry Bartlett MP, Member for Macquarie; Superintendent Karen Hodges, (Hawkesbury Fire Control Officer); Inspector Max Ryan, (Acting Deputy Fire Control

Officer for Hawkesbury) and his wife Jenny, (Hawkesbury District Administration Officer) and Eleanor Simpson, District Administration Officer.

Community members who have been long-time supporters of the Brigade and the Brigade members, led by Captain Brian Williams, were also invited to the dinner.

Commissioner Koperberg presented Captain Brian Williams with a plaque to commemorate the occasion.

A great night was had by all – a beautiful four course meal was provided by Paul and Jenny from Loxley on Bellbird Hill – and all the proceeds from the evening were donated to the Kurrajong Heights Rural Fire Brigade. Many local suppliers donated their goods for the evening and the staff and Loxley on Bellbird Hill donated their services.

It was a night to remember, catching up with the earlier members of the Brigade and sharing experiences.

Paul and Jenny at Loxley on Bellbird Hill certainly provided a meal to make up for the Christmas Day and New Year's Eve festivities that many of the members missed.

Story by Zoë Townsend



BRIGADE MANAGEMENT PLANNING GUIDELINES RELEASED

As many Brigade officers will know, the time, effort and skills required to manage a brigade is almost akin to running a small business. Some of the activities that need to be considered by Brigade officers and other senior volunteers include:

- Member recruitment and retention
- Fund raising and financial management
- Vehicle and equipment maintenance
- Operational management and call-out procedures
- Development and implementation of hazard reduction programs
- Community education programs
- Station fit-out and maintenance
- Conducting brigade meetings

To assist brigades with planning these activities, a guideline detailing the Brigade Management Planning process has been released for use by brigades should they choose to do so. This approach to planning follows the successful implementation of the Service Delivery Model (SDM) process into the Districts, and is designed to continue to improve the Service's management and operations.

Brigade Management Planning will both assist the individual Brigade, as well as helping to provide an input to the District SDM planning process.

The Brigade Management Planning Guidelines are designed to lead the users through a series of questions in order for the Brigade to self assess:

- The demands placed on the Brigade by Community expectations, Service requirements and Brigade arrangement
- The capacity of the Brigade to meet those demands placed on it
- Any gaps that may exist between the demands placed on the Brigade and its capacity to address those demands, and to prioritise those gaps

Main stages of Brigade Management Planning

1. Demands

Identify the demands on the Brigade caused by community risks, Service requirements and the Brigade's own arrangements



2. Capacity

Evaluate the Brigade's current capacity to meet the demands

The result of this assessment is then to allow the Brigade to develop a structured plan of actions to address those gaps identified as prioritised. The completed Brigade Management will clearly identify the actions required, persons responsible for their completion and the due dates of those activities.

The Brigade Management Planning process is, of course, not compulsory for Brigades, but is designed assist brigade senior officers and executive members to better deal with the ever more complex process of running a Brigade and to allow them to focus more clearly on those activities that need to be done. The process is not intended to be a one-off, cover-all process, as it is intended to be part of an ongoing management cycle.

Experience from a number of Brigades who have piloted the process is that it takes approximately 6 to 8 hours to complete. It is recommended that this time be spaced over 2 to 3 meetings. Annual reviews of the plan will be much shorter and can probably done in half this time.

The Brigade Management Planning Guidelines can be obtained by downloading a copy from the Service's website, www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or by contacting your District Fire Control Centre. Telephone enquiries can be directed to Peter Marshall (02) 9684 4411.

WORKING FOR THE DOLE WITH WYONG DISTRICT

Deputy Fire Control Officer, Shane Geerin of the Wyong Rural Fire District has been presented with a Federal Government award for his coordination of the Wyong District's sponsorship of the Workwise, Work for the Dole project.

Wyong District's Bushland Fire Prevention was one of only nine projects chosen in Australia as a finalist in the environment section of the Australian Achievement Awards for Workwise, Work for the Dole projects in 2001.

The project included constructing firebreaks in areas identified as potentially hazardous, and maintaining and constructing firetrails in strategic locations.

Participants gained skills in land care, bushfire retardation, the use of hand and power tools, tractor driving, machinery maintenance, and working as part of a team.

Wyong District has sponsored three six-

month projects, with twelve participants each working seven and a half hours per day, twice per week. Since the start of the first project, 18 months ago, more than 57km of fire containment lines have been constructed and maintained around Wyong.

Four participants in the projects have joined brigades in the Wyong District.

Story by Zoë Townsend



TIP FIRE DURING TOTAL FIRE BAN

Members of the Hill End Voluntary Bushfire Brigade were called to a fire at the Hill End Waste Disposal Area on Sunday 3 November 2002. The rubbish trench was well alight when the Brigade arrived. It was decided to contain the fire in the trench as it would have taken more than the available water to extinguish it.

Due to the weather conditions (very hot with a gusting NNW wind) Hill End Brigade Captain Robert Anderson called for assistance from Evans Fire Control at Oberon. Brigades from Sallys Flat, Turondale and Evans Headquarters were dispatched to Hill End.

"If this fire had of gotten out of control and spread to the surrounding Hill End and Tambaroora Common area it would have been very difficult to contain" said Anderson.

After several hours monitoring the fire a bulldozer was used to partially fill the trench and smother the fire. "We felt that the best way to handle the situation was to extinguish the fire, otherwise it could have smouldered for days" said Deputy Captain Robert Auld.

Once the dozer had completed its work, and the danger of the fire escaping had passed,

all brigades were stood down and returned to their respective stations. "We really appreciate the support of the other brigades, it was touch and go there for awhile" said Auld.

The cause of the fire is not known.

Story by Zoë Townsend



LARKHAM AND ORRCON, STEEL AND TUBE DIRECT SUPPORT RFS

V8 Touring car driver Mark Larkham and his sponsor Orrcon, Steel and Tube Direct recently supported the NSW Rural Fire Service at the Ag Quip Agricultural Field Days. Mark's racing car was on display along with a touring car simulator. A gold coin donation was required to drive the simulator with all proceeds being donated to the RFS. Orrcon, Steel and Tube Direct matched dollar for dollar all money raised and presented the proceeds at the opening of their new branch at Glendenning, NSW.

The money will be spent on purchasing GPSs for the Curlewis and Tambar Springs Brigades (Gunnedah RFD) new Category 1 tankers. Both Brigades worked tirelessly at Ag Quip to setup and staff the display.

Mark assisted in the ongoing fire simulations by demonstrating to the crowd how to safely extinguish a stove and fuel fire using a fire blanket and extinguisher.

Region North would like to thank Mark and Orrcon, for their support and wish them all the best for the 2003 V8 Touring car campaign.

Volunteers and firetruck – Mark Larkham (centre), Ian Thomas Regional Manager (third from left), the Orrcon, and RFS Ag Quip teams.

Mark and fire blanket – Mark Larkham being briefed prior to display by James Kirby on the safe use of a fire blanket



ABERNETHY BLAZE

At first the rising, blackening smoke tells something of the tale,
The hourly news gives more away, the engine sirens wail.
From many differing backgrounds, firefighters take a stand,
So hard to breathe, it's too damn hot, one thought
– save what you can.

The dangerous plundering fire, unwearied, surges on,
All in its path is trampled down, in moments all is gone.
Sorrowing, fearful, bravely, they return to see what's left,
A disastrous day with so much loss and sooty tears are wept.
I cannot see the path now, across the open park,
Standing still upon the deck to await the gathering dark.
The sturdy hills are shrouded now in drifting, bushfire smoke,
Settling across the valleys like a dusty evening cloak.
Look up now to the night sky moon, two days on from then,
To hear a lonesome bird call out, "in time life stirs again".

anon



ENGADINE (MOUNT CARMEL FIRE)

At about 2pm on Tuesday 8 October, a hot and windy day with relative humidity of about five percent, a fire started at the Woronora River Gully where Sydney Water maintenance workers were repairing a leaking pipeline.

A Coronial Inquiry found that the fire was ignited by sparks from the workers' powertools and quickly spread from the pipeline up to houses in Thurlgoona Road, Engadine.

The call for the fire came to the Sutherland Fire Control Centre at approximately 2.05pm and within minutes a Category 1 tanker had been despatched to the area.

The severity of the situation was made clear as soon as the first crew arrived about five minutes later, and additional resources were called upon. The RFS provided 140 personnel with 17 tankers, two pumper, one helicopter and one boat. NSW Fire Brigades provided 80 personnel and 13 tankers; National Parks and Wildlife Service provided 20 personnel and one helicopter.

Despite the great number of personnel working at the scene, the fire moved quickly to destroy the first house at approximately 2.17pm and at 2.35pm many houses had been destroyed.

<i>All communications to be addressed to:</i>	
Head Office	Head Office
NSW Rural Fire Service	NSW Rural Fire Service
Locked Mail Bag 17	Unit 3, 175-179 James Ruse Drive
Granville NSW 2142	Rosehill NSW 2142
Telephone: (02) 9684 4411	Faximile: (02) 9638 7956

7 November 2002



AN OPEN LETTER TO NSW EMPLOYERS

Dear Employer

New South Wales has entered an early bush fire season, which is being exacerbated by extremely low levels of rainfall, dry winds and high temperatures.

Throughout the year the NSW Rural Fire Service volunteers carry out firefighting operations to protect the community and this year is no exception. Indeed our volunteers have been fighting significant bushfires since early July. Not only are they dealing with fires in the own areas, but they are being drawn from across the State to travel to major fire areas as part of task forces to relieve and bolster local crews.

Employers who support our volunteers make an invaluable and very direct contribution to the firefighting effort in NSW.

I ask for your ongoing support for our volunteers, and extend my personal gratitude to those of you who are already making your employees available to fight fires to protect our community and environment from the threat of bushfires.

Where possible, please take time to discuss possible leave arrangements with your employees who are members of the NSW RFS or the other volunteer emergency services who continue to work with us in the firefighting effort.

If you are one of those employers who grant their staff special leave that doesn't reduce their entitlements while they fight fires, we say a special thank you for generous support.

If you require any further information about the NSW RFS or how to protect your own workplace and home from bushfires please contact your local RFS Fire Control Centre or visit our website at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Phil Koperberg
Commissioner



"It was quick and intense. The fire started just 200 metres away, and within five minutes it was impacting on the homes, said Martin Kiellor, from Sutherland Fire Control Centre.

Fifty-two hectares of Sydney Water land and private property were affected by the fire, including ten houses and seven damaged houses. Two hundred people were forced to evacuate.

Sydney Water has accepted responsibility for the ignition of the fire and is preparing to compensate the families who lost their homes.

Story by Zoë Townsend



ERICKSON AIR-CRANE EXPOSE

The Corporate Communications team caught up with some of the crewmembers working with the Erickson Air-Crane Incredible Hulk on Thursday 31 October at Bankstown Airport. The crew talked about their jobs on the Air-Crane.

Air-Crane Pilot, Luca Marziale

39 years Married, no children,
two Jack Russells

Erickson Air-Crane Crew Chief, Troy Niemeyer

32 years, married, one daughter, Chloe and
another due in January next year

Air Attack Supervisor, Michael Fitzgerald

44 years, married with two children,
18 and 16 years old

What is your role with the Erickson Air-Cranes?

Troy

I make certain that the helitankers fly safely by doing all the maintenance, ranging from minor maintenance to major component changes such as engine changes. All parts of the Air-Cranes have scheduled removal times, which can vary according to use.

Luca

I am one of the pilots, at the moment I'm responsible for flying the "Incredible Hulk".

Michael

As an air attack supervisor, I determine safe and effective operational strategies for the Air-Cranes. When the call comes for an Air-Crane, I fly out in an air attack aircraft to get instructions from the Incident Controller and then look for hazards and water points. I give this information back to the pilots for them to use in waterbombing. As an air attack supervisor, I am responsible for the safety of the Air-Cranes and have the authority to call off an operation if there is any threat to safety of the Air-Cranes or the ground crews.

What is the most interesting part of the job?

Troy

While working with Erickson I have travelled to Malaysia, Japan, Singapore, Italy, Greece and now Australia. I was really looking forward to coming down here!



Luca

I work closely with other people in this job because we spend a lot of time on stand-by and wait for the calls to come through. There isn't much chance to meet other people outside our team because we have to stay within 15 minutes of the Air-Cranes at all times. It can actually be a bit isolating.

Michael

I love the complexity of the job and the huge adrenalin rush that I get when we go to an operation. I get great satisfaction out of the debrief with my colleagues after a complex and successful mission.

What do you hate about the job?

Troy

I hate it when we have to do late night maintenance till about 4am to get the helitanker operational for the next day.

Luca

I hate it when I don't fly. I hate sitting around on stand-by, it can be so boring. Also, we work three weeks on, three weeks off. It can be

hard for a relationship, you really need a special wife when you do this kind of job.

Michael

Trying to balance this job with my normal job as a project manager for a construction company can be difficult. It's also hard being away from my wife and children.

How long have you been working with the Air-Cranes?

Troy

I've been working with the Erickson Air-Cranes for nine years, and they still impress me.

Luca

I've been working for Erickson for one year and have been a pilot for 12 years.

Michael

I've been working in air attack for 16 years and with the Air-Cranes for four years.



What does your typical day consist of?

Troy

We generally work from 8am 'til 6pm, or from sun up 'til sun down. But, we often have to work during the night to get the Air-Cranes ready for work the next day if they require urgent maintenance. My typical day consists of pre-flight maintenance, having a coffee, checking my emails and then waiting on stand-by.

Luca

My day is like Troy's, but I always pack an overnight bag because I never know where I'm going to be sent or how long I'll be there.

Michael

I spend the day on stand-by, waiting for the call to come through. Working in this job, like most emergency services, you really have to have a "hurry-up and wait" attitude when all of a sudden anything could happen. We spend our days like a coiled spring, trained and skilled and ready to go.

Story by Zoë Townsend



From left: Michael, Luca and Troy.



BEWARE THE ENERGY DRINK!

Some firefighters may have been tempted recently by the popular nightclub fad of drinking energy drinks, while on duty.

This poses a major threat to health and safety as energy drinks cause over-stimulation and increased dehydration, which can be particularly dangerous on the fireground.

The effects of heat on the body can be devastating due to the increased demand placed on the heart and the body's cooling mechanisms.

If heat is not allowed to dissipate from the body, severe health problems may occur. Heat-related conditions range through the following:

- > Heat rash
- > Heat cramps
- > Heat exhaustion
- > Heat stroke

One of the best ways to prevent heat-related conditions is by keeping hydrated before, during and after firefighting activities.

The preferred way of hydrating Service personnel is through the intake of plain or lightly flavoured water. Fruit juices and sport drinks may be appropriate in moderation when drunk alternatively with water.

Energy drinks are quite different to sports drinks and are definitely not endorsed as fluid replacement due to their high sugar and caffeine content.

Caffeine is of particular concern because it can cause nervousness, headaches and increased heart rates. Caffeine also speeds up fluid loss, thereby depleting the body's ability to remain hydrated.

Story by Zoë Townsend





SINGAPORE CIVIL DEFENCE FORCE

Two officers from the Singapore Civil Defence Force visited the RFS on an education exchange program in November 2002.

Warrant Officer Mohammad Azlan Bin Slamat (Azlan) and Staff Sergeant Shamsulbahari Bin Kamaluddin (Shamsul) arrived in Sydney on 10 November 2002. The next day they were assessed on their Basic Firefighter qualifications and within a couple of hours had been deployed, to Task Force 61B at the Bala Range Fire in the Singleton District.

Travelling up and down the coast and over the Blue Mountains, Azlan and Shamsul visited Fire Control Centres at Wyong, Gosford, Campbelltown, Katoomba, and Wollongong.

While backburning along the Putty Road Azlan and Shamsul encountered many forms of Australian wildlife including Black Snakes, and also witnessed flames heights in excess of 80 feet, something that is not witnessed in Singapore.

Azlan and Shamsul spoke with RFS volunteers and staff alike, to exchange ideas on how the different fire combat agencies operate and in particular they learnt about the Incident Control System and how it relates to the RFS.

The exchange program was negotiated in 2000 between the RFS and the Singapore Civil Defence Force where two officers from each agency would be hosted for three weeks by the other agency.

The purpose of the exchange is to learn from each other's agency by exchanging ideas on equipment, conducting training, enhancing cultural views and ultimately relating the experience back to their own agency.

In June 2002 John Parker from Oxley Zone and Kevin Adams from Murrumbidgee District represented the RFS in Singapore.



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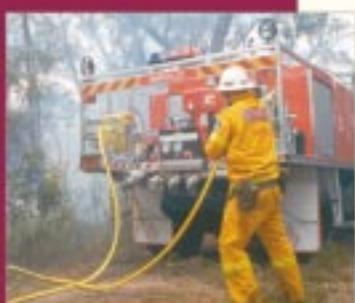
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CALL OUT PROCEDURES FOR FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

THE FOLLOWING OUTLINES THE PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW FOR THE RESPONSE OF A FIRE INVESTIGATION TEAM TO AN INCIDENT.

Procedures

> The Senior Officer at the fire scene will consider the cause in the first instance. Should this not be immediately apparent he/she should contact his/her District Fire Control Officer for advice.

> An investigation will take place:

- Where a fire incident has caused the death or serious injury to a firefighter or any member of the public. (In these circumstances the Manager Fire Investigation may attend to oversee/provide assistance).

- Where a fire has caused significant damage to, or destruction of any fire appliance, property, stock, produce or crop of another party in excess of \$100,000.

- Where a bush fire results in the declaration of a Section 44 appointment

- Where the probable cause of the fire was by deliberate ignition – particularly if it is apparently one of a series of deliberately lit fires in a particular location

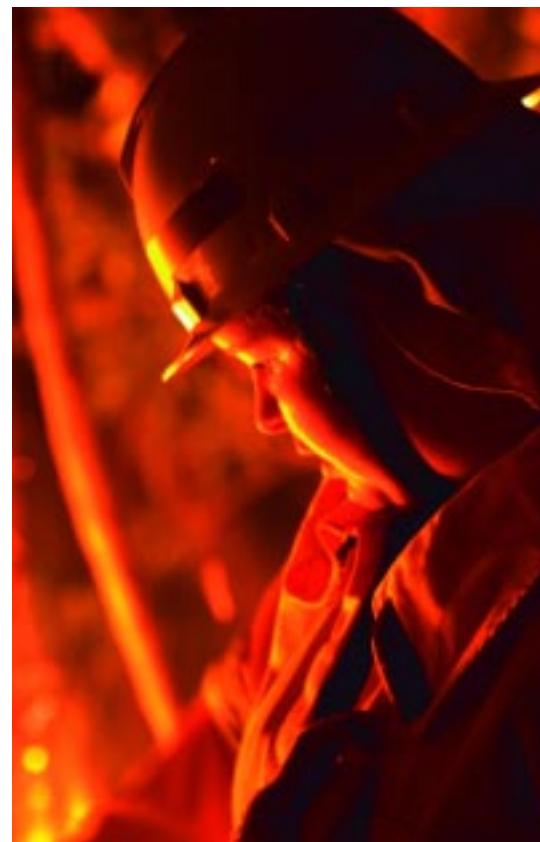
- Where the incident is of media or public interest

- Other circumstances on the direction of the Commissioner

> The Fire Control Officer / Zone Manager may contact local Fire Investigation personnel direct if available. If local personnel are not available or it is considered inappropriate for them to attend, Districts are to complete a Fire Investigation Request

Form (Form FI-10) and forward to State Operations to request a Regional Investigation Team attend the incident.

- > Note: Any fire requiring an investigation must be reported to State Operations as a "Notifiable Incident".
- > The State Operations Centre will contact the relevant Regional Duty Officer to request a Fire Investigation Team to respond to the incident.
- > The Regional Duty Officer will contact the Fire Investigation Team within the Region to undertake an investigation subject to the existing priorities of their District. The investigator should arrive on the scene as soon as possible to avoid loss of evidence through firefighting efforts, weather conditions or tampering of the fire scene.
- > The Commissioner may direct the Manager Fire Investigation to attend the scene of a major incident with the Regional Investigation Team.
- > Fire Investigation costs on behalf of other agencies will be met by these agencies.





CHECKLIST FOR FIRE INVESTIGATION

DOES THE FIRE INVOLVE:

- > **Death or serious injury to a firefighter or any member of the public**
- > **Significant damage to, or destruction of a any property that exceeds \$100,000**
- > **Incident is likely to be of media or public interest**
- > **The declaration of a Section 44 appointment**
- > **Suspected / deliberate ignition – particularly if it is apparently one of a series of suspect/deliberately lit fires in a particular location**
- > **The identity of the suspect is known**



Incident Controller advises the FCO that incident falls within the above criteria.

FCO contacts State Ops to have the Regional Duty Officer paged.

Regional Duty Officer activates Regional Fire Investigation Team to respond.

Incident must be reported as a “Notifiable Incident”

(Districts may use local investigators directly if available but must advise the Regional Duty Officer).



If any information is available relating to the cause of the fire, the Senior Officer on the fireground provides this to their Fire Control Officer



STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2002

The success of the 2002 State Championships has, unfortunately, been marred by a significant error in the computerised tallying of results for the overall place getters.

After numerous questions about the scoring for first second and third positions overall, an immediate recount for results was ordered by the Organising Committee Chairman, Russell Taylor.

As a result of the recount, all results pertaining to the junior competition and senior events were confirmed as valid and stand, however the computerised tallied results for the overall championships produced a completely randomised result.

The 2002 State Championship winners should read as follows:

Forbes Central, First Place

Oakville, Second Place

Eulomogo, Third Place

The sincere apologies of the Organising Committee go to all teams affected by the error and they can be assured that procedures will be in place next year to ensure there is no repeat of the problem. The winning teams will be invited to a special presentation evening in the near future in which time prizes and trophies will be awarded.

The Commissioner joins the Chairman in congratulating all teams for their achievements at the State Championships and encouraging full participation in next year's event to be held in Tamworth.

REGION NORTH PRIMEX AND AG-QUIP FIELD DAYS DISPLAY

Region North has held Community Education displays at Primex (Casino) and Ag-Quip (Gunnedah), supported with an active fire demonstration held every hour during the busy periods of the day. During both field days a stove top fire was used to demonstrate the safe use of a fire blanket, and a fuel tray for the safe use of an extinguisher. These active demonstrations attracted large crowds and many enquiries on how to prepare their own home.

Additionally, at Primex a five person fog attack demonstrated throughout bringing a increased level of public interest and feedback on the Service's roles. A new Category 1 Tanker was displayed alongside a 1929 Dennis, the Dennis was very popular with the kids (big and small).

At Ag-Quip the display was focused on new appliances with a Category 1, Category 7 and developmental Category 9 tanker on site. In addition a Bambi Bucket, Foam Trailer and Bouywall were setup to simulate an air base alongside some air attack photos from the Christmas 2001 fires. The Bambi bucket drew a large amount of attention, as most people had never had the opportunity to see one up close.

Special thanks to Quell (Lismore) and Firetalk (Tamworth) for donating the fire blankets and extinguishers used during the demonstrations. Thanks also to Wyong RFD for lending us the bucket and Lismore Rural Fire District for placing the 1928 Dennis on display.



Five man fog 2 – The Five Man Fog attack demonstration at Primex.



Primex crew; The Primex 'crew' who manned the site and undertook the fire demonstrations



Stove fire and fire blanket – Demonstrating the safe use of a fire blanket at Ag-Quip.

REPORT ON BUSH FIREWISE STREET MEETINGS 2ND AND 3RD NOVEMBER 2002

Background:

Due to the nature of the pending fire season the Commissioner called a meeting of Fire Control Officers from the Sydney Basin, Wollongong, Gosford and Wyong Districts on Tuesday 15 October 2002. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain the co-operation of the stated Fire Control Officers in holding Street Meetings across their Rural Fire Districts on the weekend of 2 and 3 November 2002.

The Bush FireWise Street Meetings were held to encourage extreme or major risk communities to take responsibility for their own fire safety, with the main function being preparing their properties.

All districts represented at the briefing committed to undertake the campaign.

The Districts/Zones involved in the event were:

- Baulkham Hills
- Blacktown/Penrith/Fairfield
- Blue Mountains
- Campbelltown
- Camden
- Gosford
- Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai
- Liverpool
- Sutherland
- Warringah/Pittwater
- Wollongong
- Wyong





Report:

The following table was compiled using reports received from the Districts/Zones involved in the Bush FireWise Street Meetings on 2nd and 3rd November 2002.

Further information can be found in those reports.

District/Zone	Number of meetings	Number of residents in attendance
Baulkham Hills	17	700+
Blacktown/Penrith/Fairfield	13	103
Blue Mountains	n/a	n/a
Campbelltown	n/a	n/a
Camden	3	2
Gosford	n/a	n/a
Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai	40	2160
Liverpool	door knocks	40-60% face to face contact
Sutherland	21	500+
Warringah/Pittwater	24	943
Wollongong	15	600+
Wyong	n/a	n/a

The following Districts/Zones did not participate in the planned event due to Section 44 declarations:

Blue Mountains
Campbelltown
Gosford
Wyong

The most commonly asked questions and/or concerns were:

in Baulkham Hills:-

- > What can I do with land owned by council?
- > No burn done?
- > Is burning the only way?
- > Where do I get permission to remove trees?
- > Where do I get permission to under scrub?
- > How do I get a permit to burn?
- > How do I get my neighbour to clean up?
- > How often should burn offs be done?
- > Can brigades come and do the work?
- > Do sprinklers help?
- > Do plants help?

in Blacktown/Penrith/Fairfield:-

- > How do we minimise impact?
- > Should we stay at home or evacuate?
- > Lack of hazard reduction in National Parks that border homes.

in Camden:-

- > What do I need to do?
- > What resources are available to me?
- > Who do I call for help?
- > Who do I call for more information?

in Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai:-

- > nil

in Liverpool:-

- > Why can't I burn off whenever I feel like it?
- > If not, why can't the fire brigade do it for me?

in Sutherland:-

- > When was the last hazard reduction done here?
- > Who is responsible for the land behind my place?

in Warringah/Pittwater:-

- > If I am prepared can the Police forcefully evacuate me?
- > Are trees in the yard a fire hazard?
- > What equipment can I purchase to help protect my property and where can I purchase it?
- > What can I do when I experience a loss in water pressure?
- > Can the RFS do more hazard reduction?
- > Not enough hazard reductions.

in Wollongong:-

- > How do I get Council to clean up the reserve at the back of my place?
- > What is a safe house and yard?
- > What species of trees are bush fire resistant?
- > How do I get permission to remove trees from my land?
- > How do I get permission to remove vegetation from the back of my property?
- > Lack of action by council and other land managers in relation to hazard reduction.
- > Lack of action in the serving of Section 66 notices.

The Section now holds copies of individual reports. The campaign, though not taken up by all districts was nevertheless successful and continues in some districts.

Recommendations:

That the report be brought to the attention of the Commissioner and the Corporate Executive Group.

That the campaign be encouraged to continue statewide.

That the campaign be used again when the season requires it or in particular districts rather than as an annual event on a particular date.

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CHAPLAIN GETS THE CHOP

Ron Anderson, Senior Chaplain for the RFS, had his head shaved with an axe for Bluey Day 2002. Operations Officer Ian Stewart from Region West shaved Ron's head with one of the racing axes that he uses in woodchop competitions.

When asked why he wanted to take part in the day, Ron Anderson said, "I just wanted to raise as much money as I could for the kids, they are such an inspiration to me."

"The RFS is like a huge family, we care for each other and at times, some of our kids have been in this situation in hospitals."

Having all of your hair shaved off can be quite a spectacle, let alone if it's cut off with an axe, but Ron Anderson claims that it was nothing special.

"I'm just a normal participant, we are all doing the same thing, I just did it a bit differently," he said.

"I think that Ian was more nervous than I was, he had to shave my head, all I had to do was sit there," said Ron.

Ian saw things a little differently, "Competing in the Royal Easter Show woodchop was a snack compared to shaving Ron's head in public. I was nervous, it's not the sort of thing that I'd like to do for a living."

Bluey Day 2002, where members of emergency services shave their heads for charity, was a great success with more than \$200,000 raised between the services for the Childrens Hospitals in Westmead and Randwick.

This year the RFS made up more than a third of the participants from emergency service agencies including: NSW Police, SES, NSWFB, NSW RFS, Ambos, Customs, Australian Federal Police, Defence Force Police and Corrective Services.

Fifty men and four women represented the RFS and almost all participants were volunteers with the exception of Ron Anderson and Paul Norton, Deputy Fire Control Officer at Coffs Harbour.

This was the 7th annual Bluey Day with the State Head Shave held at Rosehill Racecourse on Saturday 10 August and other head shaves were held across the State where people gathered to support and cheer the participants.

"We had a very successful Bluey Day this year and I hope that even more people from the RFS will take part next year," said Mark Fullagar, State Coordinator for Bluey Day.

The average amount of money raised by RFS participants is \$1,500, although some participants have raised more than \$10,000 and the greatest amount ever occurred two years ago when a female police officer with exceptionally long hair raised more than \$54,000.

Fundraising is achieved by donations, sponsorship and barbeques. Some participants have successfully run donation stalls at markets and one participant raffled her hair off between two pubs. The publican whose pub raised the most money had the honour of shaving off her hair.



This year two visitors from overseas participated. Corporal Jason Kandtson of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and Lieutenant John McArdle from the New York Police Department who was part of the Ground Zero task force both came out a week beforehand and promoted themselves at the hospitals to raise funds.

Taina Dean organised a family day with an auction, raffle and a local band at the Katoomba RSL for her Bluey Day.

"The funniest thing about the day was when the little children watching came up to me during the shave and tried to put my hair back on," said Taina.

"To anyone participating next year, I would recommend that you start fundraising and planning at least three months in advance and team up with other people in your area."

Coffs Harbour was one of the Fire Control Centres that put in a fantastic team effort for Bluey Day. Thirteen people including the Deputy Fire Control Officer, Paul Norton, and another seven people supporting them, raised \$7,045.22.

"Everyone jumped in and got involved. We held the group shave at the local Bunnings Warehouse and had fairy floss, jumping castles, a wishing well, merchandise, a jellybean guessing competition, a barbeque and cake stall, an auction and an RFS community education trailer," said Belinda Norton of Coffs Harbour FCC.

"I was shocked when I got my head shaved, the men picked me up and shaved me right there on the spot."

Story by Zoë Townsend





INTERAGENCY COOPERATION – THE BEST YET

Ten years ago the greatest complaint from volunteers was the lack of cooperation and respect from other fire authorities. And, the greatest complaint from other fire authorities was the lack of cooperation and respect from the Rural Fire Service.

The lack of appreciation for the other sides' professionalism and respect for their point of view manifested itself in anger, confrontation and sometimes blows. This behaviour simply masked the fear and closely guarded territorialism that existed on all sides, which had grown out of ignorance. Since the introduction of the district committees, the *Rural Fires Act*, ICS and the involvement of volunteers at all levels of cooperative fire fighting, particularly on the Fire Services Joint Standing Committee (FSJSC), the barriers have been falling.

The reason for this is that we, the fire authorities and the practitioners, are talking and listening to one another, be it on the various committees or working together under the Incident Control System which removes rank and agency from the equation. This recent bout of fires has seen unprecedented cooperation from all on the fireground and within the IMT, with volunteers taking on the role of Operations Officers and FCOs and Fire Brigade Commanders working for them, NPWS personnel acting as Sector and Divisional Commanders while RFS volunteers operate under them and similar interagency cooperation at a State level.

This is not to say that there are no longer any issues to overcome, but we are streets ahead of ten years ago. It was interesting to note that at a recent meeting of the FSJSC all members agreed that the sentiments I have expressed in this article are true. You, the members of the RFSA, are to be congratulated for fostering and encouraging this sensible approach to firefighting.

A VOLUNTEER'S VIEW

The issue of volunteers being available and not being deployed has been a topic of discussion at a number of the places I've worked recently – clearly not the case in many of the rural areas.

It is a long-standing issue; volunteers are available – but not being mobilised for a variety of reasons. Obviously some districts are keen to keep their resources local, rather than send them too far a field. Even in my own situation, I've had to work to show the district can do without me – I'm in doubt that my time has been better utilised during the latest incidents elsewhere, from a the strategic view point, than it would have done locally.

Many local volunteers are asking why they are not being used elsewhere. In years gone by many of these people have spent long periods of time away. Despite the recent busy times I have done less than I have in the past. Obviously some local politics may be having an effect.

If the volunteers are being kept in reserve, locally or otherwise, there maybe some merit in advising the reasons why.

A factor that may be exaggerating the situation is the perception by volunteers that there are many fires burning around the state. The message from the media is there are lots of fires out there – this if reflected in the messages from the RFS media. The reality is there may be many fires, but only a small number are "going" – the majority are in patrol or similar status. The NPWS web site is always a good place to get a true handle on what is actually going – they show their fires in categories and it is more apparent which fires would require significant resources.

I realise the media has a role to demonstrate the magnitude of the tasks. If someone analysed the information, we may be found wanting, for example if there are 55 fires burning across the state and we have 1000 firefighters on the job – that is not very many firefighters if they were equally distributed.

The involvement of interstaters further complicates the issue. The volunteers have difficulty understanding why these people are needed when they (the volunteers) are available.

Locally, I have started working a list of personnel who can do jobs other than firefighting. This way we may find opportunities for others to go away. In the short to mid term I'm looking to have small teams of 3-5 people who can fulfil Incident Management Team functions, eg Ops group. This will also help to mentor new people into the job.

Another option is to move one or possibly two crews into an area that has been very busy. At a recent incident the district had the hardware, but crewing the appliances was difficult. With a couple of small out of area crews, maybe teamed with one local, they could have crewed a couple of appliances. An immediate outcome would have been keeping small fires small.

Some of the other issues that need to follow through include – the old story of get there and nothing to do and or poor organisation. There is a real need for the tasking of out of area resources to be clearly defined at the time of the request, meaning days, not hours. We all know the crews do not like being stuffed around. Apart from up front solutions, a step in the right direction is to debrief the people before they go so they are given the opportunity to have their say – then it does not build up, and is kept in some proportion relative to the actual size of the problem!

These are issues that need to be addressed by the RFSA Executive and Council.

Contact

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Editorial Note: Comment in this section is provided by the RFSA. The views expressed are not necessarily the views held, expressed or endorsed by the NSW Rural Fire Service.

2003 COMMUNITY EDUCATION CONFERENCE



It has long been known that the two core roles of a fire service are to put out fires and to prevent them in the first place. Strangely though, over many years these two roles have gradually grown apart. The 2003 Community Education Conference answers a cry from you; it's front line team, to focus on the need to bring the two roles back together, because they are in effect closely linked. If we can work to prevent fires, we can then reduce the impact they have on our community and therefore make it a safer place. That's what it is all about!

During the 2002 fires Rural Fire Districts were seen setting up street and community meetings along with station open days in an effort to take the programs that you helped to develop out to the people of New South Wales. This is a wonderful example of what we have managed to achieve at previous conferences. Now we need to shift our focus from sending the message not only to the public but also to rest of the Service.

Following the core theme of operations, this year we will focus on the role of Community Education in fire planning, preparation, response and recovery with specific emphasis on what Community Education can do to assist out in the field.

Over the past three years we have workshopped programs to help us take the fire safety message to the public, but now it's time to bring the message home. How can Community Education help us in planning and preparing for the next "big one"? How can front line firefighters use Community Education to reduce the amount of property damaged during a fire? Can one pamphlet really save a row of houses from becoming ashes? What else needs to be done to ensure the safety of our communities?

To be held in the beautiful town of Orange, we will be workshopping ideas and planning for not only our next fire season, but for decades to come.

Don't miss this exciting adventure. Not only will you be part of history, but part of the broader Community Education journey. The 2003 conference promises to be better than ever. Don't miss out!

Numbers are limited so be quick to book your place.

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Numbers are limited so be quick to book your place.

Registration - Orange Ex-Services Club-Morota Room

1600 - 1800 Friday 23rd May
0830 - 0900 Saturday 24th May

Social Events - RSL

1830 - 1900	Friday 23rd May Welcome Reception (Dress - Smart Casual no uniforms please)
1900 - 2200	Friday 23rd May Conference Opening Dinner
1900 - Midnight	Saturday 24th May Conference Dinner Dance * (Dress - Smart Casual)
1300	Sunday 25th May Conference Close Lunch

Your registration includes all meals, accommodation, the Welcome Reception, Opening Dinner and the Conference Dinner Dance. The Conference commences on Friday 23rd May and concludes at 1330hours on Sunday 25th May 2003.

The standard of accommodation is ★★★★ and is available on a single or twin share basis.

Several motels have been reserved and the conference organisers will allocate accommodation upon receipt of your registration form. All accommodation is within walking distance of the Orange Ex-Services Club - the Community Education Conference venue.

Note: Early bird registration - no need to re-register

Location and Access

Orange City is well connected with a daily XPT rail service to Sydney, an extensive range of coach services and frequent scheduled airline flights.

* No auction at this year's Conference Dinner Dance on Saturday night.

Registration Form

Name Male Female
Address Postcode

Council/State Email
Telephone (W) Telephone (M) Position

Dietary Requirements RFS H.Q. or R.O. Staff
 Other agency

RFS Volunteer
Please specify

Cost
 RFS Volunteer \$95 (Residential or non-residential)
 Partner of RFS volunteer \$95 (residential only)
 Paid Staff (Other agencies, RFS HQ, RFS Q.O., Fire Control Staff)
 Twin Share \$120 Single \$170 Non-Residential \$200
 Dinner Dance (additional tickets) \$20 each

Yes No
Have you attended a Community Fireguard Workshop?

Note: Registration is not transferable. You must advise the Senior Education Officer if you cannot attend by 16/03/03 in writing. No refund if cancellation occurs after this date.

All registration forms must be received by 1st March 2003.

What is your reason for attending the Community Education Conference 2003?

Amount and Method of Payment: Do not post cash.

Amount \$

Debt Budget
RFS H.Q. or R.O.
staff only

Money Order
(postage included)
 Cheque
(postage included)

Debit Card
(Fire Control Control Unit
and RFS volunteers)

Manager's approval to debt budget

RFO's approval to debt limit

Prime Television
proudly supports
NSW Rural Fire Service Volunteers
who are dedicated to
protecting our communities



PRIME

Community Partnering Initiative



In the very near future, the Recruitment card will be available from your district office. The card will assist in providing contact details of your brigade to prospective recruits. During the week of 5-12 December the Service answered more than 300 enquiries about joining. The People are generally referred to district offices for details of their local brigades. Please take advantage of their interest and assist all potential members with their enquiries.

For new recruit information or recruitment support you can contact the Manager Volunteer Relations or email volunteer@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Martin Surrey
Manager Volunteer Relations
NSW Rural Fire Service
Phone 02 8845 3743
Mob 0418 645 839
Fax 02 8845 3788



You can help	
Brigade:	<hr/>
Contact:	<hr/>
Phone:	<hr/>
NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE 175-179 James Ruse Drive Rosedale 2142 Phone 02 9684 4411	



ANCILLARY AND LEISURE APPAREL

Embroidered Garment	Price	Qty.	Colour	Size	Cost
Dress V Neck Jumper with Epaulettes, Shoulder & Elbow patches + pen pocket	\$85.00		Navy		
Fully Fashioned V Neck Jumper	\$62.00		Navy		
Polo Shirt - Lemon(L), Navy(N), White(W)	\$29.00				
T-Shirt - White(W), Navy(N)	\$18.00				
Sloppy Joe	\$29.00		Navy		
SPECIAL! 12 or more garments, Brigade name embroidered under logo for FREE!					
AVAILABLE SIZES	S 90	M 95	L 100	XL 105	XXL 110
	3XL – 6XL 115 – 130 (Add \$2 per garment)				For large orders please add clearly printed lists as required
Brushed Cotton Cap (25+ Caps \$8.00 ea., 100+ Caps \$7.50 ea.)	\$8.50		Navy		
Large Kit Bag Individual/Brigade names (printed on separate sheets)	\$45.00 plus \$8.00		Navy	Length 93cm Height 33cm Width 31cm	
Medium Kit Bag Individual/Brigade names (printed on separate sheets)	\$35.00 plus \$8.00		Navy	Length 50cm Height 30cm Width 20cm	
Plus postage & packing per address (Includes badges if part of order)					6.60

The above is not our complete range – See website

Total \$

EMBROIDERED BADGES

Name Badges or Brigade Badges

Size 3.0cmx 9.0cm (approx.)

Gold badges now Proban backed

Actual size



Note: Red on Navy background badges are also available.

Please print Name or Brigade	Colour Please Tick	Qty.	Cost
eg. JIM LEWIS	White on Navy	Red on Gold	Red on Navy
(For larger orders please attach clearly printed lists)		Plus postage & packing per address	\$4.00

Payment can be made by cheque, money order, Bankcard, Visa or Mastercard.

Total \$

Fax Credit Card orders accepted.

Total cost \$ _____ including postage & packaging. Allow 28 days for delivery.

(Please)



Card No: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry date: _____ / _____ / _____

Signature: _____ Contact No. _____

Cheques - Please make payable to Blue Mountains D.M.P. Enterprises Pty. Ltd.

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Address: _____

Postcode: _____

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Print name &
address
clearly

All Council orders accepted



Please send all orders to
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D.M.P. Enterprises Pty. Ltd.
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Lapstone NSW 2773
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