



Newsletter



KINGS PLAINS RURAL FIRE BRIGADE CANOBOLAS ZONE

Issue 4

October 2014

Captain's Message

"Can we all have a concerted effort to get to some training sessions in preparation for this coming fire season. Thanks members."

Absolutely the most critical issue in any fire fighting activity is people's safety.

From a practical viewpoint, probably the next most critical issue is the ability to get water to a truck, and then get water from the truck onto a fire.

How to do this is easily forgotten and requires practice. Probably most of us are not particularly interested in training, but the cost of giving up 2.5 hours at least once before the worst of the fire season seems a very small price to pay for the benefits of volunteer safety and the effectiveness of any volunteer effort.

Andrew Wylie has scheduled training on a number of different days and times (see schedule on the last page).

If none of these times suits you, contact Andrew and he will do his best to work out a time that does.

A reminder text will be sent a couple of days before each training date.

What do I do if I receive a text message with a fire call?

If you are an **Operational** volunteer, phone the person coordinating crews if you are currently available. Do not drop everything and head for the fire shed without talking to the coordinator first - it is possible crews have already been organised and you are not currently needed.

However, additional crews may be needed later so do tell the coordinator if you could be available later.

If you are an **Operational Support** member of the brigade, the text is just for information so you know what is going on with KPRFB.

Am I ready to respond to a fire call?

Keep your gear all together and ready. Have a few non-perishable snacks in your kit in case there's a delay in getting food to a fire ground. Bottled water is available in the fire shed. Shifts are likely to be 12 hours.

Be trained, and mentally and physically fit to respond.

Please note:

- LET FIONA KNOW OF ERRORS/OMISSIONS IN THIS NEWSLETTER
- SUGGESTIONS REGARDING FORMAT OR CONTENT WOULD BE WELCOMED
- CONSIDER SUBMITTING YOUR OWN STORY AND PHOTOS

Useful Apps

- **FIRES NEAR ME** SHOWS FIRES WITHIN A 50 KM RADIOUS OF LOCATION
- **RURAL FIRE SERVICE POCKETBOOK** CONTAINS DETAILS FROM THE RED FIREFIGHTERS POCKETBOOK
- **EMERGENCY+** CONTACTS EMERGENCY SERVICES
- PLUS, CANOBOLAS ZONE RFS HAS A FACEBOOK PAGE WITH THE LATEST FIRE UPDATES

 Check fire activity: www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

 Canobolas Zone website: www.canobolas.rfs.nsw.gov.au

 Roads: **132 701**

 Radio Broadcasts: ABC Radio **549 AM**

— **Report all fire reports in the first instance to 000** —

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.



Truck Inspection Roster

Trucks need to be fully operational and available to respond immediately in the event of a call-out. If any maintenance issues are identified as part of an inspection, advise the Equipment Officers promptly.

Bob Russ is currently trying to finalise the truck roster and **members are asked to contact Bob regarding their availability to participate** (see accompanying form). Once finalised, Bob will issue the truck roster to participating members.

Annual Subscriptions are Now Due

Annual subscriptions from Kings Plains residents/land holders helps support KPRFB and allows goods and services to be purchased that are not available through the Rural Fire Service or grants.

Accompanying this newsletter is the 2014/15 subscription and truck roster form issued by Bob Russ. **If you have not already completed the form and paid your subs, please do so as soon as possible and forward to Bob.** This will allow Bob to manage the KPRFB's finances effectively, as well as finalise and issue the truck roster.

What's Been Happening?

Canobolas Training Day

Andrew Wylie took one KPRFB Cat7 filled to the brim with volunteers to join other Canobolas Zone brigades in a training day near Cadia mine.

Fiona Johnson, Jake Smith, John Smith, Margaret Struthers and Peter Williamson were educated in and/or undertook a number of scenario-based exercises. These included core-skill pumping exercises, structural fires, truck reversing skills/hand signals to direct it, tire changing knowledge/ability (is that lefty loosey righty tighty? Or not?), attending MVAs, dealing with fire overruns (NO fun with six in a truck!), Search and Rescue techniques, map-reading/radio usage.

Anthony McIntosh and Peter Brennan manned one scenario station and thankfully KPRFB did not fail it!

Crews were also given a demonstration of the capabilities of the new Cat6 bulk carrier which holds 9,000 litres of water, and has a water canon situation on the outside of the front of the cabin which is

completely controlled by a joystick within the cabin. Very slick.



Cat6 pumper water canon

These training days not only help you with your skills but you get to know your KPRFB crew better as well as other crews in the area.



Mesmerised



Debriefing

Thank you to Peter Williamson for providing the photos.

Advanced Fire Fighter Training

Alex Kruczaj, Fiona Johnson, Margaret Struthers and Peter Williamson have recently undertaken AF training at Canobolas FCC. Peter finished the theory and practical exercises, while Alex and Margaret finished the theory but still have some of the practical exercises to be completed.

The next edition of this occasional newsletter will be issued as and when content requires it, so keep this copy handy for reference.



KINGS PLAINS RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Training for Volunteers

Training sessions have tight timeframes and volunteers are asked to be at the fire shed early so training can start promptly. **Wear your 'yellows' and take your Fire-fighters' Pocket Book.** Most sessions will commence with a half-hour theoretical/in-shed activity before undertaking a practical exercise outside. Topics include:

1. How to set up a portable pump to draft water into Cat 7B, so it can supply Cat 7A via an 'open circuit relay', so it can supply water to a fire hose.
2. What to do in the event your truck could be overrun by fire.
3. When is foam used and how do you use it?
4. Strategies and techniques for fighting grass fires.
5. What equipment do the trucks have and how do you undertake a truck inspection? What is the difference between Cat 7A and Cat 7B?
6. Radio usage (current analogue system is expected to change to digital in November 2014), GPS and map reading.

Topics will be determined by the needs and experience of volunteers attending the session, and the weather.

Contact Andrew Wylie 0401 653 289 regarding your training needs and attendance at sessions.

**KPRFB Training Schedule
Meet at KPRFB Fire Shed**

Date	Time
Tuesday, 11 November 2014	1.00 pm—3.30 pm
Saturday, 22 November 2014	1.00 pm—3.30 pm
Wednesday, 10 December 2014	2.30 pm—5.00 pm
Sunday, 14 December 2014	2.30 pm—5.00 pm

KPRFB 2014/15 Officers

Captain	Anthony McIntosh	0422 262 500
Senior Deputy Captain	Peter Brennan	0427 563 467
Deputy Captain	David Parker	0428 929 303
Deputy Captain/Secretary/Treasurer	Bob Russ	0419 276 851
Deputy Captain	Shane Ryan	0428 131 864
Deputy Captain	David Standing	6368 4826
Deputy Captain/Equipment Officer	Peter Williamson	0428 231 051
Deputy Captain/Training Officer	Andrew Wylie	0401 653 289
Deputy Captain	Alex Kruczaj	0411 265 658
Equipment Officers	Shane Ryan, Peter Williamson	0428 231 051 (Peter)
Permit Officers	Max Johns, Shane Ryan	0438 636 858 (Max)

Secretary/Treasurer

(correspondence, accounts, membership, truck roster)

Bob Russ

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