

Blue Mountains RFS Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade Annual General Meeting Saturday 3rd June 2017

Attendance

Invited guests: Susan Templeman, Trish Doyle, Don MacGregor; Ron Gavin and Mick Garvey from NSW Ambulance; Peter Ellison and John Mann from Mt Tomah RFB; David Jones, Fred Taylor, Rob Vincenz and Justin Pinson from District Office

Residents of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine: Robbie Feyder, Graham Tribe, Elizabeth Montano, Sue Woolfenden, Steve Woolfenden, Mitchell Woolfenden, Alison Halliday, Alex Halliday, Marilyn Laving, Peter Laving, Allen Hyde, Robyn Hyde, Deb Griffin, Owen Havliand, Susie Hope, Barry Freeman, Sarah Howell, Alice Simpson, Robyn Scrivener, Beth Raines, Kim Gow, Richard England, Joe Montano, Peter Dempsey, Penny Ewing, Judy Tribe, Bill Scrivener, Stephen Dean, Vadislav Zhukov, Robert Buchner, Andrew Woolfenden, Ted Griffin, Ray Harrington, Philip Beeby, Mike Pearce, Bob Korogiannis, Libby Raines, Mark Bancroft, David Howell

David Howell opened the meeting at 4:10pm and welcomed the invited guests and residents. Even though 2017 has not been a particularly busy year, it has been interesting. Members of the executive committee were commended for their efforts and valuable contributions to the Brigade. Special mention was made of the exceptional contribution made by Kathleen Oakes who is standing down as Community Engagement Officer. Special thanks were extended to Judy Tribe who is stepping down from her position as Secretary which she has held with distinction for over ten years.

Apologies

Invited guests: Cr Mark Greenhill, Frank Vincent, Neil Stone, Richard Kingswood, Arthur Henry, Steve McMillan, Peter Church

Residents of Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine: David Chesterman, Julian and Bettina Ludowici, Ross and Maria Kelly, Henric and Minny Nicholas, Kathleen Oakes, Lesley Wilson, Brian and Carol Carrigan, Robert Chesney, Thom and Johanna Renton, George and Jane Mayne, Peter and Linda Raines, Graham and Bevery Thomson, Margaret Dean, Mary Holt, Helen Naylor, Harriett England, Tim Gow, Helen Freeman, Ruth Scrivener

Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2016 AGM

Moved that the minutes be accepted by Barry Freeman, seconded by Graham Tribe

Address by Susan Templeman, Federal Member for Macquarie:

There has been a meeting of the Mayors of Blue Mountains Council and Hawkesbury Council, Mark Greenhill and Mary Lyons-Bucket, to work together on a study of the feasibility of Bowens Creek Road being reopened. This study must be comprehensive. There has been no further information on the progress of the proposed study since the budget, hopefully there will be more in the next financial year.

Address by Trish Doyle, Member of Parliament, Blue Mountains:

Congratulations were extended to the brigade for its invaluable contribution to the community. Her teenage son is a member of the RFS and this personal connection has deepened her understanding of how the RFS is synonymous with community. Furthermore, belonging to a brigade can form a connection to community and establish a sense of family and camaraderie amongst members. She invited members of the community to contact her if they have any issues of concern. She proposed her plan to set up an information stand at Mt Wilson during spring so that residents can meet and discuss any local issues with her. Phil Koperberg has been unwell and is moving back home to the Blue Mountains from the South Coast. Please say hello if you see him, and make him feel welcomed back.

Address by Ron Gavin, Ambulance NSW:

The affiliation of Ambulance NSW and The Community First Responders of this brigade is approaching ten years. In July 2007 seven new recruits passed graduation, they were Kathleen Oakes, Libby Raines, Beth Raines, Peter Raines, Barry Freeman, Suzanne Daly and Diana Landsberg. The Western Region of Ambulance NSW thanks the brigade and these people in particular for their time and considerable dedication. Three new recruits, Allen Hyde, Robyn Hyde and Linda Raines have passed their training and are now operational. The CFRs attend regular training sessions by Ambulance NSW officers at Mt Wilson station, it was noted that the proposed extensions to the station would be very welcome.

Certificates were presented by Mick Garvey, Trish Doyle and Susan Templeman to Libby Raines, Beth Raines, Peter Raines, Dianna Landsberg, Barry Freeman, Kathleen Oakes. Suzanne Daley was acknowledged. Farewell and thanks extended to Libby Raines and Kathleen Oakes who are stepping down. Both

were presented with certificates of thanks for their dedication and years of service.

New recruits Allen Hyde, Robyn Hyde and Linda Raines were acknowledged and presented with certificates. Allen Hyde reported that equipment to be housed in the Mt Irvine Hall had been received. It includes a CFR response kit including a defibrillator.

Report from the RFS District Manager:

The meeting welcomed District Manager David Jones, who spoke to the meeting. The following is a summary, the full report is available from the secretary.

It is now five years since he has been the Manager of in District Office. There have been several building projects both underway and completed. The new Shipley Station will have keys handed over this week, work on the new Lawson station is to start soon and Blaxland has had its DA approved. He hopes for more capital funding to be coming through for vehicles in particular.

The next few months will see a meeting of captains and senior deputy captains to work together on leadership principles and philosophy. Community engagement is particularly important to the Mountains. There will be a Community Engagement conference held in the Blue Mountains on 22/23rd July.

A question about the progress on the designation of Neighbourhood Safe Places, in particular in Mt Irvine, was raised by Ray Harrington. David Jones replied that there was no specific news but that there had been progress on the ecological reports for the NSPs at Mt Irvine, Mt Wilson and Bell. He undertook to follow up with Cameron Lowndes and report back to the Brigade.

Reports for 2016-2017

Captain: Beth Raines

This has been a comparatively quiet year, 20 call outs:

4 motor vehicle accidents; fewer than previous years due to road upgrades (in particular Holly Inn corner)

5 community first responder call outs

5 call outs to fire or respond to smoke

4 search and rescue

2 trees down over roads (not counting those the residents deal with)

Paul Hunyor and Lisa George from Lanes End; Sonya and Colin Cornick from Noonameena and Ash Phillips from Westring as new Brigade members. Several brigade members are in the process of completing the Advanced Firefighting modules. Joe Montano has completed the Crew Leader course, yet to be assessed; Allen Hyde has completed the Rural Fire Driver course.

Thank you to all the volunteers outside our Brigade who assist in the training, group officers, training officers, mentors, instructors and evidence gatherers. Thank you to Graham Tribe and Joe Montano for training programs within the Brigade.

The Community First Responders continue to train and attend incidents. Three new members to the group are welcomed, Allen Hyde, Robyn Hyde and Linda Raines. Mount Irvine is now better resourced as it has two new CFR members, Allen and Robyn Hyde; a CFR kit is now housed in Mt Irvine Hall.

Thanks to Libby Raines and Kathleen Oakes for their years of dedicated service as CFRs, both are standing down.

There is a new topographic map of Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine which has been commissioned specially to have both areas on one map. Peter Raines has liaised with Lands and Property Information to create this map and now is the time to make any amendments as it is going to press very soon. The sale of this map will become a Brigade fundraiser.

Special thanks were conveyed to Kathleen Oakes and Judy Tribe; Kathleen Oakes for her exceptional contribution as Community Engagement Officer, a note from Kathleen was read out. Judy Tribe for her contribution to the Executive as Brigade Secretary as well as Village Hall President over many years. The members of the Executive were also thanked.

Acceptance of Captains report:

moved: David Howell seconded: Judy Tribe

Senior Deputy Captain: Peter Raines

Barry Freeman read out Peter Raines report:

Thanks for the work and assistance that has been given to the brigade though out 2016/2017.

As the next fire season approaches, October marks 4 years since the State Mine Fire caused so much damage to our Mountains, in particular Mt Irvine. The regrowth since then has been incredible, particularly on the fertile basalt soils and we are again reaching fuel levels where fires from the North-West danger area could have a devastating effect on us. Work has been underway both at Mt Irvine and Mt Wilson by the local brigade, Blue Mountains Council and National Parks to improve and maintain our trail network as defence to

this threat and this work will continue. We must also remember that our southern side from Mt Wilson Road to Mt Tomah has still not burnt since 1994. For those that put in the time and effort in attending the many and varied emergencies that we attend, often in difficult and threatening conditions, please remember to remain situational aware and be careful not to put yourself or others into dangerous situations. A couple of areas to think about.

- Attending incidents on our Roads, particularly Bells Line of Road, can become very dangerous if not managed correctly, ensure plenty of traffic warning signs go out on both sides to slow traffic down, use personnel suitably situated in an area of safety to slow traffic down, park defensively and don't move or stand between the truck and oncoming traffic. When turning around at an incident scene travel on to a safe turn around area even if it may be a few km up the road and other emergency services are turning at the incident scene.
- While fire-fighting remember the term fight from the black or keep one foot in the black. Be very aware of the conditions and any changes, plus have a safe area to pull back into quickly that is guaranteed to be accessible when needed and offer the protection required.
- We do need more people to step up into Crew Leader and driver roles and welcome any of the newer property owners to become involved with the brigade, whether as a firefighter or in a support role.

Treasurer: Susie Hope

Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade						
Statement of Accumulated Funds						
For the year ended 31 March 2017						
Prior Year						Current Year
	Accumulated Funds					
\$287,929.48	Balance as at 1 April 2016					\$312,058.88
		Plus: Brigade Working A/c result for the year ended 31 March 2017				
				\$60,474.86		
\$8,727.87				(\$63,478.06)		-\$3,003.20

		Plus: Brigade Public Fund A/c result for the year ended 31 March 2017			
				\$57,344.76	
-\$7,989.23				(\$47,601.27)	\$9,743.49
		Plus: New Fixed Term Deposits for the year ended 31 March 2017			
\$15,000.00					\$30,000.00
		Plus: Interest on Fixed Term Deposits for the year ended 31 March 2018			
\$8,390.76					\$8,142.68
\$312,058.88		Balance as at 31 March 2017			\$356,941.85
		Repre			
		sented by :			
\$19,268.63		Cash at Bank (Brigade Working A/c) 31 March 2017			\$18,284.96
-\$4,043.26		Less unrepresented cheques			
			1324	\$168.75	
			1364	\$153.50	
			1380	\$359.07	
			1381	\$130.00	
			1382	\$48.75	
			1383	\$130.00	
			1384	\$2,204.77	
			1385	\$2,603.00	
			1386	\$35.00	
			1387	\$49.95	
			1388	\$180.00	-\$6,062.79
\$19,869.48		Cash at Bank (Public Fund A/c) 31 March 2017			\$17,263.53
-\$12,349.44		Less unrepresented cheque			

\$3,000.00	Cash at Bank (Captain's Debit A/c) 31 March 2017	\$3,000.00
\$286,313.47	Plus Fixed Term Deposits 31 March 2017	\$324,456.15
\$312,058.88	Balance as at 31 March 2016	\$356,941.85

Now audited and found correct
Acceptance of Treasurers report:
moved: Libby Raines seconded: Ted Griffin

Appointment of an Auditor for 2017-2018

That Phil Honan be the auditor for the 2017-2018 financial year
moved: David Howell seconded: Beth Raines

Election of officers for 2017 – 2018 David Jones took the chair and declared the following members had been nominated unopposed prior to the meeting and were confirmed in their positions:

President* David Howell

Vice President* Henric Nicholas

Treasurer* Susie Hope

Secretary* Robyn Scrivener

Captain* Beth Raines

Senior Deputy Captain* Peter Raines

Deputy Captains Barry Freeman, David Howell, Peter Dempsey

Training* Graham Tribe

Community Engagement* Peter Laving

Catering* Lesley Wilson

Committee Member* Elizabeth Montano, Allen Hyde

Equipment Stephen Dean Fire Trails Peter Dempsey, Vic Zhukov Those

marked * will form the Executive Committee

General Business

a. Bowens Creek Road

Elizabeth Montano addressed the meeting. Since the last AGM we have come a long way. \$100,000 has been allocated from the Commonwealth to fund a feasibility study. This will involve both the Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury Councils working together on the study. It is essential that this study should go

beyond just employing the use of the road for fire-fighting, as it is potentially dangerous as such. The road has been used as crucial infrastructure for emergency vehicle access. The study will need consultation from the SES, RFS and NSW Ambulance Service. Appreciation and thanks were extended to Susan Templeman for the Commonwealth contribution, to Trish Doyle for funds for ongoing maintenance and Don MacGregor for his ongoing great support and commitment on behalf of Blue Mountains Council.

It should be noted that in excess of 30,000 people are using the one road in and one road out to the Mounts. The main task is to assist with the feasibility study and to demonstrate the broad need for the road to remain open for emergency vehicles. The community was urged to continue to write to all levels of government in support of keeping the road open.

b. Mount Wilson Shed

Plans for the proposed extensions to the Mount Wilson shed were displayed. The estimated cost is \$550,000. The proposed monies to be allocated from District office would be \$330,00 and Mt Wilson/Mount Irvine RFS to allocate \$220,000. David Jones indicated that the RFS would approve the design submitted, drawn by Owen Haviland. It is expected that the funds will be available from District Office by 2018/2019 financial year. The question of two titles existing on the land for the proposed shed needs to be resolved before funding can be allocated. Elizabeth Montano proposed that several members of the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Brigade were qualified to assist in expediting this process. Crown Lands could be contacted to assist with gaining the appropriate approval as soon as possible.

c. Mount Irvine Shed

Allen Hyde has canvassed all members of the Mount Irvine community and the result of these consultations has led to a plan for the location of a new shed for Mount Irvine. This plan needs to be submitted to the RFB executive before it is made publicly available, and that submission will be made at the next executive meeting.

d. Spring Blossom Festival

Judy Tribe, a member of the Spring Blossom Festival Committee, addressed the meeting. The festival has evolved from small beginnings into a major fundraiser, the 2016 festival raising over \$40,000. Save the date flyers are being distributed for the 2017 Festival proposed to be held on the 23 and 24th of September 2017 with the opening night function to be held on the evening

of 22nd September. She encouraged everyone to support the Festival by publicising it to family and friends and volunteering to help at the Festival.

Closure of meeting:

As there was no further business the President declared the meeting closed at 5.45pm and invited all present to join the Executive for wine and cheese.