

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Brigade Held on Saturday 11 June 2011 at Mt Irvine Village Hall

Attendance

Invited guests present: Rob Vincenz (Operations Officer, BMD RFS), Fred Taylor (Deputy Group Captain West 2), Peter Church (Deputy Group Captain West 3), Greg Corrigan (Group Captain East 1), Duncan Allen (Deputy Group Captain East 3), Kaye & Rick Whitbread, Sue & Dick Emerson (Bell Fire Brigade), Neil Stone (NPWS), Ron Gavin (Lithgow Ambulance Service)

Residents of Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine present: David & Sarah Howell, Graham & Judy Tribe, Beth Raines, Ron & Moira Green, Julie Townend, Susie Hope, Barry & Helen Freeman, Tom Bassett, Kim Gow, Bill & Ruth Scrivener, Robyn Hyde, Paul Naylor, Marilyn Laving, Robyn Scrivener, Mark Bancroft, Kevin Gunn, Libby Raines, Ray & Kathy Harrington, Robert Chesney, Ross Kelly, John & Mary Holt, Wendy Holland, Ted & Deb Griffin, Brian Carrigan, George Mayne.

Welcome:

The President, David Howell, opened the meeting at 4.05pm and welcomed the invited guests and the residents of the villages to the meeting.

David thanked Beth for the great contribution she makes as our captain. He noted that having a female captain changes the character of the Brigade, adding warmth and sensitivity and a less 'blokey' atmosphere in the brigade. He thanked the committee for their work during the year.

He also thanked those filling roles: Graham Tribe for training, Moira Green and Helen Freeman for catering, Kim Gow for Community Engagement and Peter Dempsey and Vic Zhukov for trails.

David paid tribute to the contribution Alan Heap had made to the Brigade and whose sudden death in March shocked us all.

Apologies:

From invited guests: Hon. Louise Markus (Federal Member for Macquarie), Hon. Roza Sage (State Member for Blue Mountains), Terri Hamilton (Councillor BMCC), Superintendent David Hoadley, John Fitzgerald (Group Leader BMD RFS), Frank Vincent (Group Captain West 1)

From Residents of Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine: John Lee & Eleanor Herriot, Stephen & Margaret Dean, Milba Mewburn, Peter Dempsey, Kathleen Oakes, Henric & Minny Nicholas, Peter Raines, Mary & Ellis Reynolds, Barbara Harry, Owen Haviland, Sarah Hope, Graham & Kerry Keighery, Graham & Beverley Thompson, Helen Naylor, Allen & David & Sarah Hyde, Geoff & Pam Naylor, Shane Naylor, Tim Gow, Maria Kelly, Suzanne Bassett, Peter Laving, Rachel & Adam Freeman, Alison Church, Jane Mayne

Confirmation of Minutes from 2010 AGM:

- Moved by Barry Freeman, seconded by Libby Raines and accepted by the meeting

Report from David Hoadley Acting District Manager/Fire Control Officer Blue Mountains:

The report was presented to the meeting by Inspector Rob Vincenz (Operations Officer BM D, NSW RFS). A summary is presented in these minutes; the full report is available on request.

Thank you to the Brigades and volunteers in the Blue Mountains for making me welcome here during my time as the Acting Manager.

I would also like to thank the Group Officers for their frankness and honesty to identify the most important issues to be addressed. It is also important to develop relationships with the brigades to listen to your problems and concerns.

This early consultation led to the development of the Blue Mountains Strategic Plan when the Group Officers, Staff and Council representatives sat down together last November and drew up a plan for the next 3 years.

The basis of this plan is "**Protecting our Community by Empowering Our Volunteers**"

Some of the major initiatives arising from this plan are:

- Website upgraded and hits increased from 25,000 to 44,500 per month
- Station projects and upgrades underway
- Catering truck project underway
- Fire Control refurbishment Stage 1 nearing completion
- Hazard Reduction planning well underway
- Funding obtained for Northern Strategic Line (Black Line) Project and good work is underway

- Fuel management on our fire trails is in the process of being addressed with a dedicated SMSS crew available
- The Blue Mountains Bus has been obtained
- District SOPs are being reviewed and upgraded
- Community Education planning and approval processes have been streamlined.
- A 10 year capital and infrastructure maintenance budget is being developed

Unfolding opportunities in future months may include:

- The success of the Northern Line Project highlights the need for a similar process in the south. The DO will be making a submission to extend the tenure of Project Officer, Peter Church, for a further six months to undertake this planning work.
- Hazard Reduction: The BFMC's of Lithgow, Cudgegong, Chifley, Canobolas and Blue Mountains are considering forming a consortium to develop a further enhancement on our Risk Plans

The staff has risen to these challenges and I thank them for their work and support whilst we have implemented a series of changes.

I would also like to thank the RFS for recognizing the risks associated with the Blue Mountains District in light of the Victorian Royal Commission and their willingness to provide the resources required for the projects we have undertaken.

In closing, and on behalf of the dedicated and hard working District team and Group Officers, I thank you all for your commitment and great effort to protect your community.

Reports for 2010-2011

Captain: Beth Raines

Firstly I would like to pay tribute to Alan Heap, whose sudden death in March stunned us all. Alan joined the Brigade in 1996 soon after coming to Gowan Ross. He achieved various levels of training – Basic, Advanced, Village and Crew Leader; chainsaw operator, first aid and driver leading to his appointment of Deputy Captain in 2004. Due to his exceptional level of fitness and love of the mountains he trained as part of the Remote Area Fire Fighting Team. Alan attended as many training days as possible and turned out willingly for fires, road accidents and rescues. In 2000 & 2001 he was joint Secretary of the Brigade and from 2000 and 2004 he was Equipment Officer. On the same day you could see Alan running on the fire trails of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine (usually with his dogs Bee and Laddy) then later that evening, dressed in a suit, being interviewed on ABC's Lateline offering expert opinion on the global metals and mineral market. We will miss Alan but we remember him with fond affection. Our special thoughts are with Diana.

Operations:

During 2010 -2011 the Brigade attended 49 incident calls up from 34 last year:

- 20 motor vehicle accidents (up from 10 last year)
- 16 Community First Responder calls (up from 11)
- 5 rescues
- 4 storm damage
- 3 fires
- 1 oil spill

Other events we have participated in include the drink station at Caves House for the Six Foot Track Marathon and the West Sector Exercise in September

Training:

- We continue to hold training on the first Sunday of the month and every second month the Brigade joins with Bell and Mt Tomah for a combined training. I think all involved in the training exercises with the neighbouring brigades learn a lot and enjoy themselves. A highlight this year was the trip out to Bald Head Trig Point.
- Congratulations to the people who completed courses during the year
 - Village Firefighting: Allen Hyde, Robin Hyde and Luke O'Hearn
 - Crew Leader Village: Peter Dempsey
 - First Aid: Sarah & David Howell, Penny Ewing and Helen Freeman
 - Chainsaw course (to-day): Bruce Arnold and Tim Gow
- Best of luck to those currently undergoing courses or awaiting assessment
- Peter Raines, Peter Dempsey and Vic Zhukov participated a Remote Area Firefighting exercise based at the Study Centre over a weekend in September last year

Thank you to Graham Tribe who has taken the Training baton and run with it. A huge amount of work has been done by Graham and Peter Church in planning future training sessions and identifying

where the Brigade needs to be heading. We have also broadened out to include training in support areas such as Brigade Station Officers and Street Co-ordinators.

Website:

Graham and Tim have spent innumerable hours in uploading Brigade information onto the Mt Wilson website. I encourage everyone to look at the website and the brigade section in particular – there is a tremendous amount of really useful information there.

Community First Responders:

The group holds training every month with officers from Lithgow Ambulance Station. Thank you to Ron Gavin and Mick Garvey for your guidance. Two members attended a Major Incident Training Exercise in Bathurst last month and we are all about to undergo re-certification this week.

Hazard Reduction:

Due to unfavourable weather conditions no HRs have been undertaken. Wynnes Rocks Road, Waterfall Creek, Killaloo and the Knight-Brown burns are all right to go when conditions improve.

The Brigade attended the Grose Road, Faulconbridge HR in April

Bush Run:

Another very successful Willy to Billy Bush Run was held on a freezing day in August. Thank you to all the people who stood around in the cold at the start or on one of the drink stations and to all the scone makers – I believe there were 25 dozen scones made and 25 dozen scones eaten. Some runners boasted about breaking their personal best in how many they ate, but I suspect they didn't improve their personal best race time!

A huge thank you to Kim Gow for the tremendous work she has done liaising with Council, meeting with the Bilpin Brigade, organizing the drink station volunteers and overseeing the entire operations. Kim will be in touch shortly – this year's race is on August 27th.

Community Engagement:

Kim has also been hugely busy in Community Engagement and Education. She has been working on procedures and training with the Street Co-ordinators, who are most important in the exchange of information during an incident.

Property information surveys, completed by 80% of residents, will be included in the Pre Incident Plan for the two Mounts and a water survey is also being undertaken. We want to follow this up along with the street meetings that were held in 2009, with street walks and targeted property preparation sessions in August.

Thanks

Thanks need to go to the executive, to David Howell, Judy Tribe, Susie Hope, Peter Raines, Henric Nicholas and Barry Freeman. Thank you to Moira Green in catering, Graham Tribe in training, Kim Gow in Community Engagement and Peter Dempsey and Vic Zhukov overseeing the trails.

I think we also need to thank the core people in this Brigade, who by happy circumstance live here but also have the burden of attending the majority of call outs. I thank them in particular – as we all should.

- o Moved that the report be accepted by Helen Freeman, seconded by Kim Gow

Thanks to the Community First Responders:

Ron Gavin from Lithgow Ambulance Service thanked the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Brigade and the wider community for their support for our CFR group. He is very proud of his affiliation with the CFR group and their high degree of professionalism

Treasurer: Susie Hope:

The audited financial statement of income and expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2011 was presented. A copy of the report before audit was distributed with the AGM papers.

In summary:

Income for the year: including		\$ 36,646.15	
Donations: (including \$1,492 from family & friends of Alan Heap)	\$ 26,633.15		
Fundraising Income: Bush Run	\$ 5,700.00		
Membership fees	\$ 3,018.00		
Expenditure for the year: including		\$ 67,884.88	
Fire Fighting Equipment - purchases	\$ 4,218.01		
Fire Fighting Equipment – Repairs & maintenance	\$ 664.35		
Sundry Expenses: Mt Wilson Hall hire	\$ 209.56		

General catering & Shed Supplies	\$ 493.52		
Elgas	\$ 254.77		
Oxygen & Defib. Supplies	\$ 181.55		
Weather Station & Software	\$ 1, 108.00		
Website	\$ 491.59		
Term Deposits	\$ 55,000.00		
Community Liaison supplies	\$ 107.85		
BMCC: Tower IOC fee	\$ 100.00		
Recycling service	\$ 90.00		
Office Administration	\$ 690.03		
Telecommunications	\$ 4,019.00		
Result for the year – surplus/(deficit)		\$ (31,238.73)	
Balance of working account 31 March 2010		\$ 40,840.91	
Balance of working account 31 March 2011			\$ 9,602.18
Fixed Deposits 31 March 2011			\$ 110,583.26
Total Brigade funds			\$ 120,185.44

The Social Club account balance at 31st March 2011 is \$3,605.83.

The funds raised by Peter Richey from his very successful Dahlia Show are not included in this amount as they were banked after 31 March 2011.

The accumulated funds will be used for an additional shed for the extra garaging needed, operations centre and training. Thanks to Owen Haviland plans for this building are underway. We have obtained support for our proposal from District Office in Katoomba. Owen Haviland is liaising with BMCC to obtain the DA.

It was also noted that the Tower was completed and has been operational in a rescue. We would like to thank Rob Vincenz for equipment and advice and the Ambulance Service for installation of the aerials.

- o Moved that the treasurer's report be accepted by Graham Tribe, seconded by Barry Freeman, accepted by the meeting

Appointment of an Auditor:

Susie Hope thanked Phil Lupton for auditing the accounts. She also informed the meeting that Phil Lupton is her personal accountant

- o Helen Freeman moved that Mr Phill Lupton from Honan and Partners be appointed as honorary auditor for the 2011/ 2012 financial year, seconded by Libby Raines, accepted by the meeting

Election of Officers for 2010:

Inspector Rob Vincenz took the chair for the elections. The following people had been nominated unopposed prior to the meeting and were confirmed in the position:

Position	Nominee Name
*President	David Howell
*Vice President	Henric Nicholas
*Treasurer	Susie Hope
*Secretary	Judy Tribe
*Captain	Beth Raines
*Senior Deputy Captain	Peter Raines
*Deputy Captain (1)	Barry Freeman
Deputy Captain (2)	Stewart Gunn
Deputy Captain (3)	Tim Gow
Deputy Captain (4)	Stuart Donaldson
Deputy Captain (5)	David Howell
Deputy Captain (6)	Ian Docker
Equipment Officer	Stephen Dean
Fire Trails Coordinator	Peter Dempsey & Vic Zhukov
*Training	Graham Tribe
Community Engagement	Kim Gow
Catering	Moir Green

Those elected positions marked with * will form the executive committee

Other Business:

- Bill Scrivener informed the meeting that Richard Hitchens (James Telfer's son-in-law) raised \$5,000 through sponsorships of his run in the Willy to Billy
- In answer to a question from Mary Holt, David Howell explained the plan for the new building at the Mt Wilson Fire Station
- In answer to a question from Brian Carrigan David Howell outlined the concept for a bigger Fire Shed for Mt Irvine which will incorporate a larger truck bay, a toilet and meeting space.
- Peter Church on behalf of Frank Vincent (West Sector) thanked the Brigade for its part in the camaraderie in the West/West Sector Brigade, Graham Tribe for his efforts with Training and Beth for all the work she put into the Northern Trail Project.
- Fred Taylor thanked us and commented that it is good working with us.

Closure of meeting:

As there was no further business the meeting was closed at 4.50pm and all attendees were invited to join the committee for wine and cheese.