



Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Rural Fire Service February 2008

Brigade Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2008

DIARY DATES

Sunday 2nd March – 9.00am — 1.00pm Training Mt Wilson shed with Mt Tomah and Bell brigades

Saturday 8th March – 6 Foot Track marathon. Volunteers needed!

Saturday 15th March – 10th Anniversary of the Mt Wilson station, at the Mt Wilson Village Hall

Saturday – Sunday 29-30th March - Quest (formerly known as the Easter Bunny exercise)

Sunday 6th April – 9.00am — 1.00pm Training Mt Wilson shed

Sunday 13th April – District Championships

Sunday 4th May - West Sector Training at Medlow Bath – meet Mt Wilson shed at 8.00am

Assessment for position of Deputy Group Captain, West Sector

All the brigades of the West Sector (Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine, Mt Tomah, Bell, Blackheath/Mt Victoria, Shipley, Medlow Bath) gathered at Bell to participate in the assessment of Doug Wood for the position of Deputy Group Captain, West Sector. The pagers went off to notify us of an incident and we proceeded to Canyons Colliery off Darling Causeway. Permission has recently been given to the RFS to use this site for training and, with its wide flat area surrounded by bush, it is an excellent training ground.

The scenario presented was of a car on fire with the driver still trapped and two injured parties on the ground, one thrown from the car and unconscious, the other a bystander hit by the car as it spun out of control. All had multiple injuries (thanks Shipley Brigade for the excellent acting). To the side stood the assessors and representatives of NSW Ambulance, for it was also a training experience for the MT Wilson/Mt Irvine Community First Responders. They were the first to arrive on the scene and quickly went into action assessing the injured.

So absorbed were they that they were unaware of what was unfolding around them. The fire in the car set off spot fires in the surrounding bush and the brigades, Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine in the lead, soon arrived to deal with all those. A firefighter required attention from the Community First Responders for smoke inhalation and eye irritation. Finally the fires were put out and Lithgow Ambulance arrived to take charge of the patients. Everyone returned to Bell for a barbecue lunch and debrief. *(continued overleaf...)*

Find us at <http://mtwilson.rfsa.org.au>

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Like all good training exercises we made a few mistakes and forgot the odd crucial thing which in a real incident will now be precisely the things we remember. The Community First responders had their photograph splashed across the front page of the Lithgow Mercury but the glory of the day belonged to Doug Wood, our new Deputy Group Captain, West Sector. Congratulations, Doug!

As a result of Doug's elevation there are changes to Brigade personnel. Beth Raines takes on the position of Senior Deputy Captain (Acting) and we welcome Barry Freeman back as a Deputy (Acting). These positions will remain in force until the AGM.

Kathleen Oakes

2007 Moody's Global Volunteer Award

The Moody's Global Volunteer Award was established in 2004 to honor two Moody's employees who have demonstrated outstanding involvement and commitment to making their communities better places to live and work. Moody's Corporation Global Volunteer Award is an annual award that recognizes one U.S.-based and one international employee.

Earlier this year, David Howell was announced as the very worthy recipient of this award.

David is an active and well-credentialed firefighter who joined the brigade in 2001, was Secretary in 2002 and 2003, and is currently President, a role to which he was elected in 2004.

One the key highlights of David's role as President was to instigate a review of the logistics of responding to an emergency, resulting in the establishment of procedures and identification and appointment of key personnel. With these innovations the Brigade believes that our community is now in a more secure position to face whatever emergency occurs. Under his watch a successful brigade funding and grant strategy has provided the brigade with essential new equipment and increased water supplies throughout the two villages.

David is the Senior Analyst for the Moody's Project Finance Group in Sydney.

The recognition from Moodys included a very generous donation of \$US2,500 to the Brigade.

Congratulations to both David from all in the community you serve so energetically, and to Moodys for their ongoing support and encouragement of volunteering activities.

Moodys is among the world's most respected and widely utilised sources for financial credit ratings, research and risk analysis.



Left: David is presented with his award by Brian Cahill, Managing Director, Moodys Australia.

2008 Training Calendar

The 2008 Training Calendar is now out and the following courses are available:

Village Firefighter

Course 1: 2-4 May, 16-18 May, 13 July at Wentworth Falls, Winmalee and Kemps Creek

Course 2: 4-6 July, 18-20 July, 14 September at Winmalee and Kemps Creek

Advanced Firefighter

Course 1: 5-6 April, 19-20 April, 14 June at Faulconbridge

Course 2: 2-3 August, 16-17 August, 18 October at District Office and South Katoomba

Course 3: 6-7 September, 27-28 September and 22 November at Faulconbridge

Crew Leader

Village CL Course: 2-4 May, 26 July District Office and Winmalee

Wildfire CL Course: 13-15 June District Office

Safety CL Course: 25-27 July District Office

Assessment (Wildfire and Safety): 28 September South Katoomba

Chain Saw Operator

CSOCC1 4, 5 April at District Office and Blackheath

CSOSTF01 31 May and 1 June at District Office and Blackheath

Assessment: To be advised

Crosscut Program

4, 5 April at District Office and Blackheath

Assessment: 3 May at Bullaburra

Simple Tree Fell

31 May, 1 Jun at District Office and Blackheath

Assessment: Same day

Senior First Aid – We encourage everyone to undertake this course!

SFA03 16, 17 August at Winmalee High School

SFA04 13, 14 September at District Office

SFA05 11, 12 October at District Office

SFA06 1, 2 November at Winmalee High School

Further details of these courses and others are available in the restricted area of the Blue Mountains website:

www.bluemountains.rfs.nsw.gov.au

If you do not have access, Robert Vinzenz from District Office can assist. He can be contacted on 4784 7444 or at

robert.vinzenz@rfs.nsw.gov.au

A blank training application form is attached for your convenience! (or pick one up at the Mt Wilson shed)

Editors:

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Comments, contributions and suggestions welcome!

Find us at <http://mtwilson.rfsa.org.au>

2008 COURSE NOMINATION FORM



BLUE MOUNTAINS

1. COURSE INFORMATION. *(Please only nominate one (1) course per Nomination Form)*

Course Name:..... *(e.g. Crew Leader Wildfire)*

Course Code:..... *(e.g. CLW01)*

Date(s):.....

2. APPLICANT INFORMATION.

Surname: First Name:..... DOB:...../...../.....

Firezone Number:..... Brigade:..... Rank:.....*(if known)*

Postal Address:.....

E-Mail Address:.....

Years in RFS:..... Driver's Licence Class:..... *(if applying for RFD Courses)*

After Hours Ph:..... Business Hours Ph:..... Mobile:.....

3. CURRENT CERTIFIED RFS QUALIFICATIONS. *(PLEASE CIRCLE APPROPRIATE LEVEL)*

SI BF VF AF CL CLW CLS CLV GL Other

If Other, please specify:.....

NB. Proof of certification must be produced to your Brigade Captain to be eligible for intake.

4. SPECIAL NEEDS OR REQUIREMENTS.

.....

(Please indicate above, any disabilities or dietary needs that may need to be taken into consideration)

Applicant's Signature:

Date:...../...../2008

5. CAPTAIN'S RECOMMENDATION – NOMINATION APPROVAL

- a) I recommend that the member mentioned above be considered to undertake the training course as indicated and I have sighted all relevant certificates, etc (and Driver's Licence for RFD nominations), as proof of the pre-requisite qualifications.
- b) Course nomination and selection must be in accordance with the access and equity requirements in the Code of Practice for the delivery of training, assessment and certification in the RFS. In cases where there are multiple applicants for a course, could you please indicate the priority order (1=highest priority. **Use each number only once for the year**).

Captain's Signature:

Date:...../...../2008

Name:.....

Priority Number:..... *(see 'b' above)*

(BLOCK LETTERS)

Please return completed form to the L&D Officer, no later than four (4) weeks prior to the commencement of the nominated course.

Fax: (02) 4784 7461

Office Use only: ADMT0013/2008 Doc. No. Rec'd Date:..... Ent'd FZ:.....
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