



Brigade Newsletter

OCTOBER 2007

BRIGADE TRAINING UPDATE

Thanks again to all brigade members who have taken part in our training exercises with Bell and Mt Tomah Brigades. We have had good representation at these joint field days, where in a more relaxed environment, members have participated in pumping and water drawing drills, fire fighting, map reading and fire trail logistics exercises before an invaluable debriefing and lunch. The training days have been designed to assist both newcomers and less experienced volunteers put into practice the skills required in an emergency with guidance from our senior brigade members.

Don't forget, brigade training is on the first Sunday of every month. Please join other brigade members at the next session on 7th October 2007 and mark future training days in your diary.

As we near the warmer weather season, consider undertaking refresher or new training that could be invaluable for both you and your property and the brigade.

Forty seven Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine brigade members have undertaken training this year. That is a fantastic contribution to the brigade and will be invaluable in an emergency. However, we encourage **ALL** members with a Firezone number or who are keen to join the brigade, to undertake the **Basic Fire fighting** course. If you prefer not to be deployed during an emergency, the training will give you the skills and knowledge to protect your own property, should the need ever arise.

The brigade needs more **medium rigid licensed drivers**, so please let Peter Raines or Doug Woods know if you already have your licence or would like to obtain it. The first step is to complete the knowledge test (online at the RTA's website) after which we can arrange driver training on the trucks.

Is your Senior First Aid ticket coming to the end of its validity? To keep current, you need to undertake a refresher course. If you do this off the mountain, please advise Penny Ewing or Kathleen Oakes and provide a photocopy of your renewal certificate. We encourage all residents to undertake a Senior First Aid course as an invaluable skill in any number of situations.

2007 Upcoming Courses:

Basic Fire fighting:	27, 28 Oct & 3 Nov, Assessment 1Dec	District Office
Senior First Aid:	13 & 14 October	District Office

To register for these courses, please complete a 2007 Nomination Form (they are available from the Mt Wilson RFB or contact Penny - ph: 8235 1111 or email: pewing@kinglink.com.au). Once you have completed the Nomination form, please fax/email it to Penny Ewing (fax: 8235 1122).

Please support your brigade by undertaking just the basic training – in an emergency, that training will be invaluable.

Penny Ewing

Training Coordinator



Your property, your fuel, your responsibility!

Fire Protection on your land is your responsibility to prepare and defend.

Reducing the amount of fuel can limit the size and intensity of a fire.

One can not rely on a big red truck at one's doorstep in the event of wide spread wild fires.

The 2007/08 fire season officially started on 1 October but already there have been a number of incidents. Preparation is key to survival and by now you will have received your copy of the FireWise pamphlet designed to help you prepare your property for the fire season and know what to do in a fire.

If you have not received your copy, please contact Brian Abrahams on cyatheaccount2@bigpond.com or 4756 2119.

THE MACQUARIE BANK MT WILSON TO BILPIN BUSH RUN

The 12th "Willie to Billie" bush run was held on Saturday 25 August and by all accounts was a great success from every aspect. The cool clear day offered optimum running conditions for the 182 runners who faced the 36km course starting at Silva Plana Reserve, Mt Wilson and finishing at Bilpin Community Hall.

This annual event is the major fund raiser for both the Bilpin and Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Brigades and the volunteer contributions of members from both brigades is a key part of the event's success. Generous sponsorship from Macquarie Bank allows a greater part of the proceeds to go towards valuable Brigade activities such as the provision of extra equipment including such items as mobile phones for vehicles, computers, GPS equipment, station improvements and ongoing general administration expenses.

All entry fees for the bush run are donated to the Bilpin and Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine RFS. As well as being a fund raiser, the Run provides valuable training experience for the Brigade members who work on the day. The nature of the Run and Course provide communication and logistics challenges similar to those faced by fire fighters at real incidents.

Large numbers of the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Brigade gave generously of their time ranging from clearing the fire trails in preparation for the run, to providing scones, tea and coffee for the runners' breakfasts, and staffing the breakfast and the first five drink stations along the way. Many thanks to all who participated and a particular thank you to Beth Raines who co-ordinated the Mt Wilson end of the event so smoothly. Thanks also to Milba Mewburn who was an important part of the early planning.

The event was won by Richard Roberts of the Asics Wests Running Club who completed the gruelling 36 kilometre course in 2 hours 20 minutes 59 seconds. The first woman across the line was Aurelie Daix of NRG Club who finished in 3 hours 1 minute 10 seconds. Billed as "a run for runners" this event also has the added benefit of presenting the friendly face of the RFS. Testimonials on the Bush Run website and comments from runners on the day all show appreciation of smooth management, excellent scones and the friendliness of the furies.

We look forward to welcoming the runners back to Mt Wilson for next year's bush run scheduled for Saturday 23 August 2008.

Sarah Howell

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Comments, contributions and suggestions welcome!

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