

NSW Rural Fire Service Blue Mountains Group Support Brigade

May Newsletter 2024



NOTICE is HEREBY GIVEN

that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the
BLUE MOUNTAINS GROUP SUPPORT BRIGADE
will be held on **Sunday June 16, 2024**

Blue Mountains Emergency Services Centre
Cnr Bathurst Road and Valley Road, Katoomba
commencing at 10:00hours.

The agenda for this meeting:

1. Welcome / Attendance / Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous AGM
3. Address by Visiting Personnel
4. Brigade Report presented by Captain GSB
5. Treasurer - Audit of Funds Report
6. Motion 1: Annual Subscription
7. Motion 2: Future External Auditor
8. Motion 3: Allocation of future auditing funds
9. Motion 4: Annual Emergency Expenditure Funds
10. Motion 5: Auditor's Report be accepted
11. Election of Field Officers and Administrative Positions

The District Manager, or his representative, will be asked to act as
Returning Officer for the Brigade elections.

Please remember that Brigade Rules 10 and 13 require ordinary members to have completed 6 shifts in the past 12 months and to have attended 2 brigade meetings.

Any member, unsure of whether they can vote at the upcoming AGM, can contact the Captain or Secretary to discuss the matter.

Annual General Meeting
June 16
1000hrs at District Office

**Followed by the presentation
Long Service Medals/Clasps.**

**Members are asked to bring
a plate for morning tea.**

General Meetings of 2024:
August 18
October 20
December 8

General Meetings of 2025:
February 16
April 13
June 15 AGM
August 17
October 19
December 14



From the President

As we come to the close of another administrative year and are ready for AGM elections, I want to thank all the members of our Support Brigade for all the work put in during this current year.

We have now bedded in our two new work streams of Transport and Logistics and Aviation ably led by Patrick Leonard and John Brell.

The amount of work done by our ever competent Catering section, led by Rosemary Mann, has been enormous, not forgetting learning two new computer systems in Communications led by Peter Horn.

Roza Sage
President

Captain's News

Once again, another great newsletter for you all to read, especially the information re our upcoming AGM. I will be attending the Group Officer elections on Tuesday 14th and will send the results to all once I know them.

It was a very interesting and enlightening visit some of us had to Cumberland Operations Support Brigade. We were shown and had explained how they operate. Is this the way they want us to go? Hmmmm.

Have a good read of the newsletter and thanks to Dianne for putting it together.

Ian Mann
Captain

Nominations for Positions

Members have received an email with the AGM 2024 position descriptors and the Nomination form. These documents are available on the GSB Website in Documents.

Another Nomination form is attached with this Newsletter in today's email.

Nominations close June 2nd. The list of nominees, submitted by May 26th, will be emailed to all members for viewing on this date. Further nominations can be lodged in the week leading up to the June 2.

Please ensure that the Nominee is keen and willing to commit to the tasks that the role may require.

Conversations, regarding the tasks handled in these roles, can be had with the President, Captain, Executive Members, Secretary, or the member currently in the role.

Nomination forms must have signatures and be scanned and emailed to the brigade email or handed to the Secretary or Senior Deputy Captain by June 2.

All positions will be declared vacant as is the normal election process.

Long Service Award Presentation

Following the AGM we will be having a presentation of 2 x Long Service 30year Clasps. **Congratulations to Janice Ryeland and Paula Metcalfe.** We will then all be able to gather for a cuppa and some morning tea. Members are asked to bring a plate of goodies to share that does not require heating. The Catering members of the brigade would like to join us and not rush off to heat up and then clean up food.



Cakes, slices, fruit and cookies would be perfect for a morning tea at 11am.

Non Fire Season Training 2024

Here is a snippet of the current roster. The beige are the catering events for the next 4 weeks.

Special Training events are scheduled for Sunday 19th and June 8th in the ICC. Check the roster on our website for vacancies.

Members have some normal shift opportunities available in the ICC. These are perfect opportunities to come and practice CAD and ICON with Supervisor support. Sunday 26th and Saturday 1st are examples of these shift sessions.

Training on the lighting trailer will be rescheduled. Keep an eye on the roster for it.

Eight members visited Cumberland Support Brigade on Saturday 11th May.

NEWS FLASH!

Will and Paul from Wentworth Falls brigade will be our scenario role play crew for the June 8 training in the ICC. The roster has a few spaces available so be quick.

Special Event	Sat 11 May 0930-1230
Sharing Support ideas	Sat 11 May 1230-1430
catering water Tank Mural project	Thu 16 May 0900-1500
transport mural project	Thu 16 May 0900-1600
catering water Tank Mural project	Fri 17 May 0900-1500
transport mural project	Fri 17 May 0900-1500
CLS	Sat 18 May 0900-1400
FAA/ART03	Sun 19 May 0900-1400
CLS	Sun 19 May 0900-1400
Special Training- Holding SARs pilot care	Sun 19 May 0900-1200
**	Sun 19 May 0901-1200
Catering NAV	Sat 25 May 0900-1400
Catering CLS	Sat 25 May 0900-1400
Catering NAV	Sat 25 May 0900-1400
ICC	Sun 26 May 1000-1300
ICC	Sat 1 Jun 1000-1300
ICC Essentials - Flow Chart, HRs, IAPs	Sat 8 Jun 1000-1300
https://maintainingsupport.rfsa.org.au/training/ session	Sat 8 Jun 1001-1300

Membership News

We have two probationary members that have completed their 6 months and are keen to join GSB. Carol Lemon-McCoy is a dual member with Blackheath and has been focusing on working in the Comms section of our brigade. She has done numerous shifts and crewed for the 6 Foot Track in the ICC.

John Anderson is a dual member with Winmalee and works for NSW RFS at Olympic Park as a CAD Operator. John has supported learning in the Comms area of CAD by assisting our Training Officer with edits of all CAD documents created for Comms activities. John has done shifts with members in the ICC to support their progress with the dispatch system.

Both will be put to members to vote on at the next General Meeting - August 18th.

All 4 functions working together -

Catering

Catering crews have had training events cancelled and unexpected ones added over the past month, so it is again a good idea to regularly check the needs of catering in the roster.

The Basic Firefighter course was a successful one and the assessment day had us catering as well as offering a tour of the ICC.

Transport & Logistics

Our crews in Transport & Logistics are often called upon to move appliances for repairs. They may also be tasked with delivering sandwiches to the staging area for a HR (Kenny St).

Contact Deputy Captain Patrick Leonard if you would like to be on his list of C class drivers who can assist in following trucks and bringing drivers home.

Aviation

Some of our Aviation members assisted in getting supplies to those trapped in the Megalong Valley after another of our rain cell events. Notice some blue eskies loaded on the helicopter. They travel around a lot, those eskies!



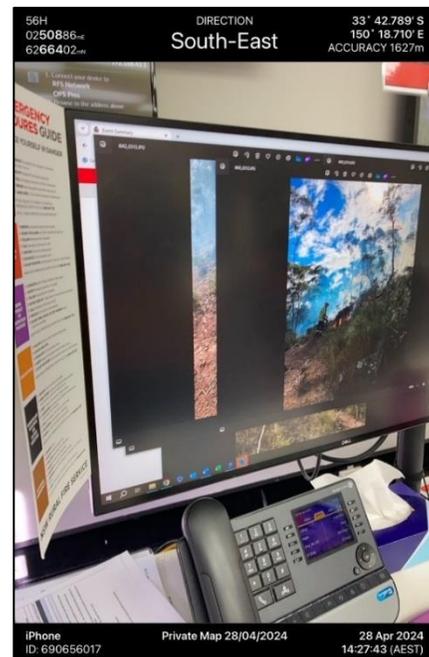
Communication

Recent Hazard Reductions have been led by National Parks and so communications and catering has been their responsibility. Kenny Street however was an RFS run HR, so we catered and crewed the ICC. Two members in the ICC seems to be appropriate for these smaller HRs as they mostly involve using Bravo in CAD and doing ICON.

Hopefully photos from the field will eventually be via Firemapper as our experimentation in the ICC showed that

using Firemapper provides the date/time/grid reference stamp which is useful for situational awareness and providing information to ICON.

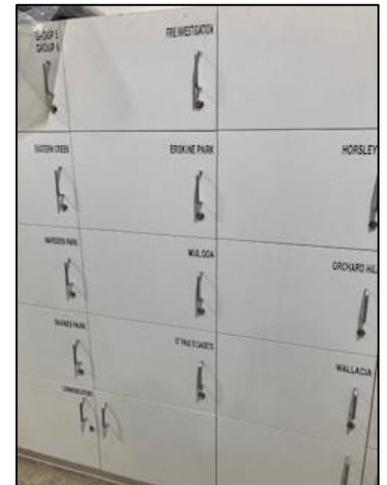
Ask your Supervisor about attaching documents and photos in ICON. Many thanks to Col Church for this lesson on the day.



Cumberland Support Brigade Visit – Saturday 11th May



New item



Delivery lockers

Visiting another Support Brigade was a great experience. The 8 GSB members got to:

- Ask lots of questions
- See how Cumberland work each Saturday
- Be amazed by the fleet size at Cumberland
- View the 'new wrap' look on a trailer
- Check out the Laundry - great drying cupboard!
- Get a demo on filling BA cylinders
- Check the delivery locker system per brigade
- Enjoy lunch with new friends.

Many thanks to Michael (Cpt), Peter (SDC) and his brigade for a great visit.

Dianne Knight – Training Officer



Visit to Cumberland Support Brigade 11th May 2024

The above visit was organised by our Training Officer Dianne Knight in conjunction with Michael Barnes, Captain Cumberland Ops Support Brigade. [COSB] Eight of our members from Blue Mountains GSB attended.

Michael Barnes and his No 2 Peter welcomed us and gave us an overview of how Cumberland Ops Support Brigade operate. Their structure is on a different basis as to how we operate at GSB in that they are an independent unit with access to vehicles, various trailers and equipment designed to their needs. Each week they have tasks like collecting equipment from their various brigades and bringing it back to a central location at Cumberland HQ. This could be items like B.A. bottles which need to be tested and filled with air. They do check for damage, out of date bottles or any other issue with the tanks and keep records of testing etc. They have the responsibility to get replacements for such items.

Their premises contain large industrial washing machines and drying cabinets which can be utilised by the members of any brigade. These have been installed by their management, so members do not have dirty PPE gear washed at home. Members of any brigade place dirty PPC into plastic bags which would be picked up by the COSB from their respective RFBs, brought to Cumberland and then it would be the members responsibility to place them in the industrial washing machine.

COSB also has trailers loaded with equipment which can be transported to the various brigades at short notice and taken to an incident. If required, the trailer could be left at the location and collated at a later date. Items on board may be B.A. bottles, electric generator, lighting equipment etc. New equipment is being purchased on a regular basis or on a needs basis. Old and damaged equipment is replaced as a matter of course. Captain Barnes is replacing or purchasing equipment regularly and has the attitude of "if it's needed in the field then we will do our utmost to get it" This is done in conjunction with the approval of the District Manager Supt Angelo Baldo AFSM.

There is an opportunity for our GSB members to participate in the activities of COSB as Capitan Barnes has welcomed the idea. This is something we in GSB should consider as it would be an advantage to us and can be arranged by an approach to our Captain. Please approach the members who attended today if you wish to find out more about the COSB.

Our thanks to Captain Barnes and his team who provided us with a BBQ lunch for our visit today which was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended.

Patrick Leonard
D.C. Transport & Logistics

Catering

GSB has members who have the Food Handling Supervisor (FHS) certificate (paid for by the NSW RFS), but only a very small number of those people would be competent and confident enough to set up the Catering Truck on their own. What we need is for all of them to step up and take some of the pressure off the few. We have had to turn down jobs recently as no FH supervisors that can set up and run the truck were available. I would like to see all our FHS be able to take out the truck with a totally novice crew and driver. The driver only needs to drive the truck - they don't need to know how to set it up. Yes, it would be out of most people's comfort zone, but it means only one fully qualified person is required. Some familiarisation training sessions will be required first - probably mid-week. Then actually running the truck at a catering session required for the training season. August is particularly full with every weekend requiring catering. If there are members of other brigades who have FHS, they could also be included in this if they are interested.

Rosemary Mann
Catering Deputy Captain

General Meeting Updates

1. Polo Shirts – 3 quotes have been gathered and submitted to the Group Officers fund as a possible support for financing the first 30 polo shirts. We followed the suggestions of those at the last general meeting and opted for full cotton shirts. The request was for a grant of \$2906.
2. The federal grant submission is nearly completed and ready to be submitted to the District Manager following suggestions from Robert and Anthony.
3. The Captain has sent CVs of the 4 nominees for the Group Officer positions (2) to all members to rank the candidates in order of preference. Voting will be on May 14th.

Social News

Our next social event is going to be a Trivia Night - **14th June 6:30pm for a 7pm start Katoomba RSL.**

It is not a fundraiser but to cover costs we are charging \$5 per person, any money left over will be donated to BM Cancer Wellness. Meals are available until 8:30pm, tea and coffee and drinks can be purchased from the bar area.

Get a table of friends and family together for a fun night. The Trivia team Anne, Patrick, Pam and Chris are busy writing questions.

Q. What leg of a chicken is the toughest? Come on the 14th and find out.

Many years ago, after our general meetings we used to have a BBQ as a get together. Would members be interested in having a lunch somewhere after future meetings?

I was thinking of the RSL for meetings at DO and possibly the Lawson Hotel if we have one down the mountains.

Chris Davidson
Social Organiser

Hosted by RFS
Blue Mountains
Group Support
Brigade

**TRIVIA
NIGHT**

**14th of June 2024
Time: 6.30pm
for 7pm start
Venue: Katoomba RSL
\$5 per person
All welcome**

Contact Chris 0477 958 672
Anne 0403 024 236
All profits to BM Cancer Wellness