

NSW Rural Fire Service Blue Mountains Group Support Brigade January Newsletter 2025



From the President

Happy New Year to all.

As we start the New Year watching the devastating fires in California it is a salient reminder that we need to be at the top of our game, ready to respond. Hence our training, training, training. It is hard to remain motivated and put into practise what we have been training for, but it is so important we are ready when the moment does come as it will.

Roza Sage
President

Captain's News

The Brigade Roster is now on the website up until the end of March. Have a look and see if you are available. If so, put your name on it.

The Shed modifications are progressing into the next step with the Builder starting construction of wall. This is hoped to be finished by the end of January with the installation of the air conditioning planned for early February.

The Annual "6-Foot Track" Marathon is on **Saturday 8th March 2025** and involves around 1000 participants running from the historic marked tree at Katoomba to Jenolan Caves Binda Cabins.

The Blue Mountains RFS provides support to the runners and the money raised through participation (entry fee) in this event assists the Blue Mountains RFS funds which provide support to various requirements across the district.

Most Brigades take part in this event providing logistics, transport, manning check points and a variety of other activities.

General Meeting Dates of 2025

February 16

April 13
Location TBA

**AGM June 29 +
Long Service Medals /
Clasps presented**

August 17
Location TBA

October 19

December 14

Executive Meeting Dates

January 23, 2025

March 6, 2025

May 1, 2025

Further dates to be confirmed
by the Executive after
the June AGM.

1. GSB Newsletter Reports / Photos can be sent to the Secretary at gsbbluemountains@gmail.com



The Group Support Brigade provides communications over several shifts in the ICC, Catering tea and Coffee at the start (the marked Tree) as well as assisting with transport and logistics. This is a great training day for us all and a large fundraiser for the district.

The draft roster is on the GSB website members area and some names are already on it.

ROLES ARE

Friday 7th 1200-1800 MFK to Start, pick up supplies, help set up start .

Sat 8th 0445- 1300 Catering tea and coffee at start - (Meet at District Office at 0430 for transport to start). Pack up Start and return equipment to District Office

ICC Operations Room

Sat 8th March 0600 –1200 **Supervisor** plus 3 crew

Sat 8th March 1200 –1800 **Supervisor** plus 3 crew

Transport - Bus Driving Transport A and Transport B

Sat 8th March 0600-1700 - 2 drivers with LR License (at least) Transport A
-2 Drivers with C license and 4WD experience Transport B

Leave the District office at 0600 returning around 1700 - (To be at Duckmaloi Car Park Jenolan Caves Road by 0700 and be totally self-sufficient on the day).

If you have any queries, please call.

Ian Mann
Captain

2025 Training Calendar

Essential snippets that Ramona asked Brigade Training Officers to pass on to members were:

1. All applications to Blue Mountains district courses are outlined with the prerequisites for easier referral by applicants.
2. Application forms are within JotForm and automatically progress to the Captain and Training Officer for one to approve.
3. A list of members accepted on a course is sent to the Captain and T.O.
4. **Joining Instructions come to all course applicants and require the confirmation response to be ticked and returned to ensure numbers are correct for the trainers and for catering.**

Relevant training documents have been emailed to all members. The wall copy of the 2025 Calendar is in our GSB room.

Catering 2025

- The Training Calendar has currently 107 district training events that we may be asked to cater.
- Further BF courses may be added to the calendar as the year progresses.
- Last year was full on with 80 gazetted training events. Others were added to the calendar later.
- The first catering commences February 8th.
- Check the roster if you are interested in helping out in this function area.

Grant Progress – Step 1



The racks have been emptied, moved 30cm, reinstalled and then filled once again.

Many thanks go to Peter Verhoeven for his 2 days of forklift driving for us to complete this task.

The 30cm gap is visible in the photo below. This is where the floor to ceiling wall will begin.



Our brigade area will be the two bays to the right of the new wall.

One old, rusted cupboard has been emptied and removed from service. Others may follow.

Social Events

Plans are being considered for a social event in March so keep an eye out for an email with more information from Chris.

Group Support Brigade Room



Thanks to Adam and Tristan we have our Honour Boards installed in the Brigade Room. Rob also approved the movement of the stick vacuum to our area, so it is available for us to use when needed.

GSB Room name?

We need a room label! Blue Mountains Group Support Brigade Workspace
Blue Mountains Group Support Brigade Meeting Room
Blue Mountains Group Support Brigade _____

Once we have agreed upon a name for the room, a sign can be negotiated with District.

There is currently just the REST ROOMS (amenities) sign directing people down the corridor.

Please send any ideas to our President at rozasage@gmail.com

Acting on the Data

Members issues and concerns, raised by the Executive Members over the past three years, have been collated into the following data. The majority of these issues were managed and settled successfully.

This data will be discussed at the January 23rd Executive Committee Meeting. Our systems and practices can then be analysed and improved if need be.

The 20 'minuted' concerns fell into the following categories:

Welfare practices	=	25% of those raised
Operational & Training practices	=	25%
Brigade spaces	=	20%
Constitutional Points	=	15%
Social Concerns	=	15%

The Executive Members will be able to share the outcome with you at the February 16th General Meeting.

Additional Appliance

This truck is being housed in the District shed and is known as Blue Mts Logistics Alpha - (BMLOGISA)

ICC and Scribing

- Logbooks for CAD have exited the ICC.
- General Operators can record information on their personal notepads.
- CAD Operators should practice using abbreviations when typing radio messages.



2 x Operational Briefs for those in the ICC

Everyone received the following 2 Operational Briefs (November 11 and 18). They contain important messages for those working in the ICC.

1. Changes to the Alert Levels –
 - **RESPONDING** has been added to inform the public that a truck is on the way.
 - The icon on the NSW map is a black diamond with a white flame.
 - Once the IC provides an informative ITASC, a SitRep will need to be completed in ICON and the **status changed in the FIRE tab**.
 - Authorisation of the ICON must only happen after the level has been adjusted.
2. Breathing Apparatus Operators & Structural Firefighting – Radio Terminology
 - Crews should identify to CAD Operators their strength for 'BAO'-trained individuals or 'structural' trained individuals depending on location of the incident.
 - Eg – smoke sighting at St Columbus on Jan 4 – OCC Operator asked BMWINMA1A their crew and DC replied, "*DC/6 with 1 x BAO and 1 x Structural FF.*"

For further information on these 2 Operational Briefs check your emails or OneRFS.

Constitutional Review

All members have the opportunity to submit areas for review in the NSW RFS Constitution of 2018. The JotForm was passed on to everyone via email on January 16th. It is easy to use.

I have submitted the following review area:

"That Support Brigades operating under the Option 2 structure within the Brigade Management Handbook (2018) be able to decide the number of field positions to be elected annually like firefighting brigades."

This opportunity to nominate areas for review closes January 31.

Dianne Knight
Senior Deputy Captain