

NSW Rural Fire Service Blue Mountains Group Support Brigade

May Newsletter 2025



From the President

As we head into the end of another administrative year it has been a year of many changes and challenges for the RFS and Group Support.

Change is never easy.

To finish positively, we have a space in the FCC we can almost call our own and we are well on the way to finishing the renovations to the Shed.

Congratulations to all for your commitment to keeping our Blue Mountains community safe.

Roza Sage
President

Captain's News

Thanks to all that were able to assist for Hazard reductions over Easter and Anzac weekends. A window of opportunity presented itself, so numerous successful HRs were conducted. Our members assisted in the ICC, moving cold room, vehicles and VMS signs around. We also provided welfare to Hrs and Training courses that happened to be occurring. After the weekend of activity VMS signs had to come back and many hoses dried and rolled which our members assisted with.

As is noted elsewhere in this newsletter our AGM is coming up and the procedure is pretty well explained there. If you have any queries, please contact me.

Ian Mann
Captain

**Annual General Meeting
June 29
1000hrs at District Office**

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

**Members are asked to bring
a plate for morning tea at the
conclusion of the Long
Service presentations.**

**General Meetings of 2025:
August 17
October 19
December 14**

**General Meetings of 2026:
February 22
April 19
June AGM 21
August 16
October 18
December 13**



Nominations for Positions

Members received an email from the Vice President who now manages the AGM as part of this elected role. This email provided you with:

- the AGM 2025 Position descriptors
- the Nomination form

These documents are also available on the GSB Website in Documents.

Nominations close June 15th. The list of nominees, submitted by June 8, will be emailed to all members for viewing. Further nominations can be lodged in the week leading up to the June 15.

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

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

AGM reminders:

1. **Nomination forms must have signatures and be scanned and emailed to the brigade email or received by post by midnight June 15 as per the Rules of the Brigade.**
2. **No nominations are taken from the floor unless the position has no candidates offered.**
3. **Postal vote forms can be requested after June 15 via an email to the brigade email address.**
4. **Proxy voting is also an option if you are unable to attend the AGM. You must inform the Vice President via the brigade email of your proxy member before the 29th so the list is prepared for the Returning Officer.**
5. **An ordinary member can only hold 2 proxy votes on behalf of others.**
6. **For further clarification of Brigade Rules relating to AGMs please go to OneRFS....My Communities.....Blue Mountains Group Support Brigade...Documents. All our Rules are loaded there.**
7. **All positions will be declared vacant as is the normal election process.**

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. Only ORDINARY members are eligible to vote. Shifts can be driving appliances, attending RFSA meetings, shopping for catering needs, shed cleaning etc.

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

Long Service Award Presentation

Following the AGM we will be having a presentation on:

- 2 x Long Service 30year Clasps. **Congratulations to Peter McDonald and Anne Brell.**
- 2 x Long Service 20year Clasps. **Congratulations to Pam Stewart and Dianne Knight.**
- Hopefully 2 x 10year Long Service Medals. These could only be submitted on the exact date of the 10 years, which was April 20 and April 22. We hope they will arrive in time for **Sandy Croker and Roza Sage.**

A morning tea will follow the presentation. Please bring a plate of goodies to share that do not involve heating up.

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



Community Engagement can be fun!



The Royal Easter Show

Talk to Anne Brell, Chris Davidson or Paul Hamilton if you want to know more about this annual event. They all did a shift at the Show and enjoyed it. Qualifications required - ICE workshop in FUEL.

OPENING DAYS

Sat 7th June
Sat 21st June
Sat 5th July
Sat 19th July
Sat 2nd August
Sat 16th August
Sat 6th September
Sat 20th September
Sat 4th October
Sat 18th October
Sat 1st November
Sat 15th November
Sat 6th December
Sat 20th December

The Cudgegong Community Education Centre

The Secretary of NSW RFS Heritage, Bill Burns, is seeking volunteers to help with cleaning before & after opening times & taking tours through the Centre.

Community Engagement Teams are most welcome.
If interested, you can contact Bill on 0400 025 968.

Or talk to Heather Connolly if you want to know more about assisting at this Centre.

The Premier's NSW Flood Emergency Citation

Some of our members will be entitled to apply for the NSW Flood Emergency Citation to recognise their service in the 2022/2023 floods.

The criteria for receiving recognition, and the nomination process, have been outlined in OneRFS and the District information will be emailed to everyone soon. RFS members must nominate through their District using the template provided.

Non-Fire Season Training 2025

We have got off to a great start with the training events of the non-fire season. Aviation and Logistics have conducted some essential training workshops which were well attended. In the Communications area we have had the Supervisors updated on systems in the ICC by Tracy Walsh. Further training will be offered for all PRD CAD Operators so keep checking the website roster please.

Truck Induction Workshop April 17



This is the latest vehicle attached to the District Office and will be used to transport and collect materials and equipment as requested.

Matt Sheppard, Operational Officer 1, presented an induction workshop on for the vehicle. This was for members who are HC, HR and MR license holders as these are the licenses required to drive this vehicle.

We had 11 drivers at this training session.

Matt will provide a similar induction for other members interested in being an "off sider" to accompany the driver.

I will advise when this has been arranged with Matt.

Patrick Leonard
Transport & Logistics Deputy Captain



The new freezer has arrived!

As part of the Macquarie Grant we have just installed the new two door upright freezer after moving one of the old chest freezers to a standby location within the shed. It was going to be decommissioned but recent ordering needs for hazard reductions has seen a need for a backup freezer for big events such as these. It is still working so it will remain for now. This will mean we currently have 3 freezers available.

The next phase of the grant is the sink area of the shed. The old sink and nearby cupboard will be removed, and a new modular area will be installed. We are waiting for a quote from the builder and his plumber to get this project started.

It will be the area used for cleaning equipment before and after events.

The 5 Year Plan for the Brigade – Workshop 2

Following the discussion on the 5 Year Plan for GSB at the April General Meeting the members requested that the second workshop be conducted separately to meetings to allow more time for discussions.

Thanks to some juggling of other courses by Tracy, Fion and John we have managed to secure the Training Room at the District on Sunday 22nd June 1300 -1600hrs with a coffee/tea and biscuit break.

Please **SAVE THE DATE** on your calendar.

The third workshop, to formulate the Management Plan, will be scheduled further down the track so if you are unavailable on June 22, you will have another opportunity to contribute at the Management Plan stage.

Brigade Open Day – Recruitment Drive!

A proposal has been made for a Brigade Open Day to showcase the functions of GSB and hopefully attract new members, whether they are dual members or new to the Service.

For such an event to work we would **need a minimum of 12 members in attendance** to meet and greet the visitors and explain the various tasks we do.

The date is **Sunday July 13th**. Set up from 0900 onwards for a 1100-1400 event.
Please **SAVE THIS DATE**.

Grant shopping!

Four catering members travelled down to Auburn to a company that displayed stainless steel modular kitchen items. They measured, rearranged the floor display and finally made some choices.



The bench was discounted for us as it was the end of model display. It is on wheels so it could be moved out for service if needed. It is very heavy and will require a forklift at our end to get it off the truck.



The sink bench nearby was also ordered – 2 deep sinks with covers on them and a mixer tap was also added. They needed an under space cavity for the hot water system to remain.

The above 2 items will improve the current sink area. A very worthwhile expedition seeing we got a bargain!