



From the President

Now that the fire season is wrapping up, we will be into a lot of catering for the training taking place across the Blue Mountains. Please help out with this area if you can.

Thank you to all our brigade for the mighty effort during the 6-foot track event. The hours put into this with planning and participation and the many hours we put in over all our functions over all the year, is the most of any Blue Mountains brigade.

You should all be proud of the contribution you make in supporting our local brigades and keeping our local communities safe.

Congratulations to Paula and Peter who will be receiving their Life Membership Award to Blue Mountains Group Support Brigade in recognition of their service to the brigade.

Roza Sage
President

Life Membership approved – Congratulations!



Paula Metcalfe



Peter Horn

General Meetings of 2026:

April 19

June AGM 21 and Presentation
of Life Membership

August 16

October 18

December 14

Executive Committee Mtgs

May 6

Follow us on Facebook:

RFS – Blue Mountains
Group Support Brigade

**In 7 months, we have
gained 1.1K followers.**



Captain's News

Working with the Brigades of the Blue Mountains has always been an essential part of our Support Brigade. It is what we exist to do, and we appreciate the fact that we are valued and respected as a specialised and different style of brigade available in the Blue Mountains.

Every district across the state is encouraged to have at least one support brigade. Many have numerous support brigades as they are stand-alone, individual function brigades. For example, they might have a Catering Brigade and a separate Support Logistics Brigade. They may have a Bulk Water Brigade or a Community Engagement Brigade.

In the Blue Mountains we have four brigades rolled into one. Up until 2022 we were just the two functions of Communications and Catering. In 2022 we were asked by District to add the two extra functions of Aviation and Transport & Logistics.

Having 4 completely different functions creates challenges such as:

- coordinating training in totally different skill areas
- training members who live from the bottom to the top of the mountains
- voting to accept probationers from different function areas that you have never worked with
- providing members with the chance to work across different function areas
- collecting volunteer hours across the different function areas
- having only one Deputy Captain for each function area (Constitutional Rule)

As we are now coming into the non-fire season, we will offer further training to all our members and encourage them to work in more than one function area. Catering will be clocking up the hours and need everyone to consider how they can ease the load of those endeavouring to feed our fellow fire fighters over 75% of the weekends of the next six months. They say there is “no rest for the wicked” but in this case there is very little rest for our catering members for the next six months. Members are asked to check the roster and consider adding their name to a catering shift. Not every shift is cooking from our truck. Some are more logistical tasks of delivering packaged food or receiving and storing supplies to our shed fridge and freezer. Roster on and travel the district meeting up with our local buddies who are always very happy to see us.

Dianne Knight
Captain

Final Grant Funds

We have ordered the final items to complete our Macquarie Grant spending.

Headsets for the ICC will be purchased so that every radio terminal has dual ear coverage and spares are available.

A Blue Mountains Group Support Brigade marque, like the one pictured, has been ordered. It will have three additional sides, carry bags and the table cover as pictured.



Capturing Volunteer Hours by Bernd Luedecke

Tue 03-Feb-2026 8:27 AM

BM GSB MEMBER HOURS THIS PERIOD		
Start	End	Duration
1-Jan-26	31-Jan-26	4w 3d
SUMMARY OF 14 BM GSB DEPLOYMENTS		
Activity	Member Hrs	# Members
Admin	106	6
Aviation	0	0
Catering	75	17
Com Eng	0	0
Comms	75	14
Meetings	0	0
Training	39	12
Trans&Log	46	11
Other	5.5	1
Out of Area	0	0
AVIATION+	0	0
TOTAL MEMBER HRS:	346.5	= \$12,994
HRS PER WEEK:	78.2	@ \$37.50/hr

Mon 02-Mar-2026 8:34 AM

BM GSB MEMBER HOURS THIS PERIOD		
Start	End	Duration
1-Feb-26	28-Feb-26	4w 0d
SUMMARY OF 30 BM GSB DEPLOYMENTS		
Activity	Member Hrs	# Deployments # Members
Admin	134	→ 7
Aviation	26	2 → 4
Catering	61	4 → 14
Com Eng	0	0 → 0
Comms	91	6 → 17
Meetings	53	1 → 21
Training	114	12 → 30
Trans&Log	82	9 → 14
Other	24	5 → 5
Out of Area	0	0 → 0
AVIATION+	0	0
TOTAL MEMBER HRS:	582.0	= \$21,825
HRS PER WEEK:	145.5	@ \$37.50/hr

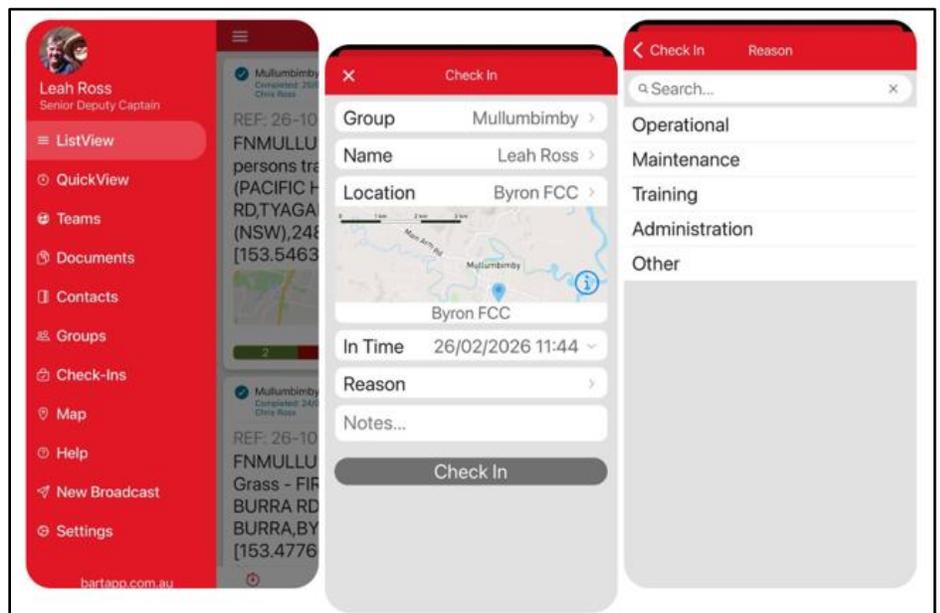
RFSActiv has started to Capture Work Hours

Just as we started exploring further avenues to track volunteer hours, we have been provided with the new system that has been added to Activ.

Check out the explanation provided by Blake Kingdom on OneRFS Connect and through Facebook.

Make sure you update your RFSActiv so the **CHECK IN** section will appear.

It is simple to use so give it a try when you start a shift or do administrative tasks etc.



For our Support Brigade trial of this please populate the **REASON with OTHER** if it is a website shift you are doing. In **NOTES** type the **function area of the shift**, e.g. Reason = Other Notes = Catering

At this stage we cannot collect all the function hours into a REPORT such as Bernd has done but if we gather the data in this way we can present our need to the Activ Team and ask if the possibility will exist in the future.

If it doesn't suit our needs, we will continue to explore external systems that help us to record volunteer hours.

Training Update

On the Cards:

1. All members are encouraged to **do the annual Code of Conduct refresher** in FUEL.
2. Preparation for CCA Course – Sunday 29th March commencing at 0900hrs in the ICC at District Office.
This training is **for our new members** who are keen to learn the basic communication work so they can assist with the radio, scribing, phone and disposition boards. Add your name to the Brigade roster if interested.
3. DC Aviation, John Brell, is preparing to do an aviation workshop on supporting the welfare of pilots via radio checks – **Responsible Person**. All members will be able to consider this workshop so watch out for it in the roster.
4. DC Transport & Logistics, Bernd Ludecke, is currently doing driving training with Libby so she can do her LR license soon. Contact him if you are keen to do likewise.
5. Catering training happens in the tasking of the shift so check out all the catering requests we have for March and April and consider placing your name on a shift. You can receive goods and 'Use By' stamp them all, shop for supplies with the team, pack and transport food to training events across the mountains or go out with the MFK (Mobile Field Kitchen).

Those keen on catering should do their **Food Handling course** online.

Below is the link to the online, free training course for Food Handling. It would be helpful if interested members complete this course and then email their certificate to DC Catering Rosemary Mann

rosemarykmann@gmail.com

Link for the free course: <https://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/training/food-handler-basics-training>

Women and Girls in the NSW RFS

Saturday 7th March saw several of our members participating in a planned event to showcase the variety of roles for women and girls in the NSW RFS. The event was opened by Deputy Commissioner Kelly Quandt AFSM and throughout the morning participants had the opportunity to ask questions from three different panels. The panel sessions were compared by Trish Doyle MP and focused on:

1. New Members
2. Leadership
3. Specialist Roles

Congratulations to the team from South Katoomba and Katoomba/Leura for all their planning and hard work to bring together this special event to celebrate International Women's Day.





FIGURE 1 - GSB COOKING UP A STORM



FIGURE 2 - WEATHER HOLDING



FIGURE 3 - RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITY



FIGURE 4 - SUPPORTED BY STAFF



FIGURE 5 - PANEL DISCUSSIONS



FIGURE 6 - FUN FOR EVERYONE

Epaulettes

Make sure you order and wear your epaulettes for SUPPORT or COMMUNICATION or CATERING or LOGISTICS or AVIATION to show who you are working with when out and about in uniform.

These can be ordered via the District Portal app.

Uniforms being trialed in 2026

Certain brigades across the state have been selected to trial the new RFS uniforms over the next 12 months. The photos give you an idea of the new look. The name tags are going to be velcro attached and not sewn on. This will be helpful for those who are dual members with a Support Brigade such as ours.

The new delivery system for uniforms is about to begin now that the State Logistics Centre at Marsden Park has opened. Check this out on OneRFS.



Six Foot Track Marathon 2026

Another annual Six Foot Track Marathon was successfully held on Saturday 14th March.

Once again, the brigades of the Blue Mountains worked together to provide transport, checkpoint supervision, first aid assistance, radio communications, food for the Start, lighting for those on scene at 0430, car parking support, fun at the Finish line, safe movement around all sites, fruit and drinks at checkpoints and Sweepers to collect those in need.

It is always a massive exercise in operational management, and the District staff supported us all through a very long day.

Well done to everyone involved.

