

# FREEMANS REACH RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

# Bunglers Bugle

Series 3 – AUTUMN 2011

**Training Nights** - 1st Tuesday of each Month 1830hrs-2030hrs

**Meeting Nights** - 3rd Tuesday of each Month 1930hrs

**Maintenance Day** – Last Saturday of each Month 1300hrs-1500hrs

[CLICK HERE](#)



**H**OW THINGS change. Only a matter of weeks ago we watched the devastating floods in Queensland and Victoria, whilst the rain continued to fall upon us here.

We were up to our ankles in water and couldn't keep up with the lawns!!

And then BANG, a week of record-breaking heat and we are chasing fires.

The transition from 'green' to 'brown'

was almost overnight and left us in a very vulnerable position for a week or so with the searing heat.

Luckily, as you will read later, we made it through relatively unscathed and we are now again enjoying the benefits once again of La Niña.

During last month a number of our members were rewarded with Long Service Medals by RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons. We will honour those members in this edition.





# ON THE FIRE FRONT

**O**NE may fear that the Captain had something to do with the call-outs on the Monday 31 Jan and Tuesday 1 Feb, after sending out an email prompting members to be alert and check your pager batteries for that coming week.

Two fires at Ebenezer originated from the same property on Sackville Road.

Monday's fire started when a car was being driven around a paddock and something between the car, a dry grassy paddock and 40 degree heat lead to a fire breaking out.

Six Cat.1 tankers were able to contain the 3 hectare fire but the car and a backhoe were destroyed.

Tuesday's conditions were worse than Monday and a TOBAN was in place.

The hot NW winds re-ignited the fire from Monday and this fire really got a run on and threatened numerous properties on Sackville Road, Tizzana Road and Prentis Lane.

We were involved in property protection at Taylors mushroom farm on Sackville Road.

By the day's end 14 fire tankers and four helicopters, including the Erickson Sky Crane, were used to suppress this fire.

Luckily the remainder of the week was fire free despite the extreme heat.

Only a few minor calls since have been attended by members, including a tree down on Creek Ridge Road.

We were also lucky to avoid a major bushfire in our area when on the Tuesday of the Ebenezer fire, a fire broke out on Old East Kurrajong Road near Creek Ridge Road, and had the potential to run into our area but was caught by four brigades before it became too big.

Crew member turn-outs have been very good, including the crews during the working week.

It was great to see Gary Adams back on the truck for the Ebenezer call after a long stint out with a knee operation.



# NEWS NEWS

## **Freemans Reach Rural Fire Brigade LONG SERVICE AWARDS 2011**

Recently, a number of our members received Long Service Awards at a function held at Panthers North Richmond.

Among the many special guests present on the night were: the Rural Fire Service Commissioner, Shane Fitzsimmons; RFS Region East Manager, John Parnaby; State Member for Hawkesbury, Ray Williams; State Member for Londonderry and representing the Minister for Emergency Services, Allan Shearan; Mayor of Hawkesbury, Bart Bassett; and of course our very own District Superintendent, Karen Hodges.

## **10 YEARS**

### **SUSAN FLAHERTY**

Sue joined the Freemans Reach Rural Fire Brigade in 1993.

She has been an active member of the Brigade since that time holding many positions within the Brigade.

Sue's service includes positions of Deputy Captain from 2006 until current, Executive Officer from 1997-2006 and 2008, and the Call Out Officer from 1993-2005.

Sue has also assisted Fire Control with the after hour call outs and radio for many years, and as a scribe for Group Captains during major fires.

She is a member of the Communications Group, often assisting on weekends and during major fires at the Fire Control Centre.

Sue has now completed 17 years of Service to the Freemans Reach Rural Fire Brigade.

### **DAVID DAVIES**

David joined the Freemans Reach Rural Fire Brigade as a junior member in May 1993.

He became a very competent firefighter at a young age, mixing on the ground experience with various training courses.

David held the position of Catering Officer between 1999 and 2005, was appointed as a Deputy Captain in 2001 until 2006 and then again in 2008.

He was also the Training Officer from 2004 til 2006. David has completed 17 years of service to the Freemans Reach Rural Fire Brigade.

### **ANDREW GRIFFITH**

Andrew joined the Freemans Reach Rural Fire Brigade as a junior member in July 1997.

He is a very active and reliable member of the Brigade.

Andrew has attained a good level of experience through his regular attendance of call outs, hazard reductions and training both at the Brigade level and courses through Fire Control.

He has held the position of Equipment Officer from 2003 til 2005 and again in 2010.

Andrew also obtained his truck licence recently and has become a regular driver for the Brigade.

### **CHRISTINE RUTTER**

Chris joined the East Kurrajong Rural Fire Brigade in August of 1991.

She held the position of Treasurer in 1992 and continued her active service of the East Kurrajong Brigade until transferring to Freemans Reach in December of 2002.

# LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Chris became active in the Brigade's Fundraising Group and in 2007 undertook the position of Fundraising Co-Ordinator for our Brigade, a position which she continues to hold.

Chris has now completed 16 years of service between the East Kurrajong and Freemans Reach Brigades.

## 20 YEARS



### **ANTHONY BATESON**

Anthony joined the Freemans Reach Brigade in June of 1985.

He has been an active firefighter throughout this time.

During his time at the Brigade Anthony has held the positions of Deputy Captain from 1994-1995, Equipment Officer from 1993 til 1995 and then from 2008 until current, and also holds the position of Executive Officer from 2009 until present.

He is an exceptionally skilled truck driver and has used his skills to train other members.

Anthony organises maintenance afternoons

at the station and has on occasions assisted Fire Control staff with voluntary work.

He received a 15 year Long Service Award in 2000 and is in his 25th year with the Brigade.



### **MICHAEL TAYLOR**

Michael joined the Freemans Reach Brigade in January of 1986 and has been an active firefighter for 24 years.

He has held the position of Equipment Officer from 1993-1997 and Station Equipment Officer from 2007-2010.

Michael has been involved in fundraising activities on a regular basis for many years.

He has been a reliable firefighter for many years, often acting as the response driver.

He was awarded a Long Service Award for 15 years in 2003.

### **KEVIN ROBINSON**

Kevin joined the Freemans Reach Brigade in June of 1986 and has been an active firefighter with the Brigade ever since.

He held the position of Deputy Captain from 1992-2000 and then again from 2002-2006.

Kevin has attended many training courses over the years to add to his experience on the



# LONG SERVICE AWARDS

ground as a very capable firefighter.

In recent years Kevin has brought his exceptional workplace skills to the Brigade by producing the Brigades quarterly newsletter.

Kevin received a Long Service Award for 15 years in 2003 and the National Medal in the same year.

## PHILLIP RUTTER

Phil joined the East Kurrajong Rural Fire Brigade in 1984.

He became a Deputy Captain in 1989 until 1995, before becoming the Senior Deputy Captain in 1995.

In 1996 Phil was elected Captain of the East Kurrajong Brigade, a position he held until 1999, before returning to being the Senior Deputy Captain until 2002.

In 2002 Phil transferred to Freemans Reach and was soon a Deputy Captain.

He was elected to Senior Deputy Captain in 2006, a position he still holds. Phil has an extensive knowledge of the area and is a very experienced firefighter and leader.

He was awarded a 15 year Long Service Award and National Medal in 2003.

Phil has now completed over 26 years of service to the Rural Fire Service.

## 30 YEARS

## CAROL BATESON

Carol joined the Freemans Reach Brigade in July of 1979.

Carol has now completed over 30 years of active service and continues to be an important member of the Brigade.

Her service includes being a Deputy Captain



• 30 Years of Service: RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons, Carol Bateson, Bruce Earle, and Bob Hair.

from 1984 until 2006, Vice President from 1992 until current and has completed many training courses.

Carol is the current Call Out Officer, a position she has held since 2003.

She also has been the Catering Officer since 2008 and is an active fundraiser with the Brigade.

Carol was an original member of the Brigade's 'Ladies Crew' which turned out in the early 1980's during work hours when there was a shortage of daytime members.

Carol received Long Service Awards for 15 years in 1996 and 20 years in 2000 and the National Medal in 2003. She received Life Membership of the Freemans Reach Rural Fire Brigade in 2007.

## BRUCE EARLE

Bruce joined the Freemans Reach Rural Fire Brigade as a junior in 1979.

He has been a very active member of the Brigade since this time.

Bruce has undertaken numerous courses

# LONG SERVICE AWARDS

over the years to add to his experiences as a firefighter.

He became a Deputy Captain in 1987 until 1993 and again in 2004.

Bruce was the Senior Deputy Captain for 11 years from 1993 until 2003 and again in 2005.

He followed in his fathers and grandfathers footsteps to become the Captain in 2006, a position he still holds.

Bruce has been the current President since 2004 and was the Treasurer between 1987 to 1993.

He was a member of the STARG team during the 1990's. Bruce has been a representative on the Hawkesbury District Advisory Committee since 2007.

He was awarded Long Service Awards for 15 years in 1996 and 20 years in 2000 and received the National Medal in 2003.

Bruce was made a Life Member of the Freemans Reach Rural Fire Brigade in 2010.

## **ROBERT HAIR**

Bob joined the Freemans Reach Brigade in 1972 and has been active for a period of 38 years.

As well as being a firefighter during this time, he was the Vice President from 1982-1988 before becoming the President in 1988 until 2004.

Bob has been the Treasurer since 2004. He has been an active participant in fundraising activities and during the several of the Brigades 'Santa runs' has donned the red suit.

Bob has received Long Service Awards for 15 years in 1996 and 25 years in 2000.

He has received the National Medal and

added the first Clasp in 2003. Bob was made a Life Member of the Freemans Reach Rural Fire Brigade in 2007.

## **PAT HESSION**

Pat originally joined the Box Hill / Nelson Bush Fire Brigade in the Baulkham Hills Shire over 30 years ago following on a family tradition.

Soon after, he joined the Oakville Rural Fire Brigade and became a very active member of the Brigade, eventually becoming a Deputy Captain.

Pat has enjoyed many years of active service with Oakville bringing his skills as a mechanic to the service.

In 2008 Pat joined Freemans Reach as a dual member and quickly became a valuable member of our Brigade and was made a Deputy Captain in 2009.

He is a regular attendee of call outs and supporter of Brigade activities.

## **40 YEARS**

## **JANICE EARLE**

Jan has been a member of the Freemans Reach Brigade since 1961, however she helped her mother with call outs prior to this as her father, Snowy Smith, was the original Captain.

Jan was a firefighter for a number of years being appointed the first woman Deputy Captain in the Hawkesbury in 1978 and remained a Deputy until 1992.

She was a member of the 'Ladies Crew' in the early 1980's when there was a shortage of available day time members. Jan has been the Secretary since 1981, was the Treasurer

# LONG SERVICE AWARDS



• 40 Years of Service: Jan Earle with Allan Shearan (left) and RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons.

between 1983-1986 and has been one of the Brigades Call Out Officers since 1961.

She held the position of the canteen manager in the late 1970s at Gymkhanas and fundraising events.

She continues to assist with fundraising.

Jan has received Long Service Awards for 15 years, 25 years and 35 years.

She received the National Medal in 1989 and received 1st and 2nd Clasps in 2003.

Jan received Life Membership of the Freemans Reach Rural Fire Brigade in 1994.

## ... NEWS ... NEWS ...

### **BADGES**

If any members require any name badges, Brigade badges, rank badges or epaulettes could you please notify either Sharon (0406 076 697 text msg will be fine) or Bruce at [bearle@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bearle@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au) or 0412 583 492) by no later than Monday 7th March.

Name and Brigade badges are available in either red on yellow or white on blue depending on whether you need them for your overalls or blues.

It is hoped that we will have the badges by early April.

### **WEARING OF PPE**

A reminder to all members that whilst attending fires or incidents, correct PPE must be worn at all times.

This is for your own safety.

We also need to be mindful of the clothes and under garments that we wear under our overalls (as some members can testify over the years) these too can become overheated and become a hazard to the wearer in some cases.

### **BF COURSE**

It is anticipated that we will run a BF course in April and May of this year. At this stage we have existing members who have already

# NEWS NEWS

completed portions of their training, so unless we gain some new members who have to start from scratch, there may be a chance of fast tracking the course to suit where the current members are at with their training.

These members looking at completing their BF will be notified closer to the time.

## ANZAC SERVICE

This years ANZAC Service at the Freemans Reach War Memorial will be held on Sunday 24th April at 9.45am. Any members wishing to attend should wear either their overalls and blue shirt or alternatively the dress uniform.

## ARCHIVE PHOTOS

Whilst researching info for the upcoming book on the Brigades history, a number of old photos have been dug out of the archives

and a few of them have been placed on the Brigade website [www.frrfb.org.au](http://www.frrfb.org.au) . Some of these photos are out of the late 1970's and the others are from 1991.

## A Little Birdie Told Me ...

...that Harvey was recently seen spending some quality time with and getting to know some budgies in a cage. He was seen whistling to them and talking daintily to them whilst attempting to get as close to the birds as he possibly could. Harvey did mention how beautiful they looked and how he wanted to have a close look at them. Harvey returned from the bird cage wondering why these birds weren't very responsive to his very impressive calls, in fact the birds had their backs turned to him the entire time. Well there was one very good reason for this .. the birds were made out of concrete!!

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## WATCH VIDEO FROM THE WA FIRES CLICK BELOW TO PLAY

Possibly may not work on some computers





# CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS

For your own records, the numbers you need for any information or crew availability are as below...  
If your details change at any stage (including phone numbers, address, email) please notify Bruce or Carol ASAP.

	Position	Mobile	Home	Work
Bruce Earle	Captain	0412 583 492		4560 4690
Carol Bateson	Call out officer	0419 245 130	4579 6445	
Sharon Steel	PPE	0406 076 697		

## WHAT'S ON... CALENDER

### MARCH

1st	Tuesday	1830hrs	Training
15th	Tuesday	1930hrs	Meeting
26th	Saturday	1300hrs	Maintenance and Standby

### APRIL

5th	Tuesday	1830hrs	Training
19th	Tuesday	1930hrs	Meeting
24th	Sunday	0930hrs	ANZAC Service - Freemans Reach War Memorial
30th	Saturday	1300hrs	Maintenance and Standby

### MAY

3rd	Tuesday	1830hrs	Training
17th	Tuesday	1930hrs	Meeting
28th	Saturday	1300hrs	Maintenance and Standby

This edition of 'Bunglers Bugle' created by -

