



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

If you see fire, call 000



ROTHBURY RURAL FIRE SERVICE

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017

Next General meeting 13th November 2017

@ 1930hrs

PREPARE, ACT, SURVIVE

Rothbury Brigade – A valuable community resource.

The Rothbury Brigade has been active for fifty years and has served our community well when it has been threatened by fires. It's not just bushfires that your brigade attends, it is also motor vehicle accidents, structural fires, trees falling across roads and more. Your brigade is regularly out at all times of day and night, and in the big fires the tanker is on the fire ground for days at a time with rotating shifts of crews. It also has an educational role as it visits local schools and keeps the community up to date with its regular newsletter that has been distributed for the last 35 years and on Facebook (*Rothbury RFS Brigade*).

The members of your brigade are all volunteers – they receive nothing for their efforts, except the knowledge that they have contributed to their community, even if the community is unaware of their efforts. Your brigade members all have normal jobs and many run their own businesses. Our members represent many professions and trades, but give up time (and sometimes income) attending callouts.

Your brigade members undergo thorough training, which dependent on the position that they hold, may take years. Our brigade deputies and captain understand fire behavior and the need for safety at all times. As a group of volunteers, they are a very professional group of firefighters.

We exist to serve our community and depend on the support of our community. It really is pleasing to see how many landowners contact their Brigade in the planning stages of preparing to light fires on their property. As a result, we have few fires that 'get away' in our area. Many thanks.

If, as a member of the community you would like to support us, we have many ways in which you can contribute. There is the obvious commitment to firefighting, but also many support jobs which may include accountancy skills, assisting with maintenance, distribution of newsletters and many more. You don't have to be a firefighter, but if you wish to do so, you will need to undergo fire training.

Just as our community depends on the Rothbury Brigade, the Brigade depends on its community. If you are willing to assist, please make contact with the Brigade – details on the back page.

Summer is here and fire restrictions are in place.

If you wish to light a fire in the open to burn off vegetation or reduce any fire hazard on your property, a permit must be obtained from one of our Permit Issuing Officers. Once obtained, before lighting the fire, at least 24 hours notice must be given to the Lower Hunter Fire Control, to the Rothbury Brigade Communications Officer and to your neighbors (including any across the road from your property). This ensures that everyone knows your intentions that there are no unnecessary call outs for your Brigade.

The conditions have been so dry over the winter and spring period, combined with strong drying winds have produced a situation where unless substantial rain occurs we are will have another potentially dangerous fire season this summer. The country was so dry that in an almost unprecedented action the Rural Fire Service cancelled all existing Fire Permits and has stated that no Fire Permits will be issued until substantial rain has fallen. Keep an eye on our Facebook site to see the latest situation in regard to the lighting of fires.

Within days of the official finish of winter, your brigade was involved in fighting major fires in the area. This was not a good start to season.

WHAT IS A TOTAL FIRE BAN?

<p>INCINERATORS, WELDING, GRINDING AND SOLDERING ARE PROHIBITED</p> 		<p>BARBECUES IN PUBLIC RESERVES OR COMPLOTS CAN BE USED AS LONG AS THEY ARE ELECTRIC OR GAS-FIRED</p>
<p>INCLUDES ALL OPEN AIR FIRES FOR PURPOSE OF COOKING OR CAMPING</p> 	<p>TOTAL FIRE BANS ARE IN PLACE FOR A WHOLE DAY, FROM MIDNIGHT TO MIDNIGHT</p>	<p>THE BARBECUE MUST BE A FIXED STRUCTURE AND AN ADULT MUST BE PRESENT</p>
<p>THE LIGHTING OF ANY FIRES IN THE OPEN AIR IS PROHIBITED</p> 	<p>BARBECUES USING SOLID FUEL, SUCH AS WOOD, CHARCOAL OR BRIQUETTES, ARE BANNED</p> 	<p>AT LEAST 30 LITRES OF WATER MUST BE ON HAND IN CASE OF EMERGENCY</p>

Captain	Angus Sutherland
Senior Deputy	Adam Rees
Deputy Captains	Tim Murray
	Mike Keir
	Bill Sneddon
	Brendan Ward

President	Bill Sneddon
Secretary	Phil Howe

'rothbury@lowerhunterffs.com.au

Treasurer	Gary Wills
Equipment Officer	Phil Howe
Communications Officer	Karen Jackson

Permit Issuing officers: Simon Rofe
Gary Wills

Lower Hunter Fire Control: 1800 890 533

