

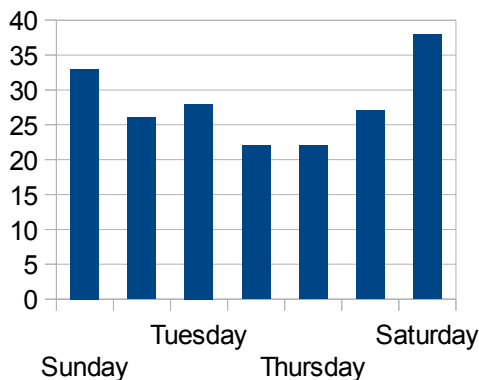


## Tuross Head Rural Fire Brigade *not just "Weekend Warriors"*

For those fascinated by statistics I present the following graph, showing recorded callout figures for the Tuross Head Rural Fire Brigade over the past 10 years. It clearly indicates that more incidents occur on weekends, especially Saturdays. In fact 36% of all incidents have occurred over weekends. Tuesdays are spot-on average whilst Wednesdays and Thursdays are below average. Perhaps we should formally change our "weekends" to Wednesday-Thursday! Of course the sceptics amongst you would probably say that the only reason there are more incidents on weekends is that we're all hanging around at home then, creating opportunities for additional incidents, rather than being safely ensconced at work (occupational health and safety only seems to apply to the

work situation). Now if these statistics are obvious at Tuross Head, where there are a large number of retirees celebrating weekends every day, then what would the figures show up in the big smoke!

So we either change our work/leisure habits or, preferably, improve our safety and awareness practices during the weekend. After all, what really is the "weekend". Well, I'm glad you asked. According to Wikipedia "the workweek and weekend are those complementary parts of the week devoted to labour and



rest respectively. The legal working week ... is the part of the seven-day week devoted to labor. In most Western countries it is Monday to Friday. The weekend comprises the two traditionally non-working days in the seven-day week. What constitutes the workweek is mandated either by law or custom". Incidentally "the French Revolutionary Calendar had ten-day weeks and allowed *decadi*, one out of the ten days, as a leisure day" - ouch! "For most Israelis, the workweek begins on Sunday and ends on Thursday or Friday at noon to accommodate Jewish Sabbath, which begins Friday night". "Friday is the Muslim holy day when Jumu'ah prayers take place, and a number of countries have a Thursday-Friday weekend." So it appears that while not everyone has adopted Saturday/Sunday as a 'weekend', no-one yet seems to have taken up the Wednesday/Thursday alternative!

Whatever you decide your local Brigade will continue to be on-call 24/7! We have now grown to 17 active members with there are a few others who have recently expressed real interest. All active members undergo a considerable amount of formal and informal training and some of this training has recently been made even more flexible and accessible through the introduction of electronically supported learning and teaching (eLearning) programs. The induction programs now available to Volunteer Members are:

- ★ **Safety Induction** - for all new members. This program provides a general awareness of Occupational Health and Safety relevant to the NSW RFS
- ★ **Volunteer Induction** - for all new volunteer members. This program provides an overview of volunteering in the NSW RFS and of the Service's general operations and organisational structure. The content has been drawn out of the Bush Firefighter (BF) program to allow for a blended approach to the delivery of BF.

Want to know more? Then come and talk to us about joining the RFS at our depot in Drake Street, where training is underway every Wednesday from 5:30pm to 7:30pm and from 9am to noon on the first Saturday morning of each month.

**PREPARE . ACT . SURVIVE .**