



Tuross Head Rural Fire Brigade

The Brigade members held a well attended Annual General Meeting in early May and after much spirited competition voted to keep the status quo. Congratulations to all those who have once again put up their hands to take on some duties within the Brigade. Successful applicants, on the administration side include Marilyn Dredge, who continues waving her gavel as President, Keith Jenkins who has proudly received a new biro for his Secretarial duties and Tim Jenkins has formally paid for the biro from his carefully guarded Treasury. Operationally, Terry Lines marches on as Captain, supported by Senior Deputy Captain, Bob Dredge and Deputy Captains, Mick Tilbrook, Clifford Reid and Gordon Marion.

Happily, the Brigade has continued to grow over the past year and we now have some 18 active members, all of whom continue to undertake progressive formal training to attain competency needed to:

- fight bush and grass fires (Bush Firefighter)
- fight small structural, vehicle and similar fires (Village Firefighter)
- fight bush and grass fires without direct supervision (Advanced Firefighter)
- manage a crew at a fire or other incident (Crew Leader)
- direct several crews at larger, more complex fires and incidents (Group Leader).



There are many other specialist courses and qualifications necessary within each Brigade, such as Chain Saw Operator, Equipment Operator, Rural Fire Driving or Senior First Aider. The Brigade encourages all members to undertake further training matched to the type of duties they are looking to undertake and to train up to at least Crew Leader level over the first few years in case they find themselves having to lead a crew of less experienced fire fighters at an incident.



Regretfully, seemingly to counterbalance this pleasing growth in the Brigade, we occasionally lose members for one reason or another. This year, on behalf of the Community, the Brigade farewells one of its stalwarts, Wilf Boehm (pictured here on Anzac Day, 2006). Wilf has recently resigned from the volunteer service for health reasons. Sadly all of us grow old and cannot serve forever. For well over a decade Wilf has been a willing and reliable contributor to the Brigade and has attended many incidents, helping to eliminate threats and keep our community safe. With him go our best wishes and the assurance we will strive to keep his example alive.

Finally we have the all important "tip of the month" from Deputy Captain/ Equipment Officer/ Aviaryist, Gordon Marion

(shown here driving our smaller fire truck). "If you have your pet bird in the kitchen with you when you're cooking, using any Teflon coated utensil you'll probably end up having to scrape the bird up from the floor". In fact, DuPont admits that non-stick fry pans can release toxins. At high temperatures Teflon is known to give off a cocktail of 15 types of toxic particles and gases, including trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) and phosgene. These



chemicals are known to be poisonous to birds, and in humans they cause headaches, chills, backache, and fever - a condition known as 'Teflon flu'). Well done Gordon! Another tip next month.

Come and join your local dynamic Brigade! We welcome more members. You'll find us in Drake Street, where training is underway every Wednesday evening from 5:30 to 7:30 and from 9am to noon on the first Saturday morning of each month.

PREPARE . ACT . SURVIVE .

Michael Jones
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Publicity Officer
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