

YOUR RFS BRIGADE NEEDS YOU!



Rural fire services throughout Australia are heavily dependent on volunteers to respond to fires and related emergency incidents. Maintaining adequate numbers of volunteer firefighters is thus essential for the protection of people, property and the environment in areas vulnerable to bushfires.

In a fairly recent survey (NSW Grain Belt Community Survey, 2005 – Evaluating the community's understanding about the NSW RFS, Report 1, March 2006, Birch & McLennan) a number of factors were identified “that would make it easier to volunteer with RFS” (*Tuross Brigade's response to your possible needs are in italics*):

- 1 Provide information sessions about volunteering with RFS 61% - *talk to existing members any Wednesday evening from 5:30pm to 7:30pm*
- 2 Help me to develop skills that would be useful in other parts of my life (4WD driving, chainsaw use, leadership, computers, first aid) 57% - *local informal training is undertaken on a regular basis and official courses are run by the RFS where you may gain formal qualifications*
- 3 Publicise intake dates for new volunteers 56% - *the Brigade welcomes new members at any time (pop in or ring on the number listed below)*
- 4 Help me get qualifications that would help my career (workplace trainer certificate, heavy vehicle licence, first aid certificate) 52% - *most courses you attend will result in some form of formal accreditation which is usually transferable to a “civilian” qualification*
- 5 Help me to get started by introducing me to other brigade members and showing me how things work around the brigade 47% - *remember that your Brigade is ready to receive visitors and potential members every Wednesday evening from 5:30pm*
- 6 Invite me personally to volunteer 38% - *this is it! We'll be considering a letter-box drop soon*
- 7 Make it easier for friends or family members to also become involved with RFS 32% - *come in and discuss how you'd like to become involved. We do have the occasional social function which involves all family members*
- 8 Assist with child-care during RFS activities 31% - *not something we've considered recently but not impossible given that the Brigade does have some inactive firefighters who may be interested in assisting in other ways*
- 9 Recognise my past fire fighting knowledge instead of making me retrain under the new system 16% - *this happens now! RPL or Recognition of Prior Learning is a well established practice in the RFS*

Your Brigade is open to new members. If you are over 18 please feel free to join us in Drake Street, where training is undertaken every Wednesday evening from 5:30 to 7:30 and from 9am to noon, the first Saturday morning of each month.

Michael Jones
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