

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – Canyonleigh Rural Fire Service, 10 April 2013

Meeting opened at 7.40 pm

Attendees were recorded on the Attendance Register. As well as members of the Canyonleigh Brigade, guests included David Bartlett and Matt Walker, Rowan Lund representing the Wingecarribee Rural Fire District, Apologies were submitted from Phil Moore, Geoff Thiessan, John Kay, and Ian Smith. The meeting was chaired by Ron Stahl.

Minutes of the last AGM on 12 April 2012 were presented by Secretary Terry Biscoe and they were accepted.

Moved: Peter Attreed. Seconded: Adam Stefanuik.

President's Report delivered by President Ron Stahl.

The past year has been, once again a very quiet one for fires. We did experience one "catastrophic" day, which in my opinion was not warranted in Canyonleigh, however we are part of the Illawarra weather region and in other parts of the region it may have been necessary.

I would like to thank and congratulate our captain and deputies on their constant vigilance and for the assistance that they have given to community members.

I also thank the Community Association for their support, particularly for their help in distributing information out to the community.

The highlight of the year I believe was our very successful open day in October 2012. This event would not have taken place without the mammoth effort of Francis Crown. Frances, on behalf of the brigade and the community a huge thank you for a job very well done.

While ever the Canyonleigh Brigade has dedicated fire fighters as we have now, Canyonleigh is in good hands.

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The President's Report was accepted.

Moved: Peter Attreed. Seconded: Adam Stefanuik

The Captain's Report was delivered by Captain Mark Pearson - (Summer 2012 – 2013)

Firstly, thank you to the members of the brigade for their support through the last year. Knowing there are people available to help if and when required makes my and all of our jobs that much easier.

This fire season just gone has been unpredictable. Initially starting as potentially the worst on record (following good rain in Feb, Mar that triggered enormous pasture growth), things got worse into Dec and Jan culminating in a catastrophic fire rating day on January 8 2013. Then it rained on Australia Day, and everything went green!

On the community front, Frances Crown spent a huge amount of time preparing and then presenting another fire awareness program. This included follow up visits to participants houses to look over fire plans and general bush fire preparedness. Francis spent a lot of time getting this ready including trips to Firecom for projectors and mannequins and various bits and pieces. This program was made possible because of the success of the shed open day in September . A lot of organising and arm twisting by Francis led to a huge turn out of locals and visitors, looking at the shed, Beth Hough's artwork, playing on

the jumping castle, thinking about fire plans and children trying to wear out the truck sirens! A big thank you to Francis and her helpers especially Charlotte, Kate and Laura, for the initial shed clean and the food on the day. Thank you too, to all the members who came to help out answering questions, inquiries and general fire plan info.

In terms of fire incidents this year, there have been no call outs to bush or grass fires. We have attended some unauthorised pile burns during the season, lit by people who didn't realise you can't just light fires at any time of the year. There have been a few more car accidents, but we are very lucky to have the First Responders group out here, and they get there very quickly.

Terry has done a terrific job getting the web site up and running, and judging by the amount of hits prior to the catastrophic day this will be an important tool in the future both in terms of information and as a ' front office ' for the brigade.

The brigade purchased a thermal imaging camera during the year. We see this as having an important use both in mopping up operations and perhaps more importantly as a tool for finding lightning strikes.

Finally, thanks to Ron and Charlotte for hosting the Christmas party at their place.

Incidents / Pager calls, Canyonleigh.

25/3/2013 MVA 1700 Tugalong Rd, 1 person airlifted to hospital.
7/3/2013 MVA outside shop, Tugalong Rd, 1 person airlifted to hospital.
7/1/2013 MVA single vehicle rollover, Canyonleigh Rd, heading down to Inverary Rd,
(no injuries)
2/1/2013 1361 Canyonleigh Rd, unauthorised pile burn.
30/12/2012 198 Foxgrove Rd, cat up a tree!
6/12/2012 Cnr Canyonleigh, Tugalong Rds, unauthorised pile burn.
7/10/2012 1361 Canyonleigh Rd, unauthorised pile burn.
6/4/2012 MVA, Hume Highway, Sutton Forest. Four cars nose to tail.
(no injuries)
6/4/2012 MVA Canyonleigh Rd. (opposite Cowabee)
(no injuries)

The Captain's Report was accepted.

Moved: Peter Attreed. Seconded: Adam Stafanuik.

Treasurer's Report – Presented by Frank Downs.

A prepared financial report was tabled for the AGM. The report detailed income and expenditure over the previous twelve month period. Income over the 12 month period was \$251.86. Expenditure was \$7,396.36. Accumulated funds on 31 March 2013 was \$6294.36, certified by Treasurer Frank Downs and audited by Auditor, Laird Stewart.

The Treasurers Report was accepted.

Moved: Peter Attreed. Seconded: Adam Stefanuik

Snr Deputy Captain's Report – Presented by Brett Bannerman

In the past 12 months we initiated a number of activities for the Brigade's benefit. These included the investigation of a VHF tower to be located at the shed to improve radio communications. Following discussion with Firecom, who liaised with Wingecarribee Council, Firecom would not endorse our initiative. We also trialled and then purchased a thermal imaging camera for the brigade's use. It will

be invaluable for mopping up and determining lightening strikes. The unit has a number of technical features and, with more experience, should represent a worthwhile investment.

The Snr Deputy Captain's Report was accepted.

Moved: Peter Attreed. Seconded: Adam Stefanuik

Wingecarribee RFS Report – Dave Bartlett

Firecom is planning a major hazard reduction in the Bullio area in late April or Spring 2013. The Fire Danger signs within the Wingecarribee are to change to a new design in the future, including new-look Total Fire Ban signs. During the off-season, signs will be replaced with a community engagement message: Plan, Prepare and Act as per the past season.

Group Officer Elections will soon be staged. Dave recommended that Captain Mark Pearson discuss this with the brigade at a later date.

Firecom is aware of the pager system problems in the area and this issue is being managed by Ashley Frank. It is hope that this problem is resolved within a few weeks. The SMS system is working OK.

Dave discussed the recent catastrophic fire rating day. He believed that the Shire and Illawarra situation caused confusion and discussion within the RFS. They are hoping to improve communications in the future.

Dave then invited Rowan to briefly discuss the upcoming Group Officer Elections. Rowan outlined Group Captain's duties, recent resignations and the need to introduce 'new blood' into the ranks.

Election of Officers

David Bartlett declared all positions vacant and requested nominations. The officers are:

Captain: Mark Pearson.

Moved: Peter Attreed. Seconded: Adam Stefanuik.

Senior Deputy Captain: Brett Bannerman

Moved Mark Pearson. Seconded Peter Attreed.

Deputy Captain (Training): Peter Attreed.

Moved: Adam Stefanuik. Seconded: Dave Hough.

Deputy Captain: John Kay:

Moved Peter Attreed. Seconded: Dave Hough

Deputy Captain: Mick Trevisiol:

Moved Adam Stefanuik. Seconded Dave Hough

President: Ron Stahl:

Moved Peter Attreed. Seconded: Adam Stefanuik

Vice President: Laird Stewart.

Moved: Ron Stahl, Seconded Mark Pearson

Secretary: Terry Biscoe.

Moved Mark Pearson. Seconded: Brett Bannerman

Treasurer: Frank Downs.
Moved Peter Attreed. Seconded Adam Stefanuik.

Community Safety Officer: Brett Bannerman
Moved : Peter Attreed. Seconded: Adam Stefanuik

Equipment Safety Officer: Dave Hough
Moved Peter Attreed. Seconded: Adam Stefanuik

Brigade Health & Safety Officer: Adam Stefanuik
Moved: Dave Hough. Seconded Peter Attreed

Auditor: Laird Stewart
Moved: Mark Pearson. Seconded Ron Stahl

General Business

The web site has proven to be a successful service for the brigade and community. We have had hundreds of hits and page views. On the catastrophic day the web site was visited some 80 times. Terry Biscoe also advised that a Facebook page for the brigade has been set up with may `likes' and visitors. Please participate if you have a Facebook page.

Meeting closed at 8.36 pm.