



RFSA

BLUE MOUNTAINS BRANCH 2019 General Meeting

Minutes for 18/7/19

Meeting held Blue Mountains FCC 19:30

Chair welcomes all & Open's meeting.

Apologies.

Received prior

Robert Morse & Ian " Meg ", Les Schweitzer " FB "

Received from Floor

Susie McGregor,

Attendance

Alan Holley (Win), Ian West (Haz), Barry Freeman (Mt Wil),
Brian Jewell (B/Hth), Peter Manning (W/Ford), John Brell (Sth Kat),
Mark Murray (VH), Ken Wade-Ferrel (Win), Bert Clarke (VH),
Stuart Fuller (C3), Chris Davidson (K/L), Lindsey Williams (G/Lap)
Robyn Catt (GSB), Allan Catt (Haz)

Mail Incoming

Operations Consultative Committee Notes " Andrew MacDonald "
Infrastructure Consultative Committee Notes " Adrian Reynolds "
Membership Services Consultative Committee Notes " Bert Clarke "
State Council Observations " Peter Burfitt "
Acknowledgement of Lap Top request " RFSA Executive "

Mail Outgoing (AGM related only)

- a) GM notification notice for 15/7/19
- b) Request for Branch Lap Top process.
To RFSA CEO Sharon Ellicott.

1. Chair report

Welcome to a few new faces after the Brigade AGM's

It is great to see such a wide representation of Brigades and great numbers, the best in several years.

Branch RFSA Web Site fully converted & hosted by RFSA, Working well with all RFSA info being uploaded as being received, also with meeting dates ETC.

While initial indications were the Brush Cutter Issue had been concluded without outcome, apparently it is still being reviewed from a different angle as believed it was misunderstood.

2. Div 4 Report

Tabled in Draft format as Blue Mountains could not attend due to AGM's

3. Tabling of Received reports (As above)

4. District Report

No District report. (DM Seconded, FCO 2 on leave)

5. General Business
- a) Discussion from Alan Holley on re elections at State Council as he was in attendance with John Fitzgerald.
 - b) Discussion of concerns with installation of “ Black Box “ Buttons & limiting of situational awareness from this approach in the field.
Will keep a close eye on progress thru next meetings.
 - c) Discussion paid staff being ranked members on crews, while this is not an issue in the mountains at this time it was believed there was already enough confusion created with Operational Staff wearing Volunteer insignia of Group Officer.
 - d) Recent announcements of the change of the four regions into Seven Area’s was briefly discussed & recommended that each rep discussed with their Brigade Captain for actual details.
There was also discussion and request to ask RFSA how and when this would effect the Divisions.
“ **ACTION**” Bring up at next Div 4 meeting.
 - e) Mention was made from a report on the New Mid Pump Build Trucks, Would be good to see one & discuss.
“ **ACTION**” Try & arrange one from Engineering Services for Oct meeting thru District office.
 - f) Membership Services report “ Bert “
 1. New H&S forms should be out in August
 2. Sun Care “ Sun Smart “program being worked on
 3. Code of Conduct training progressing. (Ops 5.1)
 4. USI # now required by RFS for National Courses
 5. RFS Lat to arrive soon and can carry 75 passengers.
 - g) Branch has three Reps who are attending the AFAC Conference and have been asked to present a brief report at the following meeting.
 - h) Brief discussion on District HSR operating procedure as agreed by District & that HSR would be attending each Brigade over the next months.
 - i) K/Leura asked about snow chains for vehicles when working under SES Snow Plan.
Chair suggested that this be brought up thru the Group Officers as this was an active issue and being discussed at District with Engineering Services.
Discussion was led further by C3 Stuart Fuller in that while Engineering Services were not supportive of snow chains, Both SES & FRNSW use during this event and now the Snow Plan specifies RFS roll it is believed that Chains should be approved for use by selected Brigades & Vehicles.
It was suggested that a Business Paper be developed by Katoomba Leura Captain for further discussion.
Bert Clarke agreed to assist.
“ **ACTION**” Business Paper to be presented to Branch.
 - J) B/Heath asked if the RFS Strategic was available
Suggested to Check RFS Web Site & My RFS
“ **ACTION**” Chair to ask District
 - K) Sth Katoomba asked Was the District going to have a full time FCO for the Fire Season ?
“ **ACTION**” Chair to ask District for update.
 - L) Mt Wilson gave a brief on how they applied to be heard at the 2013 Coroner’s inquiry specifically relating to fires being run from outside of the local District & Group Officers when fire crosses District Boundaries.



Cont: Mt Wilson

Need for Comms & operational pre planning for these types of fires crossing boundaries with trigger points.

Now a pre plan being put together with Chiefly, Blue Mountains & Hawksbury Districts Which was being put to GL & West Sector GO's

It was suggested by the chair that if this was the way forward maybe a similar approach with Cumberland & Wollondilly should be looked at.

Mt Wilson also briefly discussed the new Engineering designed CFR unit

6. Close & Thanks

Next General Meeting :- 17/10/19 19:30 at District Office.

Chair
Signature.....

Secretary
Signature.....