



RFSA

Rural Fire Service Association

Supporting Our Members To
Protect The Community



RFSA

- Authoritative Voice

- The NSW Rural Fire Service Association is the recognised representative association of the volunteers and staff of the NSW Rural Fire Service.

- We are NOT a Union and are bipartisan
- There is NO cost to join and NO ongoing fees
- We have over 24,000 Registered Members and a deemed membership of more than 70,000 NSW RFS members
- We are managed by our Members via a State Board and State Council Structure with elected representatives

- We support our Members to protect their Community with

- Assistance
- Representation



• Supporting Our Members

- Annual ‘Member’ and ‘Young Member of the Year’ awards
 - Nominations open in March for Member and Young Member of the Year
 - Results announced in June
 - Nomination Forms available online or from the RFSA Office
- Opportunities for further Study (tertiary/TAFE)
 - 2 x President’s Scholarship for NSW RFS Staff
 - 2 x Chris Lord Memorial Scholarship for RFS Volunteers



2011 Young Member of the Year, Elise Tasker



2012 Scholarship recipients, Bevan Michel, Stephanie Huysmans & Elizabeth Philpot

Supporting Our Members

– Biennial conferences

- With a variety of speakers, exhibitors, social events and networking opportunities
- Previously held in Coffs Harbour, Mudgee, Bathurst and Canberra

– RFSA Shop

- Mobile Shop available to attend events
- Gives Members the opportunity to try on items and look at new products

– Rural Fire Brigade Website Hosting

- Provision of FREE web hosting facility to all brigades and supports groups within the NSW Rural Fire Service



One of the speakers at RFSA Conference 2011



RFSA Shop at Hawkesbury Field Day 2012



A brigade website hosted by RFSA

• Supporting Our Members

– Volunteers' Family Days

- Most recent days held in Coonabarabran (Div 10), Fairholme (Div 11), Marulan (Div 7) & Ebor (Div 9)
- With kids activities, lunch and entertainment as well as offering counselling & Chaplaincy services
- One of the ways in which the RFSA says 'thank you' for the hard work of RFS Volunteers & Staff
- EOIs to hold an event always open. Forms available online or contact RFSA Office

Volunteers' Family Days



Supporting Our Members

Sponsorship of 21 events in 2012

- State Championships 2012, held in September in Port Stephens
- V2C (Volunteer to Career Program) – helping Volunteers begin a career in the NSW RFS
- NSW RFS Courage Under Fire – RFSA Kokoda Trek Initiative
- Funded 29 delegates to AFAC Conference 2012



Volunteer to Career (V2C) Program

The NSW Rural Fire Service in cooperation with the Rural Fire Service Association will again be conducting the V2C in 2012.

The V2C program was developed to assist volunteer members wanting to pursue a career with the NSW RFS. Topics include:

- The types of positions typically available in the NSW RFS
- How to make yourself more competitive for these jobs
- How to apply for positions under the NSW Government processes
- What typical NSW RFS jobs involve

- Programs are held over a weekend in the following two locations:
1. Region North – Mid North Coast (Coffs Harbour) 21 – 22 July
(contact Natalie Ballard ph 6542 2512 or natalie.ballard@rfs.nsw.gov.au)
 2. Region East - Cumberland Zone (Regentville) 4 - 5 August
(contact Helen Strasser ph 8741 5265 or helen.strasser@rfs.nsw.gov.au)

• Supporting Our Members

– Grants Scheme

- 290 awarded last year
- Total value more than \$1.3m
- Included items such as Buses, GPS Units, Tables, Chairs, AED Equipment & Laptops

– Support of RFS

Counselling/Chaplain services



Chaplains attending VFD at Fairholme



- Supporting Our Members



Grants Scheme



Courage Under Fire-RFSA Kokoda Trek



Grants Scheme



RFSA Shop



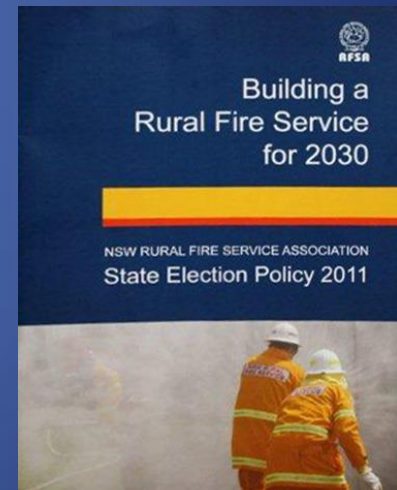
Member Awards



Scholarships

• Achievements

- Comprehensive Policy document 'Building a Rural Fire Service for 2030'
- Two submissions lodged in response to Government's Discussion Paper 'Funding our Emergency Services'
- 290 grants awarded in 2012 (over \$1.3m)
- Improved website
- Representation on:
 - Independent Hazard Reduction Audit Panel
 - Council of Emergency Volunteers
 - CAVFA (Council of Australian Volunteer Fire Associations)
 - RFS Consultative Committees
 - Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Trustees
 - Young Member Liaison Committee





RFSA

- Working Groups/Committees

These assist the Association in meeting its objectives and include:

- Audit Committee
- Grants Committee
- Volunteer Family Day Committee
- Young Members Group Committee
- President's Scholarship Committee
- Internal Awards Committee
- Local Government Liaison Committee
- Workers Compensation Working Group
- Australian New Zealand Standards Committee
- Honours and Awards Committee
- Constitutional Review Committee

• How we communicate

- Via Divisions and Branches
- Regular Newsletter sent via Mail and/or Email
- Active Facebook & Twitter accounts
 - Facebook → NSW Rural Fire Service Association
 - Twitter → @nswrfsa
- Regularly updated Website



Rural Fire
RFSa newsletter
ISSUE 24 - May 2012

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Survey Says ...

"Better face to face representation."
"Provide more frequent newsletters and communications and regular activities for volunteers."
"Improve my computer skills."
"It seems to be all the way to go."

These are just some of the responses to the question, "What would the RFSa do better to communicate with you?" that was posed in the RFSa Member survey.

The result of the survey needs to gain a better understanding of member's issues, concerns, members of experience and membership status. In light of this, allow the RFSa to better represent and respond to your needs, and to enable us to identify targeted opportunities for improvement and growth.

It has taken a longer time to respond to the survey, to analyse and provide the results of the survey, compared to the RFSa Member Survey Workshop.

"However, the extended time frame has not impacted our commitment to listening to the feedback, gathered and acting on the responses as a basis for the Association's improvement."

Responses to the RFSa Member survey were sent a total of 25 questions including categories designed to establish demographics such as age, gender and location. There was also more in-depth subjects asked where respondents were invited to submit more detailed feedback.

Thank you to those who provided an with feedback on having a panel Q2 about how the Association could communicate better with you.

This content feedback has been analysed (over 8000) and will have a repository of comments that formed the majority of responses to the question, the comments have been taken on and means are already being implemented to improve the regular provision of information by members. Enhancements are also underway to the newsletter and website.

The newsletter will now respond to an email and be published on a fixed year. Content on page two is an invitation to members to submit their story ideas for the newsletter - so please send your suggestions for content.

More results from the RFSa Member survey will be included in the next newsletter. Findings will also be posted on the website.

RFSA
Supporting Our Members to Protect the Community

ABOUT US | ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS | OUR COMMUNITY | **OUR MEMBERS** | RFSa SHOP | NEWS MEDIA & EVENTS | CONTACT US

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Brigade in Focus: Cunjurong Point

The volunteers of Cunjurong Point RFB are 'hot', signing up eight new members within the last year! With 31 members, the villages of Cunjurong Point, Manyana, Berringer and Bendalong on the South Coast of NSW must be feeling well protected.



RFSA

- RFSA Direction
 - Engaged and Informed Members
 - The Members' Authoritative Voice
 - Highly Influential State & National Advocate
 - Major Driver of a High Performing Service
 - Active & Engaged Young Leaders
 - Competent & Well Funded Organisation