



# EAST KURRAJONG VOLUNTEER RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

1088 East Kurrajong Rd  
Ph: 4576 3442



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER : September

HAWKESBURY CITY

2006

## We're having an open day. Sept 16<sup>th</sup> 10am to 5pm

Come along to our open day and find out more about your local brigade. Bring the kids along too! They'll have lots of fun dressing up like a real "firey" and they also get to sit in the truck.

Hey kids, this year we have a colouring competition. Be sure to drop your coloured in pictures (attached to this newsletter) in the mailbox at the shed before open day. There will be 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes for the best works, and all pictures will be displayed around the shed on the day. Remember to write your name on your picture.

### Hazard Reductions (Jul-Oct 06)

As you should be aware the brigade, with the assistance of other local brigades, have completed various hazard reduction activities over the last few months. All brigade members have commented on how supportive the residents have been, not only by access to all areas of the relevant properties, but the little extra things that make our job so much easier. East Kurrajong Rural Fire Brigade would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for their support. Planning and preparations are already underway for Hazard Reduction operations for 2007.

Fire Danger Season is here soon – No fires without a permit during the period- 1<sup>st</sup> Oct '06 to 31<sup>st</sup> March '07

### CONTACT LIST

**EAST KURRAJONG RURAL FIRE BRIGADE Ph 45763442**

*Permits for Burning off:*

**CAPTAIN:** Ray Griffiths  
**SENIOR DEPUTY CAPTAIN:** Lindsay Brown

**PRESIDENT:** Terry Kavanagh  
**FIRE CONTROL CENTRE:** Macquarie St Wilberforce, 8am - 4pm Monday to Friday on (02) 4575 1601



**Drop into the East Kurrajong Fire Station on a Saturday  
from 3pm to 5pm or phone (02) 4576 3442 during these hours.**

# **Be Firewise and Firesafe this Summer**

Prevention is the best approach when it comes to guarding your property against the dangers of bushfires. Be prepared – Spring is the perfect time to use this checklist to help prepare your property for the upcoming fire season.

- **Maintain a good fire break around your property of at least 10m:**
  - Clear scrub and undergrowth from around the house.
  - Keep the gardens and lawns around the house watered and well mown.
  - Remove any unnecessary flammable objects from around the house – portable gas cylinders, fuel, paper, boxes, doormats, woodpiles etc.
  - Clear gutters of leaves, twigs and bark and other debris, which could catch fire. Remove overhanging branches.
  - Clear undergrowth and rubbish from around sheds and fences also.
- **Make sure all pumps, taps, hoses and fittings are in good working condition.** Start any portable pumps and run through the process of connecting hoses and making sure they can reach all corners of the house.
- **Have buckets, plugs for downpipes and other fire fighting equipment ready.**
- **Make sure levels in water tanks are kept high.**
- **Any new Spring plantings should be fire resistant species.** Local nurseries can help.
- **Make a list of things that you should take with you if you need to be evacuated.** Make sure you know where all of these things are!
- **Make a list of emergency contact numbers and leave it near the phone.**
- **Check the condition of battery operated radio and torches (in cases of power failure).** Make sure you have spare batteries.
- **Fit wire (not fibreglass) screens to windows, doors, and vents.** Seal all cracks and eaves. Close in open eaves and the space under the house.



**PREVENT  
PREVENT  
PREVENT**

**For more information about fire safety, check out <http://www.bushfire.nsw.gov.au>**

## **BEING PREPARED FOR SUMMER**

**Is your firefighting pump/dam pump ready? Having a fully functional pump in any firefighting scenario is a must. Make sure to check out your pump. Not only make sure it starts easily, but make sure it pumps water. While looking at your pump, when was the last time you changed the engine oil?**

**Check the manufacturer's handbook for information, but if you've lost it, here are some checks to look at if your pump doesn't start easily:**

**modern fuel deteriorates and also breaks down if day lighted i.e. stored in a transparent container and left in sunlight, or stored for long periods in a warm temperature – replace the old fuel**

**has a friendly mud wasp built a nest in either the exhaust system or air cleaner housing?**

**make sure the engine oil is at its optimum level, some pump motors have an oil guard that won't let the ignition spark if there is insufficient oil**

**An easy starting method must be employed. Make sure:**

**ignition kill switch is ON**

**fuel is ON**

**when cold put the choke ON and move the throttle to just above idle**

**Pull start cord until you hear the engine fire. If it didn't start straight away, just turn the choke off and pull start chord again until it fires and runs continuously. If after several attempts it doesn't start, reapply the choke and repeat the procedure. Starting a warm engine usually doesn't require the choke to be applied. It would be a good idea to have as many people in the household proficient with this procedure.**

**The water side of the pump is less complicated but can be frustrating. Most modern pumps are self priming which means you must fill the pump case with water before you start the motor. If you can't fill the case to the top it probably means the non return valve, or in some cases, the foot valve on the end of the suction hose is letting water past. Inspection of these components will be required. Did you find any rocks, leaves, sticks or weed jamming the valve open? This means that the suction hose probably has no strainer on it, or the end is on the bottom of the dam. Fit a strainer and a float so that the hose is about 450mm under the surface of the water. Check that the suction hose is not perished and that all connections at the pump are air tight. Any amount of air being sucked into the pump can make an air lock, stopping the pump from working .(cont' over)**



**THE BUSH-FIRE INFORMATION HOTLINE  
Enquiries: 1800 654 443**

(from previous page)

If the suction and priming side of the pump is all good then start the motor. To aid the priming of the pump, only open the pressure valve a little, just enough to bleed any air being pumped out. When all the air stops and you get a consistent flow of water, the valve can be fully opened. At this point, connect your hoses and put the fire out. Increase the throttle to get more pressure from the hose.

Don't let the pump run for extended periods with no water flowing, as it will eventually boil the water and damage the internal pump seals.

Happy Firefighting!

### ***Important News – this affects YOU!***

- When the fire season starts it is wise to remember that everyone needs a permit to light a fire. If you are wanting to burn please call into the fire station and arrange for a permit officer to come and assess the hazard reduction and issue a permit before lighting that fire. ***Please remember that large fines of \$5500 and up to 12 months imprisonment could be the punishment for lighting an illegal fire.***
- In August 2004, the Rural Fire Service and Bureau of Meteorology simplified the Fire Area Map of NSW, based on local government boundaries. All of the Hawkesbury City Council area is now incorporated within the Greater Sydney Fire Area, along with Blue Mountains, Wyong, Gosford and all Sydney metro councils. ***This means that when a total fire ban is called for the Sydney Region (Greater Sydney Fire Area), this includes the whole of the Hawkesbury City Council area, which means us!***

### ***Knock Knock – Who's there?***



If you miss us on our Doorknock appeal on 15/10/06 If you did, don't panic!

You can still drop off your much appreciated donation to the fire shed on any Saturday afternoon between 3 and 5pm. Or, just drop off a cheque in the mailbox at the Station anytime.

### **Brigade News**

The Brigade has been successful in its implementation of new computer and GPS (Global Positioning System) facilities. Training nights and days have been organized and well attended and this new technology has proved to be an advancement in the right direction. The introduction and development of the GPS facilities is part of an ongoing project within the Brigade, in conjunction with other Brigades, which will enable Firefighters to obtain more accurate information about active fires, get more comprehensive data about the surrounding environment and offer an overall safer working environment when out in the field.

### ***Any one for shopping?***

*E.K. brigade and Legends shopping tours will take you out for a day of fun and adventure. You will be picked up from the shed by coach, chauffeured into town and treated to a fabulous shopping experience full of great bargains at various factory outlets*

*All this for the low price of \$33.00 per head plus lunch or BYO. (morning and arvo tea provided.)*

*Bring a friend and make a day of it, you never know who will go so ask your neighbor, maybe they have already booked their place!*

*These shopping tours are always very popular due to the bargains on offer, so get in now before all places are taken.*

*Contact Judy Leyshon on (02) 45767033 or 83461831 And LET'S GO SHOPPING!!!!!!*

**East Kurrajong Brigade's Active Supporters Group Meeting**  
 1st Monday Night Each Month 7.30pm, new members most welcome  
 at East Kurrajong Brigade Fire Station, 1088 East Kurrajong Rd.  
 Contact Kim Lowman on 45763817 or Cameron Mac Millan Ph 45763244  
 The Brigade would like to thank all those in the supporters Group  
 for their assistance throughout the year.

**LOOKING FOR LOW COST ADVERTISING?**  
 Contact Chris Kelly on 0408 169 182

**THE EAST KURRAJONG  
 SCHOOL OF ARTS  
 OLD TIME DANCE**



Every 4th Saturday of the Month  
 8pm till Midnight  
 \$6 Admission, Supper provided  
 Tel: 4576 3053  
 Everyone Welcome

**EAST KURRAJONG  
 NURSERY**




*Joy Leader*

Tel: 4576 3425

1163 East Kurrajong Rd

**JOHN WILLIAMS:**  
**BUSINESS: (02) 4565 0231**  
**MOBILE: 0417 867 662**



\*\* FREE QUOTES \*\*

<p><b>ELECTRICIAN</b>                  •DOMESTIC &amp; RURAL                  •INSTALLATIONS                  •REPAIRS                  •MAINTENANCE</p>	<p><b>CONCRETOR</b>                  •SMALL &amp; LARGE                  JOBS                  •DRIVEWAYS &amp;                  SLABS                  •PATHS &amp; PATIOS                  •GENERAL                  CONCRETING</p>
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LICENCE NO: 541860

**COLO WILDERNESS OCCASIONAL  
 CHILD CARE SERVICE**

An activity of Colo wilderness  
 Mobile Resource Unit 45731166

Here is your chance to have time out for yourself. This service is licensed by DOCS and the programme is provided by qualified and caring staff. Programmed activities are similar to a pre-school programme designed to provide appropriate activities for children aged between two and six years old.

**These services are provided at:**

- ❖ Blaxland Ridge Community Centre
- ❖ Tiningi and Sirius Road Neighbourhood Centres, Bligh Park
- ❖ Fees will be quoted on application

**For further information, Ph 45731166**

If the phone is unattended please leave a message and we will return your call. Or write to P.O. Box 220 Kurrajong NSW 2758.

\*\*\* New Owners \*\*\*  
**Matthew and Anna Betteridge**  
 Same Great Pizzas  
 BIGGER and Better Pastas



**GLOSSODIA  
 PIZZERIA**

Eat-in (BYO),  
 Take-away and Delivery Available  
 PHONE: 4576 5755

**East Kurrajong Playgroup**  
 Meets every Wednesday of the School term 9.30am to 12:00pm  
**East Kurrajong School of Arts, Stanley Park, East Kurrajong Road East Kurrajong**  
 So come along & enjoy the company of local families. Grand parents & other carers welcome.  
 Craft & Playtime every week with indoor & outdoor activities.  
 Refreshments available, each family brings a piece of fruit or some nibbles for morning tea.  
 Contact Michelle 45763906