



EAST KURRAJONG VOLUNTEER RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

1088 East Kurrajong Rd
Ph: 4576 3442



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER : September 2007

HAWKESBURY CITY



Say Hello to your local Firey's (but I'm not in it.)

We're on the net, go to; www.ekrfs.com.au (I'm in the insert photo on the left!!!)

CONTACT LIST

EAST KURRAJONG RURAL FIRE BRIGADE Ph 45763442

Permits for Burning off:

CAPTAIN: Ray Griffiths
SENIOR DEPUTY CAPTAIN: Lindsay Brown

PRESIDENT: Paul Leyshon

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

The Brigade has had a very quiet year with very few callouts and no hazard reductions with which to practice our skills .

In the last 12 months the brigade was presented with a new Cat 7 (smaller truck) to compliment our new Cat 1 tanker. Both trucks have had very little use but I am sure they will be a huge asset when the time comes.

The brigade has organised to do four small hazard reductions in our area during the coming months, depending on the weather.

The cooler part of the year is drawing to a close and the fire season is looming. Everyone as a collective who live in a high risk area like we do know this, but you as an individual need to be thinking about preparing your own property for the scenario that is a bush fire.

• **Maintain a fire wise property before and during this fire season:**

- Clear out gutters and remove or protect all combustible material from around the house, the fire wood pile that is soo easy to get to during the winter months becomes a fire risk during the summer months, so move it away from the house till next winter.
 - **If you have a fire fighter pump make sure that it will start and that your hoses and nozzles are all ready to be used.**
 - Have buckets, plugs for downpipes and other fire fighting equipment ready.
 - Make sure levels in water tanks are kept high.
 - 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. **Ring our control centre 45751601** and tell them when you are leaving
- Check the condition of battery operated radio and torches (in cases of power failure). Make sure you have spare batteries.
- Make sure there is good access to and around your property day and night for emergency vehicles.

I recommend that you don't leave these tasks to the day of the fire as these are precaution methods; you just simply will have no time to implement anything on the day, should it come.....and we do not know when that will be.

If your property is well prepared you increase the outcome towards the positive and potentially will save your house from a fire; as well as that it will make our job easier, allowing us to secure your property and able to move onto the next problem more quickly, so you automatically contribute to the co-operative spirit that emerges during crisis, before the crisis has begun, good on you for thinking ahead!!!

No one knows what this next season will be like, so it makes sense to be prepared in case we need to be. Hopefully this year will be the same as last year and we will ALL have Christmas dinner at home again.

Regards,
Ray Griffith,
Captain EKFRS

For more information about fire safety, check out <http://www.ekrfs.com.au>

Open Day 15th September 2007 10am start.

The Brigade is having an open day in September, and we will be encouraging ALL of our members to come along to familiarise themselves with the new trucks and equipment which has not been used under the duress of a campaign for a while.

We would also like to invite the members of the support group along for this day so that we may re-invigorate their interest in the support group.

If you are interested in joining the brigade, please come along , new members are always welcome.

For the kiddies, there is our fabulous colouring competition, so copy our piccie,(if there is more than one kiddie) and bring your finished art along on the day, prizes will be awarded.

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!***

Any one for shopping?

Wanted 25 or more keen shoppers 20/10/2007

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 by a very informative Hostess and introduced to various factory outlets. Tour visits include Waterloo, St Peters, Surrey Hills and the famous McEvoy St.

10 or more wholesalers, distributors, manufacturers, and importers with a large range of goods. Buy a wholesale prices: giftware, fashion, sports, shoes, clothing, Manchester, children's toys and clothing, kitchen ware and much more.

All this for the low price of \$35.00 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.

Christmas is on the way, so get on board for the bargains.

Contact Judy Leyshon on (02) 45767033 or 0414197226

Upcoming Events and recent activity

The Hawkesbury Fire ball in November 10/11/2007 tickets for the ball or the raffle are available from the BP at Wilberforce , or the fire shed from 3-5pm on a Sat, or direct from Robert on 0418432030

East Kurrajong School of arts has their car boot sale in the first half of the year every year, but they have asked me to remind you that your old Chrissie presents or unwanted ones (provided they are not from a local) are welcome as donations for the EK brigade to sell at our stall. Turn your old good trash into our fleeting treasures to support the local brigade

Active fire fighters who have been unable to attend regular standbys are required to attend the open day for the training on the new trucks on 15/9/07 starting at 10.30am at the shed , do not embarrass yourself or endanger others by being unprepared during a campaign, these trucks are different and your editor has seen real problems arising through a lack of familiarity from members that have been doing this stuff for years and are not used to the new trucks.

East Kurrajongs' Brigade Active Supporters Group Meeting
new members most welcome
at East Kurrajong Brigade Fire Station, 1088 East Kurrajong Rd.
Contact Alison Ackling Ph 45763433 or Cameron MacMillan Ph 45763244
The Brigade would like to thank all those in the supporters Group
for their assistance throughout the year.

School Of arts Hall

Our wonderfully traditional style country schools of arts hall was built in 1923 by locals from both donated and bush materials, through working bees.

The hall has been enjoyed by locals from the area in good times, survived through bad times, mostly due to the efforts of a long standing and slow to turn over volunteer committee.

We are excited to have welcomed new faces and members from the AGM held within the week of the 10th to the 17th of august, and we will be working to give the inside of the hall a face lift which will give the hall a breath of life whilst still keeping the ambience of a country style hall, a charm that makes it attractive to hire out as a nostalgic experience.

Fundraising is the life blood of the hall and we would like to say thank you to those in the community that helped to make the car boot sale such a success last time round; and we look forward to an even bigger and better event this coming 2008 year.

We would also like to thank the fire brigade for their regular maintenance of the outside of the hall via the gutters and the tank etc, especially during those times of the year when the place is not used too much, their attention to the hall is not unnoticed and we would like to extend our thanks to them for their unsolicited efforts in preserving our 84 year old landmark.

Hey, are you thinking of having a party, and you do not want your place messed up by hordes of dancing queens , why not have a night out in our old bird.

She loves to party and doesn't mind a bit of shoe tapping on the boards.

For all enquiries please contact Laurel O'Leary on 45763053