



Wandin Fire Brigade BIANNUAL REPORT

1st April 2005
till
31st March 2007

Prepared 8th April 2007

Captains Report - Bob Potter

The last two years have been busy times for the Wandin fire brigade. In the last two summer seasons we have been asked to supply crew for strike teams. In the 05/06 summer to the Moondarra fire in Gippsland and the Kinglake /Yea fires all saw significant commitment from this brigade. This summer we began early with crew going to the coal mine fire, to NSW and then the campaign fires in Victoria. These fires saw Wandin members deployed far and wide to Mt Hotham, Woods Point, Bairnsdale, Swifts creek and how well do we know Briagolong.

All these fires were a heavy commitment and on every occasion that I called for crew there was a positive response from this brigade. Wandin has done more than its fair share of the work in the group and you can all be proud of that contribution. The result of all this activity is that people who joined the brigade in the last few years have had the opportunity to gain considerable experience in wild fire. I would like this opportunity to thank you all for your contribution to these fires.

Throughout this period the membership of the brigade has grown strongly. We have benefited from the efforts of Phil Smith and Ainslie Day who ran the junior brigade and did such a great job that nearly all the juniors have come over to us and we welcome them and Ainslie. New members in the last two years are : Gayle, Matt, Aaron, Ainslie, Elaine, Angela, Jirah, Judith, Rodney, Dylan, Micheal and we welcome back Neil. These new members are well represented by women and do much to balance the demographic of the brigade. Judith and Rod have been addressing the area of fire safety and education and this is a worth while contribution to the community.

I would like to give special thanks to the officers of the brigade who have without exception given me great support and carried out their duties efficiently and enthusiastically. Peter has always been ready to step up and take command when ever I have been unavailable. Andrew Webber as always has driven the training needs of the brigade forward and given valuable time to representing the brigade in the Upper Yarra group. We took the opportunity this year to recognise his exceptional contribution by presenting Andrew with the national medal. Andrew Radmanic has carried out the roll of equipment officer with efficiency and none of us would dare leave the truck and not **FILL IN THE LOG BOOK...** We have had two 4th Lts. Bill and Phil and both have shown enthusiasm and imagination to keep over rescue skill up to scratch. John Nixon has kept our communication department running with his usual high level of efficiency and I have all looked forward to seeing John when we return from a job at all sorts of hours. Last but by no means least Penelope has looked after the book work with remarkable patience and diligence.

Finally I would like to thank all members for your support and hard work over the last two years which has kept this brigade in such fine shape.

Bob Potter

1st Lieutenants Report – Peter Polovinka

I would like to thank all members who have helped in the last 12 months.

This includes supporting:

- Day to day turnouts
- Strike Teams to the High Country
- Day to Day running of the brigade
- Supporting Wandin Yallock Primary School's Fund Raising day
- Supporting Wandin North Primary School's Harvest festival
- Assisting with parking for Grape Grazing at Five Oaks
- Assisting with parking and providing lunch at the Lavender Festival
- Assisting with parking and gate keeping at the Wandin Silvan Field Days
- The rescue demonstration at the Four Wheel Drive day
- Gate Takings at the Open Garden Scheme at Lionel Wilson's
- The Santa Run at Christmas
- The visit to Wandin Kinder
- The visit to the Wandin CWA
- Assisting with Rescue Support for the Rally of Melbourne
- Attending the towns Christmas Twilight Festival

Being a Strike Team Leader I would like to thank all those members who went away on Strike Teams. Wandin Brigade turned out more members to Strike Teams than any other brigade in the Yarra Valley Group with the exception of Gruyere as can be seen in the attached report.

The training we have done to practice our pre-plans has stood us in good stead. This can be seen with the small amount of damage at recent fires at the Wandin East Hall and earlier at the Wandin North Primary School.

Thanks again for all your support.

2007 TRAINING REPORT - Andrew Webber

Training in the brigade has continued at a steady pace. The brigade's program has been flexible enough to adapt to the external forces shaping the direction training is heading in the CFA.

The brigade is meeting and exceeding the CFA's requirements for the number of trained members to meet the brigade risk profile. With the exception of recent new members, all other members are now Wildfire fire qualified, which enabled the brigade to choose from a large pool of members to meet the demands of the 2006/2007 campaign fires.

Road Rescue Training has continued on a regular basis with an even mix of practical and theoretical training. **Bill Ter Haar** initially and later **Phil Smith** have done a great job in the role of rescue Training officer. A visit to Royans allowed members to gain an insight into the rescue needs should a heavy vehicle be involved. A rescue training course for the newer members of the brigade was completed in late 2006 and the majority of members are now rescue accredited. A further rescue training course is planned for later 2007.

Where appropriate, the brigade has taken advantage of external training opportunities. This ranges from Group based training activities at the Carrum Training ground through to state based training at Fiskville. Individual members in the brigade have had the opportunity to receive training in Chainsaws, First Aid, Rope Rescue, Heavy Rescue, Officer Development and Crew leader training together with Basic Fire Fighter training on the training pads at Carrum.

The long term strike team deployments from the brigade to NSW in 2006 and the Victorian fires in 2006/7 allowed the majority of members who went away to put into practise the skills we train for on a routine basis. By all accounts, our members acquitted themselves well and this only goes to reinforce the benefits of regular and meaningful training on basic fire ground skills

The number of qualified drivers both on road and off road continues to be a concern for the brigade. We will need to follow through and make sure those members who are eligible to drive our vehicles receive the appropriate training and brigade/region endorsement.

I would like to close by thanking those brigade members who have assisted in the delivery of the training program over the last 2 years. Being able to share the training delivery requirements has meant that Wednesday nights are always busy and continue to provide an avenue to learn new skills and maintain those already learnt, to service the wildfire, structure and rescue commitments demanded from the brigade.

2007 APPARATUS REPORT - Andrew Radmanic

I would like to start by thanking all members for their support and cooperation over the past two years. This has made the running of the station and day to day jobs easier to complete with everyone participating.

Here are some of the major jobs and purchases:

- Wet hose tray was made for pumper
- Push button door lock was fitted to station
- New fire danger sign was erected at front of station
- Double-sided fibreglass ladder was purchased
- New DVD player was purchased
- Drink dispensing machine was purchased
- The mussel was purchased
- Ram support for rescue was purchased
- Glass and sharps protection kit for rescue was purchased
- New floating pump was purchased
- Cutters for rescue were replaced

Outstanding jobs include:

- Fitting of Road Hazard signs to rescue
- Widening of station

Finally the pumper has been placed on the CFA Type 1 Maintenance Program and the DMO has just completed the servicing and repairing of this pumper. All brakes, tyres and springs have been replaced due to the body wearing into the tyres.

In conclusion, I would once again like to thank everyone for their help in keeping the station running smoothly.

LOG BOOKS MUST BE FILLED IN !!!

2007 Biannual Rescue Report - Phil Smith

As the brigade has grown over the past 2 years, the rescue aspects of our duties have grown also. Our growing member base saw a successful Road Rescue AFAC course run over 12 months which qualified 8 of our members to operate at rescue incidents. Another of these courses will be organized and run in the second half of 2007. This future course already has interest from members of other brigades – a clear demonstration of the view other brigades take of Wandin's high standards.

We also saw the introduction of the rope rescue specialist response introduced to the region. Wandin was able to provide 4 members to obtain this qualification and form part of the region's response team for this risk profile. Hopefully we will see this specialty develop within the brigade in the years to come to the point that Wandin will receive our own equipment from the authority.

We attended 43 rescue incidents over the period, all of which can be deemed successful and are a credit to our brigade and our members. We had the pleasure of seeing the progress of one of our younger patients who came to visit us after recovering from his accident with a truck in the early hours of the morning on Hunter Rd in Wandin East.

Bill Ter Haar's migration to the north-east of that state saw him resign as Rescue Lieutenant and myself take over at a special election held in November 2006. Bill has since returned to the brigade and we welcome him and his contribution back to the brigade and rescue in particular. J&L Towing have been as supportive as ever in providing vehicles for us to train with and develop our skills. I'm sure the brigade joins me in thanking them for their untiring support. We also must thank other individuals and organizations that have assisted us with expanding our training opportunities.

Having only being responsible to Rescue training for a few short months, I personally thank the brigade and other officers for their support of myself over that time with organizing and running Rescue training.

Communications Report – John Nixon

Radio communications over the past two years has proved to be reasonably normal with transmissions from the fire ground to Vic Fire being generally in the correct format, which indicates that training has been adequate. However, more practice is needed by all members to become really proficient at the *correct* phonetic alphabet. Knowledge of all numbers and letters is important especially when dealing with Hazmat incidents.

The use of portable radios is important for fire ground traffics but often when used to talk to Vic Fire they fail because of location and/or weak batteries. It is important to ensure that the batteries are well charged at all times.

The introduction of the new pager system for the brigade will be taking place in the next couple of months. Full individual training will be needed and supplied by region before they will be issued to members.

FIRS reports are kept up to date on a weekly basis and a good relationship has been maintained with FIRS staff by telephone.

Special thanks to all members who took over communication duties for me while I was in hospital.

2007 Biannual Junior Brigade Report - Phil Smith

Over the past 2 years, the Junior Brigade has developed 5 young members who have successfully made the transition from being junior members to becoming senior members of the brigade. It has been a pleasure for myself to watch these members develop into their current roles within the brigade, and an honor to have played a role in that process. I am proud to say that all of these members have now completed their minimum skills and are active. Due to the transition of these juniors, the junior brigade is currently disbanded, although I am planning to start again sometime in 2007.

The junior brigade engaged in many activities over the past 2 years from practical fire brigade training to physical workouts at the gym, theoretical fire behavior and suppression to bush walks and four wheel drive days. We were also seen out and about in the area helping out on Clean Up Australia day in 2006. Our small group managed to get quite a full trailer of rubbish off the street and into the tip!

In 2006 we moved the junior meeting nights from Monday to Wednesday nights to allow cross training between juniors and seniors to occur. The ultimate result of this was building of relationships between seniors and juniors to ease the transition from junior to senior brigade.

I must thank the brigade for their support of the program, in particular Ainslie Day and Andrew Cakuls who gave up so much time to help ensure we ran a smooth program. I also thank the members of the Junior Brigade for their contribution to both the junior and senior brigade, and hope we will continue to see them as part of our brigade.

STRIKE TEAMS FROM YARRA VALLEY GROUP

SUMMER 2006/2007

Top Six Brigades

Wandin	37	15%
Gruyere	37	15%
Launching Place	34	14%
Warburton	33	14%
Woori Yallock	26	11%
Seville	21	9%
TOTAL	188	79%

Bottom Six Brigades

Yarra Junction	4	2%
Yellingbo	5	2%
Hoddles Creek	6	3%
Reefton	6	3%
Gladysdale	11	5%
Wesburn	13	5%
TOTAL	45	19%

NOTE: 2% of strike team members were from outside the group.

Number of Strike Teams by Member (Wandin)

Rob Clark	7
Martin Setter	4
Les Sharp	3
Daniel Tawse	3
Phil Smith	3
Andrew Cakuls	2
Tim Michelson	2
Angela McCormick	2
Peter Polovinka	2
Shane Harris	2
Andrew Webber	1
Brett Davies	1
Dylan Tacey	1
Gale Burgi	1
Martin Pocock	1
Mick Dillema	1
Robert Bull	1
Total	37

WANDIN FIRE BRIGADE
ACTIVE MEMBER LIST

11th April 2007

No.	NAME	SURNAME	Rank
1	ANDREW	AUSTIN	Fire Fighter
2	TRACEY	AUSTIN	Fire Fighter
3	ROBERT	BULL	Fire Fighter
4	GAYLE	BURGI	Fire Fighter
5	TERRY	BURGI	Fire Fighter
6	AARON	CAKULS	Fire Fighter
7	ANDREW	CAKULS	Fire Fighter
8	MATHEW	CAKULS	Fire Fighter
9	ROBERT	CLARK	Fire Fighter
10	BRETT	DAVIES	Fire Fighter
11	AINSLIE	DAY	Fire Fighter
12	ELAINE	DAY	Fire Fighter
13	MICK	DILLEMA	Fire Fighter
14	PENELOPE	HARRIS	Secretary / Treasurer
15	SHANE	HARRIS	Fire Fighter
16	MERV	HEARNE	Fire Fighter
17	TIM	MICHELSON	Fire Fighter
18	ANGELA	MCCORMICK	Fire Fighter
19	JIRAH	NANKIVELL	Fire Fighter
20	JOHN	NIXON	Communications Officer
21	MARTIN	POCOCK	Fire Fighter
22	PETER	POLOVINKA	1st Lieutenant
23	ROBERT	POTTER	Captain
24	ANDREW	RADMANIC	3rd Lieutenant
25	MARTIN	SETTER	Fire Fighter
26	LESLIE	SHARP	Fire Fighter
27	RODNEY	SMILES	Fire Fighter
28	PHILLIP	SMITH	4th Lieutenant
29	DYLAN	TACEY	Fire Fighter
30	DANIEL	TAWSE	Fire Fighter
31	BILL	TER HAAR	Fire Fighter
32	NEIL	VAN SPRANG	Fire Fighter
33	MICHAEL	WALSH	Fire Fighter
34	ANDREW	WEBBER	2nd Lieutenant