

**WINDELLAMA RURAL FIRE BRIGADE
GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2017
DRAFT MINUTES**

Present:

Paul Alessi	Maggie Hargan	Brett Roberts
Bonita Armstrong	William Hargan	Keith Scorrar
Marlene Carmichael	Graham Kinder	Marten Scutterups
Dave Edworthy	Phil Myers	Thomas Shannon
Doug Gurney	Peter Pokorny	Ben Vilnis
Danny Hansen		Lois & Kym Wake
Lynda Hargan		

Apologies:

Ashley Armstrong	Jacqui Gurney	Brendan Shannon
Wayne Back	Elizabeth Hargan	Judy & Warren Yates
	Katie & Anthony Reece	

Opening comments

Graham opened the meeting at 1100, and recalled that this meeting is being held on a Sunday out of the normal sequence, so as to facilitate participation in a Zone training exercise immediately shortly after the meeting. Graham thanked everyone for their attendance.

Copies of the draft Minutes were distributed immediately prior to the meeting, but due to the shorter time available for approval of the draft Minutes, it was not possible to send out the draft Minutes via e-mail prior to the meeting.

It was agreed that Matters arising from the previous meeting will be dealt with under General Business.

Motion: The previous General Minutes and correspondence held 26 August 2017 be accepted as read, with matters arising to be discussed in General Business.

Moved: Bonita Armstrong **Seconded:** Will Hargan **Result:** Carried

Reports

Captain

Graham noted that Paul Alessi been Acting Captain while Dave is being with his family for his son's recovery. Paul provided the following report:

Incidents: There was a fire on Dewsbury Lane, Quialigo, last Sunday - response vehicles consisted of Goulburn Support, two trucks from Tarago, two from Bungonia, and three from Windellama. Winds were strong, and a lot of solid mopping up was required. Size was about three acres, and was only fully out 24 hours later.

The McGaw family did the catering to support crews at the Dewsbury Lane fire.

Paul noted that a couple of guys turned up to the shed, but found the doors shut, since the fire crews had closed them on departure for the fire. Paul said it is better to keep the doors open on a fire response day.

Radios: There has been no more radio interference on UHF Channel 21.

Call signs: Danny Hansen is now using 'Windellama 15' as his radio call sign.

Contact Booklet: Paul provided a copy of the new draft Zone white contact booklet which will be left at the shed.

RFD course: Unfortunately, no one from Windellama brigade made it onto the Rural Fire Driver course held 7 September, on this occasion, although two applications were lodged.

iPads: Paul advised that iPads have been purchased, and one is up and running. Captain has one, and Senior Deputy has one. Fire Mapper software is loaded. Also a modem was required, so an expense of some \$216 was involved.

Certificates: – Tom and Brendan Shannon were presented with their Advanced Resuscitation Certificates, and were congratulated.

Pagers: Seven pagers have been obtained, Anthony Reece will get the next one, followed by Tim Vilnis.

Loose truck items: Mick Uren has requested that we look over the trucks so as to remove all loose items off the trucks, due to insurance reasons due to excessive weight. Paul will work with Doug on this.

Thanks: Dave thanked everybody for their kind wishes in the face of Kieren's car accident. Kieren is recovering, as well as his sense of humour. Kieren has spent some five weeks in hospital, and Donna and Dave have been staying at the hospital in Canberra as well. Another four weeks in hospital is expected.

Equipment

The new battery charger leads were found not to be long enough - Doug will get some four-core cable, and rewire them.

Please plug the chargers in to the trucks when the trucks come back into the shed. This will alleviate the problem of not leaving the isolators on, since to plug the charger into the charger socket, the isolator handle must be in the OFF position.

The repaired short 65 mm hose has been put onto the Cat 2, up on top of the other hose.

Cat 7B – Doug has repaired the portable pump housing which was damaged.

Gravel update – Contact with Garry Stafford at Hi-Quality was attempted but was unsuccessful so far - will try again this week. We can get three truck and dog loads. Apparently, there are Council working in the area, so we will try to co-ordinate so that their BobCat can be used to spread the gravel, including widening the driveway.

Doug will arrange the load to be placed in front of the concrete apron so that access is not restricted.

Doug advised that Jacqui is back in hospital, but should be out tomorrow. Doug and Jacqui appreciated the Get Well card sent.

Communications

The interference previously encountered on Channel 21 (data transmissions repeating 60 seconds has not re-occurred).

Catering

Bev McGaw is thanked for her assistance with catering during the fire last week. Marlene said that the normal procedure is to let Marlene know.

Brendan noted that when using the trucks last Sunday, there wasn't enough water and biscuits on the day. Marlene has previously checked the trucks – food and biscuits. Marlene requested that if there is a shortfall, please put a notice on the board. The trucks have been replenished since.

Paul recommended that we should all have some food in your kit bag so that responders can be self-sufficient for the first 12 hours. Marlene commented that it used to be a policy to be self-sufficient for 24 hours.

Marlene will update the meeting on the proposed new oven and stove under General Business.

Health and Safety

Thomas advised there were no new Health and Safety Alerts or standards issued. Two issues arose from the recent fires – use of gloves in dealing with barbed wire, and dangers of radiant heat. The owner of the property suffered damage to his left arm and face. Initially he declined assistance, but later on, Brendan applied first aid and re-banded the owner's arm.

Community Engagement

The 'Get Ready' Day will be held from 1 - 3 pm on **Saturday 25 November 2017**. Graham commented that we can promote the Get Ready day on the Small Farms Field Day being held on Saturday 4 November 2017.

Will, Dave and Graham attended AFAC, so Windellama was well represented.

The seasonal outlook is not good, with above average temperatures, and below average rainfall. More community engagement will be a focus going forward.

There were many exhibitors at AFAC with plenty of new equipment. Will Hargan will provide information to the next meeting. A number of new items will be brought to the next meeting.

Training

Next month's training will be **28 October 2017** at the normal time of **1300**, followed by the General Meeting at **1600**.

For today's Group 8 Zone Training, we will be meeting at the Pulary property at 1330. Dave advised that we are to proceed as a strike team, with the last truck to have its lights on.

Brendan advised that the first hour on the next training session will be devoted to Ethics and RFS Code of Conduct.

Secretary

Nothing to report. No correspondence since last meeting.

President

Motion that the Reports be accepted:

Moved: Phil Myers

Seconded: Lois Wake

Result: Carried

Treasurer

September 2017: The balances for the accounts are as follows:

Deposit account 289509	\$ 5,960.40
Working account 970281	\$12,785.83
Total available	\$18,746.23
Term Deposit	\$43,711.90
Total funds	\$62,458.13

There were no payments out this month, \$164.45 was banked. Interest of \$2.15 was paid.

Motion that the Treasurer's Report be accepted:

Moved: Keith Scorrar **Seconded:** Lynda Hargan **Result:** Carried

General Business

LED lights on trucks

Brett again raised the issue of wildlife the roads, and that we should really have LED spotlights on the trucks. Dave thinks this shouldn't be a problem, especially if quick connects/disconnects are used. Doug thinks we need to have approval from Firecom. Dave however, thinks this should be a problem, as he is aware that many RFS trucks are being retrofitted with LED lights.

Motion put that we arrange for Brett to trial one, at a cost of less than \$100 dollars.

Moved: Brett Vilnis **Seconded:** William Hargan **Result:** Carried.

Heli-marshals

Paul attended a Captains' meeting at Fire Control Centre with Dave. There is a Heli-Marshal course opening for anyone interested. Two or three people from Windellama are welcome. Graham advised that the role is not really deep, but covers basic procedures including how to get fuel to a chopper, how to create a landing pad, and checking for foreign object debris (FOD). Also, Graham was aware, that the new TOLL helicopter will not land unless there are four flares ready. A heli-marshal can be deployed anywhere in the State.

If anyone is interested please contact Graham or contact Fire Control Centre directly.

New Fire and Rescue vehicle in Goulburn

Paul advised that there is a new Fire and Rescue vehicle "Goulburn 305".

Foam usage encouraged

Paul advised that we are encourage to use our foam resources, and not let containers of foam just mount up. Dave reminded us all that due care must be taken to not let foam into the tanks!

Wildfire course

Paul advised that a Wildfire course will be available.

Broadcast, Alert, Response, Turnout (BART) system

Will advised the cost is \$15 per phone, and a Group subscription will be arranged. Dave has handed over the administrator role for the BART system to Will Hargan. Zone is looking as getting BART deployed Zone-wide.

If anyone is interested – please contact Will. Dave will put Will's details on the web-site.

Will advised that one doesn't have a smart phone – you can get telephone notifications instead.

Catering trailer

Graham recalled that the SES has donated the Catering Trailer to the Brigade but we need to put this into someone's names, and noted that Marlene is willing to be trustee for the asset.

Motion that Marlene be nominated a custodian for the Windella Brigade's catering trailer. It will be able to be used at various community events around Windellama.

The Windellama Brigade will support the ongoing cost of the trailer. It will be a Brigade asset to be used to benefit the Community.

Moved: Graham Kinder **Seconded:** Brett Roberts **Result:** Carried.

Ration packs

Graham asked the meeting whether we should obtain 1-man ration packs as a trial. He had seen them displayed at the AFAC Conference. The meeting agreed.

Moved: Lynda Hargan **Seconded:** Marten Scutterups **Result:** Carried

Good feedback from the Dewsbury Lane fire

Graham was advised that the incident control at the Dewsbury Lane incident control was very good as two good reports were conveyed to him. All present thanked Paul by acclamation. Paul advised that eventually, Deputy Group Captain took over later in the afternoon.

Toyota Land Cruiser Club Willowglen 4x4 Challenge (30 September to 2 October 2017)

Windellama Brigade will again provide one truck for the car wash down on **Sunday 2 October 2017**. PPE required – entry free. Barry Lannigan will have one truck, either meet at the shed at 1200, or at Willowglen. The fast-fill trailer will be required.

Driving fire trucks

Marten raised the issue of his now not being allowed to drive the fire trucks in a response situation. Marten advised that he has complained to Peter Alley about the decision not to be able to drive the trucks any more. Marten advised that because of his age, he had to have a medical every year, and be tested annually by Roads and Maritime.

Dave said that he understood the situation, but it was part of a wider issue, and it has fallen to him to make the call. In fairness to others, Dave unfortunately is not able to allow Marten to drive a fire truck in a response situation.

In order to allow Marten to drive the trucks in a response situation, Dave requires a Doctor's Certificate saying that Marten can safely drive a response vehicle with five people on board. Dave values Marten's contribution to the Brigade highly over the years, and that the decision is no reflection on Marten's service. At this point Marten chose to leave the meeting. **As**

Marten was leaving, Graham clarified that the issue had nothing to do with age and was simply a matter of current competency in a fire-ground environment.

The meeting agreed that at this time, and considering the situation, that it was appropriate that further discussion on this issue will be conducted outside the meeting with Graham and Dave. It was noted that the matter has also been discussed at Zone and Region level. Peter Alley and Ian Kennelly both support the Captains decision.

Next meeting: 1600 Saturday, **28 October 2017.**

The Meeting was closed at 1207.
