



MALUA BAY RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Bushfire Season 2021 – 2022

A report on the brigade's activities and suggestions on preparing for the upcoming fire season.

Captain's Message

Do you ever wonder why bushfire fighters bang on so much about fuel management?

Bushfire needs three ingredients – oxygen, heat and fuel. Take away any one of its three legs and the fire triangle disintegrates. During a running bushfire we can't do much in the field to control oxygen. Heat is necessary for two reasons - at ignition, and thereafter as it preheats adjoining fuel.

Ignition is inevitable. Remember, in 2019 one lightning strike started a fire which, despite a monumental effort to extinguish it, ultimately burnt half a million hectares between the Kangaroo Valley and Moruya.

Of the three ingredients, that leaves only fuel, and that is something we can manage, best done by removing it. And, wonderfully, we can do it now and at our leisure well before any possible ignition creates the fire problem. It is only complacency which prevents us.

If you own land, and/or a fire prone asset on land, you have an obligation to manage combustible fuel. Fire services can advise or assist you but ultimately it is your responsibility. Please take it seriously and perhaps start with the fuel around your house.



10 year Long Service Awards were presented to our volunteers on 26 June 2021 by Chief Superintendent Goetz Graf. Martin Green (3rd from left) received the 40 Year Service Clasp



Senior Deputy Captain Patrick Harris was awarded the National Medal for Service in December 2020. He has been an RFS volunteer for 50 years

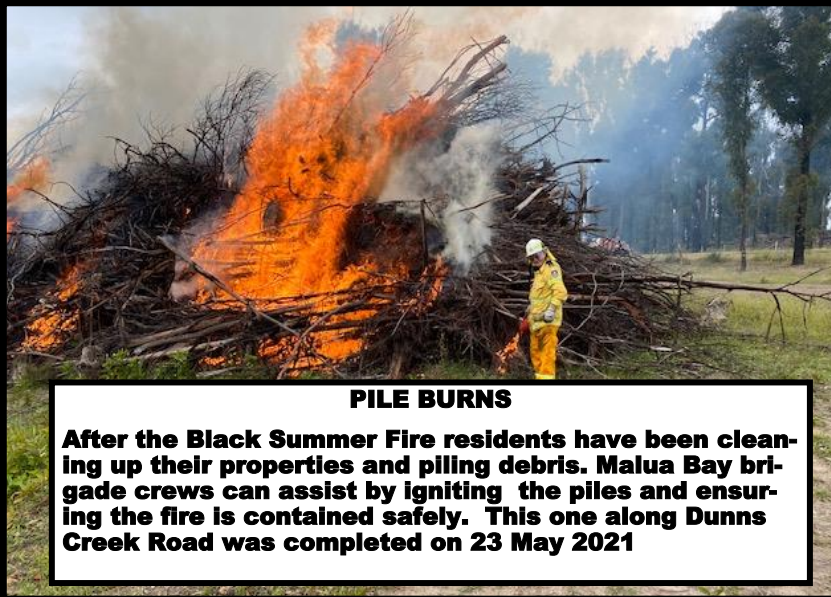
Malua Bay Brigade has been busy since the Black Summer Fires. Here are some events where our members have been in action.



On 6 August 2021 this stolen car was abandoned and torched at Guerilla Bay igniting the surrounding bush. Malua Bay 1 and 9 responded and our crews were able to extinguish the fire threatening adjacent properties.



This Malua Bay crew travelled to Port Macquarie in April to assist in the flood clean up. The rain water tank was washed away in the flood and is being returned to its rightful owner.



PILE BURNS

After the Black Summer Fire residents have been cleaning up their properties and piling debris. Malua Bay brigade crews can assist by igniting the piles and ensuring the fire is contained safely. This one along Dunns Creek Road was completed on 23 May 2021



This crew is training to suppress a motor vehicle fire.

Our Station was almost destroyed on New Year's Eve 2019. Since then with generous donations from our community and the wider public we have been able to upgrade our equipment and security



Our 9.5 kVA generator will provide back-up power at the Station in emergencies.

It will also be available to the community for many on site uses including recharging of phone batteries



MALUA BAY RURAL FIRE BRIGADE
Critical Radio Installation.
Funded by community donation.
Phone: 4471 1344

Our new UHF Wireless Repeater located on high ground West of our Station ensures reliable communications throughout our brigade area and beyond.



Improved Asset Protection Zone at our Station



SECURITY NOTICE
THIS BUILDING IS UNDER 24 HOUR SURVEILLANCE



Rooftop Sprinkler System

TIME TO GET READY FOR NEXT BUSH FIRE SEASON

Prepare Your Property

- Clean your gutters of leaves and twigs
- Install metal gutter guards
- Repair damaged or missing tiles on the roof
- Install fine metal mesh screens on windows and doors
- Fit seals around doors and windows to eliminate gaps
- Enclose the areas under the house
- Repair or cover gaps in external walls
- Attach a fire sprinkler system to gutters
- Keep lawns short and gardens well maintained
- Cut back trees and shrubs overhanging buildings
- Clean up fallen leaves, twigs and debris
- Have hoses long enough to reach around your house
- You may be eligible for the Assist Infirm, Disabled and Elderly Residents (AIDER) service, call 02 8741 4955

<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/prepare-your-property>

Make a Plan




- **Leave early** is the best option:
 - ◇ When to leave
 - ◇ What to take
 - ◇ Where to go and how to get there
 - ◇ How to communicate
- **Stay** but only if well prepared:
 - ◇ The right equipment
 - ◇ Where to shelter when the fire arrives
 - ◇ Everyone knows what to do
 - ◇ Emergency back up plan
- **Know**
 - ◇ Fire Danger Ratings
 - ◇ Alert Levels
 - ◇ Neighbourhood Safer Place
 - ◇ Numbers, local radio and links to key websites

<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/bush-fire-survival-plan>

Fire Danger Ratings



Bush Fire Alert Levels

-  **Advice**
A fire has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes
-  **Watch and Act**
There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.
-  **Emergency Warning**
An Emergency Warning is the highest level of Bush Fire Alert. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.



Burning Off

Before lighting that fire ask yourself the following:

Do I need a fire permit? **Yes** if in Fire Danger Period 1 September 2021 to 31 March 2022.

(Malua Bay Permit Issuing Officers are: Ian Barnes 0415774810, Berkeley Braham 0427361889 and Pat Harris 0408285215)

Do I comply with Eurobodalla Shire Council's Clean Air Policy?

Are the weather conditions favourable?

Do I have sufficient equipment and personnel to control the burn?

AND Have You ???

Notified the RFS at: <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/BFDP/burn-notifications>, or if necessary by phone at 44742855 **AND** you must give your neighbours 24 hours notice.

YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE

Don't leave your fire unattended.

Extinguish your fire before you leave.

For more detailed information download this document :

https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0013/12451/Before-you-light-that-fire-2020.pdf



VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS WANTED

Here's what you need to know:

APPLICATION:

- Complete the Application Form obtained from the Brigade Secretary
- Attend an interview with the Brigade Captain
- Undertake a routine Police Check organised by RFS
- Initially you will become a Probationary Member usually for 6 months and then an Ordinary Member

COMMITMENT:

- As a Volunteer you determine your level of involvement
- However, to be an operational member you will need to train and qualify as a Bush Firefighter within 6 months but volunteers can also undertake non operational roles such as communications and catering.
- Attend training and meetings when you can:
 - ◊ Training is held on 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings of the month and on occasional weekend days
 - ◊ Meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month at 5pm
- You should be prepared to respond to emergency call-outs with reasonable regularity

If you're interested in joining or have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade Secretary **Tony Preston-Stanley** on **0419 991 052**



GET READY DAY

on

Saturday

4 December 2021

at

**MALUA BAY
BEACH RESERVE
10am to 2pm**

Visit our trucks, displays and talk to our volunteers

FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Contact us:

Station Location: Top of Reservoir Road, Malua Bay

Email: maluabayrfsbrigade@gmail.com

Mailing Address: PO Box 2040, Malua Bay NSW 2536

Captain: Ian Barnes 0415 774 810

Secretary: Tony Preston-Stanley 0419 991 052

Website:

Like us on Facebook

Thank You for Supporting us:

Your support is always highly valued and if you wish to make a donation this can be by cheque or EFT to:

BSB: 062650

Account Number: 00900077