

Annual Report

Tathra Rural Fire Brigade

2023



TATHRA VOLUNTEER RURAL FIRE BRIGADE.

P.O.Box 7021

Tathra NSW 2550.

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Disclaimer

This report has been produced by Tathra Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade (The Brigade). The purpose of the report is to provide information relating to the Brigade's activities, performance and current position, to members and other interested persons.


The views expressed in this Report are not necessarily the views of all members of the Brigade nor the wider NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS).

The information, statements, statistics and commentary contained in this report have been prepared by the Brigade using a combination of publicly available material and from discussions held with individual members. The Brigade does not express an opinion as to the accuracy or completeness of the information provided, the assumptions made by the parties that provided the information or any conclusions reached by those parties.

The Brigade has based this Report on information received or obtained, on the basis that such information is accurate and, where it is represented to the Brigade as such, complete.

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FOREWORD

By President Anthony Taylor

This year has been an interesting one.

A few months ago we were all congratulating ourselves on how quiet it had been. Perhaps it was the unseasonably bountiful rains that kept a lid on any fire activity, even during the peak holiday season when Tathra welcomes many visitors and there can be a spike in 'call-outs'.

No sooner had we patted ourselves on the back of course than things started to happen. Thankfully, not big bushfires, but things like structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, electrical shorts, calls to assist ambulance officers, requests to go out of area and help with fires in other districts, and even to help clean up after floods.

In every respect, the brigade responded to these requests for assistance with the professionalism and timeliness that senior officers in the RFS and the community has come to expect from it.

It has continued to do so lately with contributions to hazard reduction burns in the district. If the weather forecasters are correct, we are in for dry days ahead and everything that can be done is being done — in a relatively short window of opportunity — to mitigate against the potential for fires to break out in future.

Backing up this effort by our volunteers has been the continuation of an excellent training program, designed, supervised and largely delivered by Senior Deputy Captain Lance Hartley. This suite of training opportunities is the healthiest I've ever seen it and includes new material which will upskill our volunteers into the future.

One of these training sessions, with more to come, has been an introduction to the wearing of CABA (Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus) equipment at those fire events where it ought to be used.

This particular form of skills enhancement is entirely relevant because, as the population of Tathra and Kalaru continues to increase and more houses are built, there is a greater likelihood that the brigade will be called out to structure fires.

Many of those houses will have solar panels on the roof, perhaps a battery storage unit and, occasionally, an electric vehicle in the driveway. As a result, the need to be able to respond effectively to fires that have a significant electrical component to them is also being addressed within the training program.

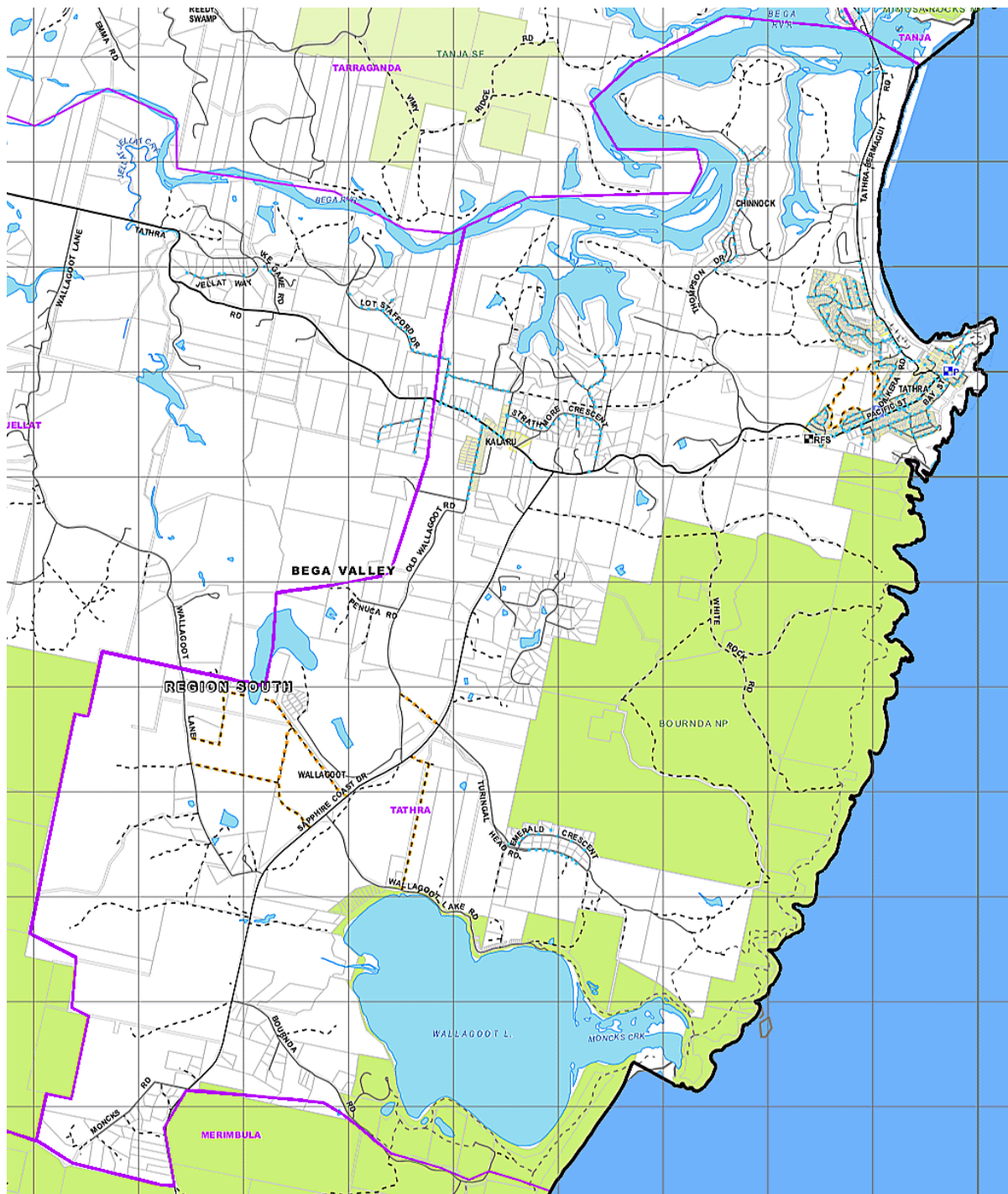
We live in interesting times - and our volunteers are likely to be presented with more and more challenges.

I feel confident in saying that the brigade has the depth of experience, the skills, to continue to meet them.

1. Tathra Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade

1.1 Brigade History and Brigade Area

The Brigade was established in 1943 under the captaincy of Mr Jack Ward. The Brigade's area falls within the Bega Valley Local Government Area (LGA) and forms part of the NSW Rural Fire Service Far South Coast District. The Fire Station is located at 146 Bega Street, Tathra.



1.2 Brigade Classification

The Brigade is classified by the Rural Fire Service (RFS) as a Village One Brigade. A Village One Brigade is established where:

- There is an even spread between wildfire and structural risks and the wildfire risks encompass all types of vegetation.
- There is a small village or urban interface, possibly with water reticulation. This may include a range of community structures, possibly including a small institutional risk. Severe wildfires would impact significantly on the village or urban interface.
- There are possibly one or two small hazardous materials risks and the potential requirement to assist Fire and Rescue NSW.
- There may be some road or rail transport risks.
- The frequency of events is moderate, with low to moderate consequences.
- There is an increased likelihood of a catastrophic event occurring within the Brigade's area of responsibility.

Service Standard 2.1.10

While the primary focus of the Brigade is on the local area, subject to the maintenance of operational coverage in the Brigade area or the Bega Valley, members and/or equipment from the Brigade have been called upon to assist outside the District. The Brigade is able to provide a full range of bush and/or grass firefighting services. It also has the capability of providing primarily defensive structural and transport firefighting support in its own and neighbouring Brigade areas.



2. Administration

2.1. Brigade Executive

The Brigade Executive is responsible for the policies, procedures and day-to-day administrative management of the Tathra Rural Fire Brigade, including, but not limited to responsible spending and accountability of brigade monies, buildings and facilities, and member safety and welfare.

The members of the Tathra Rural Fire Brigade who were elected to positions on the Brigade Executive at the Annual General Meeting (10th May 2023):

Table 2.1.1 Brigade Executive

Brigade Executive Position	Elected member
President	Anthony Taylor
Secretary	Amanda Shane
Treasurer	Sally Gallimore

The above volunteers including the Operational Officers, comprise the Brigades' **Executive Committee**.

2.2. Operational Officers

The Operational Officers (Captain and Deputy Captains) of the Tathra Rural Fire Brigade, are responsible for the oversight of all operational responses and functions including the provision and maintenance of arrangements supporting timely operational responses and the safety and welfare of all members.

The members of the Tathra Rural Fire Brigade who were elected to operational positions at the Annual General Meeting (10th May 2023):

Table 2.2.1 Field Officers

Operational Position	Elected member
Captain	Adam Wiggins
Senior Deputy Captain	Lance Hartley
Deputy Captains	Jason Lewington, Richard Gallimore

Members of the Executive Committee have been working throughout the year. The Brigade continues to be in a sound financial and administrative shape.

The Committee has been identifying opportunities for improving the Brigade's planning and reporting processes to help better address members, infrastructure and operational issues across the Brigade and it is expected that further progress will be made in the coming year.

2.3. Administrative Officers

The Administrative Officers ensure the non-operational arrangements and administration of the Tathra Rural Fire Brigade.

The members of the Tathra Rural Fire Brigade who were elected to administrative (non-operational) positions at the Annual General Meeting (10th May 2023):

Table 2.3.1 Administrative Officers

Brigade Position	Elected member
Community Engagement Officers	Katrina Hansen, Jacqui Williams, Barry Woollacott
Equipment Officers	Carl Oakley, George Toyne, Greg Hansen
First Aid Officers	Matt Neenan, Amanda Shane
RFSA Representative	Jason Lewington
Training Officer	Lance Hartley

2.4. Meetings

Executive Committee Meetings. The Executive Committee's meetings are held four times per year or more. The minutes of these meetings are available from the Secretary.







General Meetings. Four meetings, including the Annual General meeting, are held during the year. The minutes of these meetings are available from the Secretary.

Training Meetings are held weekly (as much as possible) excepting school holidays. 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

3. Operations

The 2022/2023 year turned out to be a reasonably active year for the Brigade. The Brigade and its members responded to XX incidents throughout the period totalling XX hours.

A breakdown of these incidents is below:

 Grass and Bushfire 9	 Structure Fires 5	 Good Intent / False Alarm 6
 Vehicle Accidents + Fire 8	 Assist Other Agencies 3	 Other Incidents 2

3.1 Incident Response

The following is a list of call outs for the last 12 months, compared to the previous 2 years.

Table 3.1.1 Call out Summary

Incident Type	2023/2022	2022/2021	2021/2020
Structure Fire	5	9	4
Grass and Bushfire	9	7	4
Good Intent	6	4	1
Motor Vehicle + Fire	8	10	5
Out of Area	4	0	1
Other Incident	2	4	8
Total	34	34	23



Members extinguish vehicle fire – November 2022



Motor vehicle fire - Sapphire Coast Road (Photo: Prue Hall-Kelly)

3.2 Hazard Reduction Activities

The Brigade assisted in two hazard reduction burns during 2023 / 2022. Other HRs were in the pipeline but we were beaten by the weather. The hazard reduction burns – located at:

Table 3.2.1 Hazard Reduction Activities

Location	Area (Ha)	Hours	Volunteers	Appliances
Dr George Rd, Tanja		8	2	Cat 9
Sapphire Cost Dr x Old Wallagoot Rd	9	9	5	Cat 1, Cat 9



Brad Crofts, George Toyne, Ed Locs (Photo: L. Hartley)

The Brigade will be seeking to conduct more burns as time, resources and conditions permit

3.3 Pile Burn Assists

The Brigade assisted with 2 pile burns during 2023 / 2022.

Table 3.3.1

	No. of piles	Hours	Volunteers	Appliances
Bournda Parkway	4	9	3	Cat 1
Thompson Drive	1	2	3	Cat 9



Members assisted Elizabeth Shumack (right) with a number of pile burns

Tathra 1 – workhorse of
the Brigade



Ed practising to be
a Crew Leader

Jack (Candelo) and Lance
doing nothing as usual



3.4 Out of Area Deployments.

3.4.1 Hunter Valley - Varroa Mite / Honey Bees

Carl Oakley was amongst the crew from the Far South Coast who joined the efforts to control the varroa mite outbreak which had been impacting bee colonies in the Hunter Valley region.



3.4.2 Wentworth – Western NSW

December 2022 Tathra fielded three volunteers to assist the flood affected communities. Jade Hansen, Ed Locs and Carl Oakley were deployed to this township for five days.

3.4.3 Mudgee – Mid Western NSW

Mid March saw Greg Hansen and Carl Oakley deployed to the Mudgee area. The Mudgee, Wellington and Dubbo areas had a number of fires burning concurrently, including the large 18,300 hectare Alpha Rd fire which was burning in the locality of Tambaroora, north of Hill End.

Greg and Carl in a Cat 7



3.4.4 Berridale – Southern NSW

On the 19th March, Captain Adam Wiggins and Dean Clapson travelled to Berridale to join other Far South Coast members in assisting our colleagues from the Monaro with the Dalgety Road Fire.

The Dalgety Road Bushfire burnt for several days and covered an area of 530 hectares

Dean Clapson on the fire ground



4. Non – Operational

The Brigade and its members undertook numerous non-operational activities throughout the reporting period.

A breakdown of these activities is shown below:

Table 4.1.1 Non-Operational Activities

Activity	No.	Hours
Brigade Training	38	620
Community Engagement	3	95
Fire Trail Maintenance	–	–
General Maintenance	8	23
RFS Instructing / Assessing	8	133

4.2. Training

4.2.1 RFS Mainstream Courses.

RFS courses are managed by the Far South Coast Learning and Development Officer, who is assisted by instructors and assessors for the delivery and assessment of RFS courses, in particular Bush Firefighter, Village Firefighter, Advanced Firefighter and Rural Fire Driver to Brigades in the District.

Brigade members continue to step up and commit to improving upon their skill set during the reporting period.

Table 4.2.1 Member Qualifications obtained during 2023 / 2022

Qualification	Volunteer
Bushfire Firefighter	Steve Heery
Advanced Firefighter	Greg Hansen, George Toyne, Melinda Steel, Matt Robards
Village Firefighter	Jason Bataan-Groves, Kacey Radford, Dean Clapson, Matt Robards, George Toyne
Rural Fire Driver	George Toyne
Crew Awareness & Safety	Kacey Radford, Gerry Sheehan,
Navigation	Gerry Sheehan
Wildfire Behaviour	Gerry Sheehan
Enterprise Skills Trainer	Gerry Sheehan
ICSAIIMS19	Lance Hartley



Members receive qualifications L to R: D. Clapson, J. Bataan-Groves, K. Radford (Village Firefighter), G. Toyne (Rural Fire Driver) (Photo: G. Smith)

4.2.2 Brigade Training

Training for the Brigade is set as:

- Tuesdays: 1800 hrs to 2000 hrs;



Two "Live Fire" instructors from the Brigade attended a training event utilising the new District car-fire gas prop

Tathra Fire Brigade undertake frequent and varied training. Training may involve pumping, hose drills, bush fire fighting skills, map reading / navigation, radio procedures, first aid, rope work, village fire fighting, etc.

June will see the Brigade undergo training for CABA – *Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus*. This will add a further layer to keeping our members safer from toxic gases at fires, especially vehicle fires



Classroom fire simulation at the Tathra Primary school (Photo)



Elizabeth (local paramedic) describes her role as a 1st responder and discusses how the fire brigade can assist (Photo A. Shane)

4.2.3 Field Day

A field exercise was conducted in the District to up-skill members in the fighting of village fires. The field day was the brain-child of **Peter Chappel**, Merimbula captain and was held at Mandeni Resort.

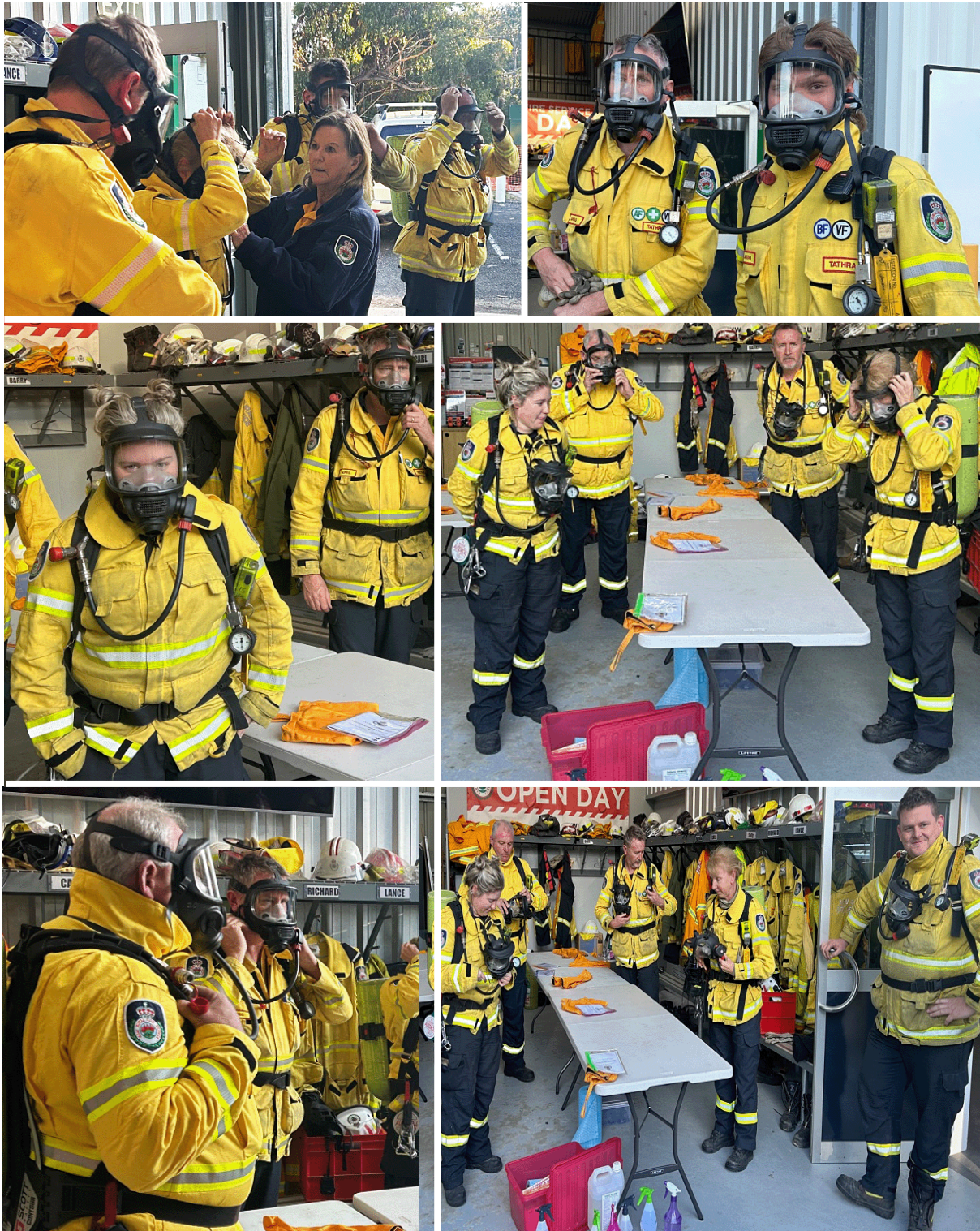
Volunteers had the opportunity to evaluate their skills at motor vehicle fires, hydraulic venting of structures and draughting water from a static water supply.



Photos A. Shane

4.2.4 SCBA Training

The Breathing Apparatus Operator course is designed to give Rural Fire Service personnel the competency required to select, don, operate and maintain self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) in an irrespirable atmosphere. The end of June saw a number of members step up to undergo training in SCBA. The training was held over two days with an assessment event a month later. The breathing apparatus will allow firefighters to fight fires in toxic smoke conditions.





4.2.5 Captains' Honour Board

The Brigade has installed a Captains' Honour Board, on display in the Training Room, which lists the past Captains and years of service, beginning with the inaugural Captain, Jack Ward in 1943, to the present Captain, Adam Wiggins.

4.2.6 Brigade T – Shirts

The Brigade Executive thought a T-shirt reflecting the Brigade name would quickly identify members to the community and be a comfortable work-wear whilst carrying out Station duties.



4.3 Community Engagement

4.3.1 Website.

The Brigade maintains a web site at <https://tathrafirebrigade.org.au>. The site contains information for members and the community about bush firefighting, training and Brigade history.

4.3.2 Brigade Facebook

As at June 2023, the Brigade Facebook statistics, <https://www.facebook.com/tathrafirebrigade/>

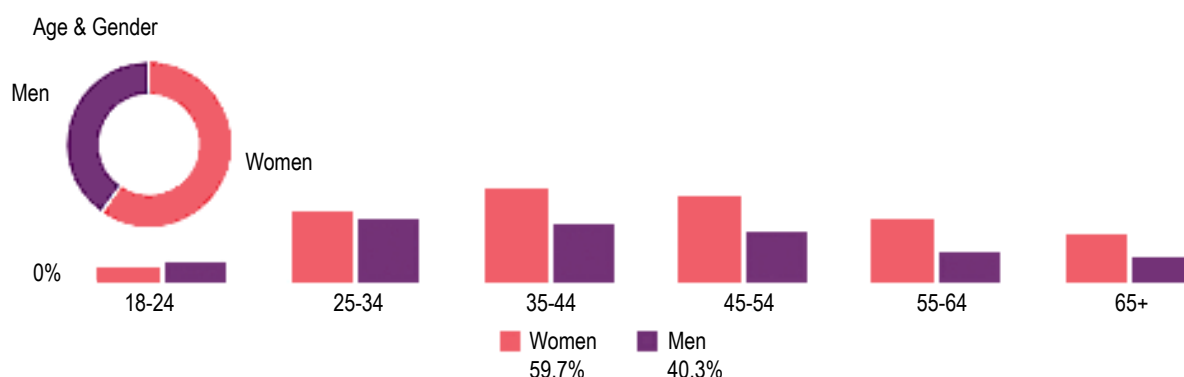
Page reach.

31,264

Up 34.7% on previous year, this is the number of registered users of Facebook who have viewed or interacted with the Tathra Brigade page.

Page followers.

5,783



Page visits.

2,991

Posts by the Brigade

33

Most interacted post

“Today marks 5 years since Tathra and the Reedy Swamp area were impacted by bushfire that was fanned by strong winds and high temperatures, which destroyed 69 homes and 30 cabins / caravans as well as other structures and community assets.....”

18 March 2023 at 12:13

9,484 reached

475 reacted, 79 commented, 54 shares

4.3.3 Fire Danger Rating signs

September 2022 saw the implementation of the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS).

Based on the latest science and insights from the community, the new Fire Danger Ratings are:

- Catastrophic
- Extreme
- High
- Moderate

Each fire danger will have a clear set of messages including the actions the community can take to reduce their risk



Matt Neenan showcasing the new ADF sign

4.3.4 Tathra Roll-A-Door Artwork

...Since our last AGM we have also had something of what you might call a renaissance taking place at the station. I'm referring of course to the artwork on our station doors, created and painted by artiste in residence Lance Hartley. Lance was up the ladder day after day — I used to give him a supportive toot as I drove by — attending to his creation, and with great effect. I've heard lots of complimentary comments about the murals from the public, most of them saying they liked the humorous tone. The station is in a pretty prominent position as you come into town and I think the artwork helps to convey the image that we are serious about our business, but don't take ourselves too seriously...



Anthony Taylor - Presidents' Annual General Report

4.3.5 "I Support Tathra Brigade" stickers



George Toyne organised the production of a number of car stickers based on the roll-a-door artwork. If you would like to get hold of some, drop into the Station, preferably Tuesday nights and say hello



4.4 Community Support

The Brigade acknowledges the interest, participation, generosity and encouragement of:

- The people of Tathra and the areas of Tathra that fall within the Brigade's area.
- Our local Community Associations.
- The various businesses, individuals and other groups in the Brigade area and surrounding region.

Locally based business, Merimbula Mowers and Marine Pty Ltd, recently donated a chainsaw to a number of Brigades, including Tathra

These groups have continued to support the Brigade in a variety of ways. Your ongoing support is very much appreciated.



Captain Adam Wiggins with Dave from Merimbula Mowers and Marine Pty Ltd receiving the donated chainsaw

4.5 RFSA Conference



2nd to 4th June

Three members from Tathra Brigade attended the RFSA Conference at Rydges Hunter Valley.

Probably one of the best conferences to date, attendees found it a valuable experience.

We heard from a number of keynote speakers, including Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, the Hon Jihad Dib MP, Rob Webb, AFAC.

The exhibitions were not to be missed, exhibitors showcasing up-to-date technologies and innovations. The RFS had many exhibits on show - including latest firefighting appliances, helicopter and boats, as well as logistics, PPC and MDTs



5. Membership

Thank you to all Brigade members, for their service and support throughout the year. People join the Brigade for a variety of reasons. The RFS provides an opportunity for them to 'do their bit' for their community, assist others in times of distress and predicament, work with a team of great people, and an opportunity to apply existing and/or learn new skills. Whatever the reason for being in the RFS, the life of a volunteer constantly requires balancing individual commitments and involvement with family, employment, RFS work, and other interests. This balance is different for us all and we therefore appreciate the diligence and commitment that every member can give the Brigade. We also owe a huge vote of thanks to the **family members** of the volunteers in the Brigade. Your support for the ongoing activities of the Brigade and your understanding is very much appreciated.

5.1. Current Status

The Brigade numbers currently sit at a healthy 42. We have had one new member but lost one during the year. A big thankyou to Don McFee for his dedication and assistance throughout the years.

If you would like to join Tathra Fire Brigade as a firefighter or in a support role, please drop into the Station Tuesday nights and have a yarn. You can fill out a membership form on line (e-membership) at:

5.2. New Members

The Brigade welcomed Steve Heery to our ranks.

5.3. Prue Steps Down

Prue has been our community engagement officer for many years and actively promoted a greater understanding within the Tathra Community of the role and contribution of the brigade.

Her tenure in the position was completed recently.

Prue has also been very active in the community in promoting the uptake of solar panels (as a founding member of Clean Energy for Eternity).

We all owe her a big thank you



Prue Kelly pictured with the late Dennis McTaggart.

5.4. Brigade Qualifications

Brigade members continue to step up to not only improve their skill set but to take on increasing roles of responsibility.

The table below sets out the qualifications held by active firefighters at the end of the reporting period. As this table shows, volunteers are well qualified

In some key skills, the Brigade has exceeded the set target

Table 5.4.1 Member Qualifications

Qualifications	2023 / 2022	Target
Bush Firefighters	40	40
Bush Firefighter Support	1	2
Village Firefighters	29	25
Advanced Firefighters	14	12
Crew Leader (Supervision)	7	5
Crew Leader (Village)	5	5
Crew Leader (Wildfire)	4	5
First Aid	3	5
Chain Saw Operators	2	4
Live Fire Instructors	2	2
Rural Fire Drivers	8	10
Off Road Drivers	2	4
NSW RFS Instructors	4	5
NSW RFS Training Facilitators	1	1
NSW RFS Assessors	2	2
Conduct Briefings / Debriefings	1	2
Communications Centre Assistant	2	5
Communications Centre Operator	1	1
Australasian Inter-service IMS	3	3

6. Financial

6.1. Income and Expenditure 2023/2022

Tathra Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade

ABN: 26 119 463 391

Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Tathra Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade

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Tathra Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade

Statement of income and retained earnings

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Income			
Donations income		2,839	3,397
Interest Income		86	70
Other Income		490	2,551
T-shirt Income		800	-
Total income		4,215	6,018
Expenses			
IT Expenses		-	432
Accountancy Fees		220	220
Equipment Purchases		14,628	31,422
Other Expenses		1,263	1,191
Shed Expenses		57	660
T-shirt Expenses		1,352	-
Total Expenses		17,520	33,925
Loss before income tax		(13,305)	(27,907)
Income tax	1	-	-
Loss for the year		(13,305)	(27,907)
Retained earnings			
Loss for the year		(13,305)	(27,907)
Opening balance		36,463	64,369
Retained earnings at the end of the year		23,158	36,462

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Tathra Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade

Statement of financial position

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current Assets		
General bank account	4,723	5,064
Fire & Emergency Public Fund account	18,272	31,048
Social bank account	163	350
Total current assets	23,158	36,462
Total assets	23,158	36,462
Net assets	23,158	36,462
Member's funds		
Retained earnings	23,158	36,462

Tathra Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Summary of significant accounting policies

The association is an unincorporated entity. It is registered with the Australian Business Register -Australian Business Number 26 119 463 391. The Committee has reviewed its income tax status and have assessed the association to be exempt from income tax under section 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act, 1997 (Cth). Consequently, no provision for taxation has been made in the financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared under the cash basis of accounting, whereby revenue is recorded when it is received, expenses are recorded when they are paid, and no assets or liabilities, other than cash and bank balances are recorded. Accounting Standards are not applicable to the cash basis of accounting.

The association is not a reporting entity because, in the members opinion, it is unlikely that users exist who are unable to command the preparation of financial statements tailored so as to satisfy, specifically, all of their information needs. This is a special purpose financial report that has been prepared to meet the needs of the members of the association.

Tathra Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade

Statement by members of the committee

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of the Tathra Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade as at 31 March 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Tathra Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

Member: Lance Hartley

Member:



Date: 20 / 5 / 2023

Place: Tathra Fire Station



Independent audit report to the members of Tathra
Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade (Non-Reporting)

Report on the audit of the financial report Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Tathra Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade (non-reporting) (the Entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2023, the statement of income and retained earnings for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by members of the committee.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the *Basis of Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial report of the Entity is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with Note 1 to the financial statements, including

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Entity's financial position as at 31 March 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended, and
- (b) complying with the accounting policies as per Note 1 to the financial statements.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable for the Entity to maintain an effective system of Internal control over all income amounts until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, our audit in relation to income amounts was limited to amounts recorded

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Entity to meet the requirements of the Note 1 to the financial statements. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report

The Committee are responsible for the other information. Other Information may comprise information included in the Entity's annual report for the year ended 31 March 2023, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon. We have not received any Other Information as at the date of this audit report and as such have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report

The Committee are responsible for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with the accounting policies as per Note 1 to the financial statements and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. The Committee are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with the Committee, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

KOTHES

Chartered Accountants



SIMON BYRNE Partner
Merimbula, 28 April 2023

6.2. Brigade Expenditure

Public donations to the Brigade has allowed us to purchase equipment which otherwise would be beyond our reach.

Table 6.2.1: Brigade Expenditure 23 / 22

Date	Item	Cost
Oct 2022	TAIT VHF Radio	\$2,000.00
Oct 2022	UHF CB Radio	\$473.00
Feb 2023	Motorola APX8500 PMR Radio	\$5,500.00
Mar 2023	Radio / Antennae Installation	\$5,000.00
April 2023	Public Automated External Defibrillator	\$2,500.00
May 2023	Thermal Imaging Camera	\$10,000.00
June 2023	Portable Hydrant for field use	\$935.00
	Funds committed to the building of a District Welfare trailer	\$21,000.00
	Total	\$47,408.00



7. Recognition of Members

7.1. National Emergency Medal

Jacqui Williams from the Tathra Fire Brigade was awarded the National Emergency Medal for her efforts during the 2019-20 fire season. The medal is awarded to those whose service must be in the protection of lives and property or in the service of interests that are not their own and who supported the emergency response for a minimum of five days between September 2019 and February 2020



Paul Dabros presents Jacqui with her National Emergency Medal

7.2. Long Service Medals

A Long Service Medal is awarded to members who have undertaken ten years of service. Impeller Rosettes and Clasps are awarded for each subsequent ten year period of service.

This Medal was instituted on 4 May 2009 and replaced the former Long Service Badges (15, 25, 35 and 50 years of service)

Congratulations to **Richard Boys**, awarded the **Clasp to the Long Service Medal** for 30 years service and **Carl Oakley** and **Lance Hartley** awarded the **National Medal** for 15 years service. These volunteers have dedicated themselves to the Rural Fire Service over the years and are most deserving of this award (11th Oct, 2022)



Carl and District Manager Far South Coast, Superintendent Angus Barnes



Richard and Angus Barnes



Lance and Angus Barnes

