



Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade

Bushfire Season Newsletter

September 2012

CONTACT US

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Malua Bay Rural Fire
Brigade

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Serving Our Community

The **Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade** is an “urban interface” brigade covering Lilli Pilli, Malua Bay, Rosedale, Guerilla Bay and surrounds. As well as attending bush and grass fires the brigade responds to house fires, motor vehicle accidents and supports other agencies when needed. In the past 12 months the Brigade has attended a total of 34 incidents.

Fire (Bush / Grass / Structural)	17
Motor Vehicle Accidents	8
Support Other Agency (Police / Ambulance / SES)	5
False Alarm Good Intent	4
TOTAL	34

We also regularly conduct Hazard Reduction Burns to protect the community from fire and to reduce the impact of bushfires. In 2011/12 we completed a total of 8 Hazard Reduction Burns in the Brigade Area with more planned for 2012/13.

Fire Wise Presentations

The “urban interface” challenge for a rural fire brigade is when it has a large area of land where houses and property are adjacent to or mixed in with bush. This presents a greater direct danger from fires and requires owners to be well prepared for the impact of bushfires.

The brigade has held very successful community meetings at Guerilla Bay and North Rosedale to discuss preparing for the fire season both as individual owners and as communities. More meetings are proposed for the future.

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- Hazard Reduction Burns “*Protecting Our Community*”
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- Fire Danger Rating “*What is a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating*”?
- Prepare. Act. Survive. — “*Are You Prepared?*”



PREPARE ACT SURVIVE



Dangerous Fire Season Predicted

After the last two years and all the rain of the past months there has been an abundance of growth. As the season gets drier this will add to the existing fuel load, making the coming bushfire season a dangerous one.

The drier seasons effects can be seen by looking at the fire activity in northern NSW over recent weeks – generally their season is 6 to 8 weeks ahead of us.

La Niña (associated with higher rainfall) has become neutral, and it is predicted that El Niño (less rainfall) will be the main weather pattern.

Now is the time to start preparing your property and your Bush Fire Survival Plan.



Download a copy of the Bush Fire Survival Plan from
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Donations Help Us Out



Thanks to you and your donations in 2011 the Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade has been able to build and purchase lockers for new brigade members at the brigade station for storage of their Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE). In 2012 the Brigade is raising money for a Barbecue Trailer for catering and welfare of volunteer fire fighters at Fires & Hazard Reduction Burns. If you'd like to make a donation to the Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade donations can be made either via;

Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade
PO Box 2040
Malua Bay NSW 2536

Or

Bank Transfer: BSB 062650 Account: 10203155

The Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade is registered as a Deductible Gift Recipient.



Future Communications

Over the last few years the brigade has issued an annual newsletter at the beginning of the bush fire danger period to highlight the approaching season. This takes a lot of resources to distribute. Often we would like to issue other shorter newsletters about particular issues and brigade activities on a more regular basis. Would you like to be on our mailing list to receive an electronic copy of such Newsletters in future? If so please send your email address to mbrfb@bigpond.com



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE OPEN DAY 2012

Saturday 22 September

Visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au
to locate your closest participating Brigade.

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.



Hazard Reduction Burns— “Protecting Our Community”



Hazard reduction is a vital element in helping to reduce the intensity of bush fires.

The Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade has completed a number of Hazard Reduction Burns at Guerrilla Bay, Lilli Pilli, and Malua Bay in 2011/12. Further Hazard Reduction Burns are planned for Guerrilla Bay, Lilli Pilli Estate, Sea Breeze Estate and Malua Bay Estate weather dependent.

Each year only a small window of opportunity exists where weather conditions are conducive for controlled burns. For a hazard reduction burn to be successful we require the right wind and temperature conditions and the ground fuels to be sufficiently dry.

NSW Rural Fire Service Open Day 10am-2pm Saturday 22 September 2012

The Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade will throw open the doors to the Brigade Station in Reservoir Road on Saturday 22 September, for the annual RFS Open Day.

Come along and not only see how we operate but also learn how you can protect your home, property and family from Bush Fire.

11am “Fire Wise Presentation”

- *How bush fires impact on homes*
- *How to protect your home & property*
- *Bush Fire Survival Plans*
- *The Fire Danger Index*
- *Bush Fire Awareness*
- *Neighbourhood Safer Places*

“Preparation is the key to surviving a bush fire”.

“There are many critical decisions you need to make, which can influence your safety and it’s important to make those decisions well before a fire threatens your home”.

“Leaving it until the last minute could prove deadly”.

Join us on Saturday 22 September. Free Sausage Sizzle, Activities and Demonstrations throughout the day.



PREPARE ACT SURVIVE

Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade

Meeting Nights

1st Tuesday of each month 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Training Nights

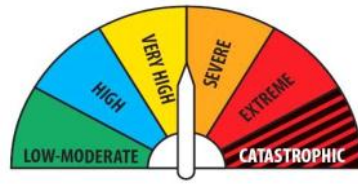
2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Location

Reservoir Rd, Malua Bay (off George Bass Drive)



FIRE DANGER RATING



Fire Danger Rating (FDR) is an assessment of the potential fire behaviour, the difficulty of suppressing a fire, and the potential impact on the community should a bush fire occur on a given day.

The FDR is determined by the Fire Danger Index (FDI). The FDI is a combination of air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and drought.

An FDI of 1 (Low-Moderate) means that fire will not burn, or will burn so slowly that it will be easily controlled, whereas an FDI in excess of 100 (Catastrophic) means that fire will burn so fast and so hot that it is uncontrollable.

Prepare. Act. Survive.

PREPARE. It's your responsibility to prepare yourself, your family and your home for the threat of bush fire.

Prepare a Bush Fire Survival Plan

Prepare Yourself

Prepare Your Property

ACT. You need to act decisively in accordance with your Bush Fire Survival Plan when bush fires threaten.

Keep Informed

Follow your Bush Fire Survival Plan

SURVIVE. Your survival depends on your preparations and the decisions you make.

People are more important than houses

Have a contingency plan

TRAINING

Over the last 12 months Malua Bay Brigade members have not only been busy with fires and incidents but training with a number of members completing the NSW Rural Fire Service Bush Fire, Village Fire Fighter and Chainsaw Courses as part of furthering their training and skills in protecting the community in which they live from fire.



Are you interested in becoming a Rural Fire Service Volunteer?

Contact Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade Secretary Helen Riedl

Phone: 4471 2625

Email: mbrfb@bigpond.com

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Check Out the Malua Bay Brigade Website

www.maluabay.rfsa.org.au