

Pearl Beach Progress Association & RFS Brigade

Media Release

Tuesday 21 March 2023

THE COMMUNITY ARE INVITED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE !

**Come along to a Pearl Beach RFS Brigade
Membership Info Night 25th March at 5pm – 7pm Saturday
39 Emerald Avenue, Pearl Beach 2256
pearlbeach@ccrfs.org.au**

"Have you ever wondered what motivates people to join a volunteer organisation like NSW RFS?"

With 70,000 volunteers across the state, there are probably 70,000 unique reasons. Some join to take on a new challenge, some to give back to the community. Some join for the mateship and the camaraderie which come from training and working together. Some do it because they want to make a difference.

Whatever your reason, being part of an organisation like NSW RFS can be an incredible and rewarding experience. We need volunteers from across the Peninsular.

Bush fires were a major concern for the early settlers in Pearl Beach. The formation of a brigade to fight bush fires came very early and for many years was a significant reason for the continuing existence of the Progress Association which was formed in 1929.

In the early days the only water available for fire fighting was the water in the creeks, springs and wells and in private water tanks. Mostly the fire fighters cleared fire breaks using shovels, axes, hoes, mattocks and tried to beat out encroaching flames with green boughs cut from the trees, or beaters made of canvas or hessian attached to pieces of wood and fitted with handles. These beaters were soaked in water where possible to make them more effective. These were later supplemented by knapsack sprays.

The fire brigade was composed entirely of local volunteers who lived in the valley or were visiting for the summer holidays. At the first sign of a fire, an alarm was sounded summoning them to gather to fight it. There were not many vehicles available to transport them though some fire fighters possibly came on bicycles, others on foot.

We now fortunately have well equipped vehicles and a support network, but we always need more. The Pearl Beach Rural Fire Brigade, and all Brigades hold a special place in all our lives, a place that we should as a community be proud of and support, and one that we appreciate every day.

**End: Lynne Lillico
PBPA Publicity 4344 2319**

Photo: Pearl Beach Members of the PB Volunteer RFS Brigade



PEARL BEACH

N.S.W. RURAL FIRE SERVICE

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