

## BERKELEY VALE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE WEAR THE PANTS

The Berkeley Vale Rural Fire Brigade supports the community in three main ways: emergency response, hazard reduction and community education. They responded to around 210 incidents within the Wyong area providing 16,000 operational man hours keeping the community safe. They provide 600 man hours per month to reduce the hazardous fuel load in bush fire prone areas, also encouraging germination of native plants. In the last year they have provided 5,000 man hours to educate the community to prepare, act and survive bush fire situations. The 20 active BVRFB members are very busy people and most of them have jobs too.

The Wallarah 2 Community Foundation are thrilled to provide a grant for uniforms for the brigade members to undertake community engagement events. Up till now they have been wearing their orange uniform for fundraising and community education events, the one they wore yesterday when fighting that bushfire, the one treated with chemicals to make it non-flammable, the one that is very hard to keep clean! The navy cargo pants will be a very smart addition to their kit.

“The last fire season and major storm events which have impacted the area of Wyong saw a huge demand on our brigade to assist the community. With this pending fire season outlook also not being favourable, we have been left in a situation where we need to ensure the community are presented with our message of Prepare, Act and Survive. Receiving this grant funding will help us increase the services we provide for the residents of the Wyong area” says Fire Brigade Captain, Craig Bellinger.



L-R: Berkeley Vale RFB members Gerard Dunning, Adam MacLean, Jess Scappatura & Ray Carter with Peter Smith, Environment & Community Manager of Wyong Coal

The Berkeley Vale RFB have been doing it tough since January 2016 when their station house in Shannon Parade had its roof lifted off in a storm, hurling rubble over 1km away. Plans have been approved for the repair of the building but in the meantime the brigade have been operating out of local storage sheds, making their job just that bit harder.

Donations made to your local Rural Fire Brigade, directly benefit volunteer firefighters and are always gratefully received. Berkeley Vale Rural Fire Brigade conduct fundraising at Bunnings BBQ stalls, coin collections at Tuggerah Westfield and other local community events. These proceeds directly assist BVRFB to conduct their community activities and allow them to add vital equipment to their trucks.

“Wallarrah 2 is proud to support the Berkeley Vale Rural Fire Brigade as they engage with the community raising awareness of their Prepare, Act & Survive message” says Peter Smith, Environment & Community Manager of the Wallarah 2 Coal Project.

Peter Smith, Environment & Community Manager  
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Berkeley Vale RFB Station in  
Shannon Parade