

STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: Community Services Manager
DATE: 30 August 2006
SUBJECT: Rural Fire Parties

PURPOSE

To advise the Committee on issues that have come out of recent Annual General Meetings of Rural Fire Parties.

BACKGROUND

Under the Waimea Rural Fire Committee structure there are various zones that are the responsibility of each of the main stakeholders being: TDC, NCC, the two forestry companies and DOC. In the past each of these zones was managed by the appropriate stakeholder, however we now have a contract with Rural Fire Network Limited for the day to day management of the rural fire risk.

Within the zones this Council is responsible for, there are the following fire parties:

- Lake Rotoiti
- Brightwater
- Appleby
- Ngatimoti
- Upper Takaka
- Wainui

DISCUSSION

I have recently attended two of the AGM's and thought that Councillors would find the following information from these meetings of interest:

Appleby Volunteer Rural Fire Force

- 14 fire fighters registered at end of June 2006 made up of 10 men and four women.
- 24 official practices held in the year.

- 73 callouts for the year with 38 vegetation, 12 structure, 11 motor vehicle accidents being the main ones.
- Currently raising funds for a defibrillator.
- The meeting was also the last for the Appleby Controller, David Gapes, who has been the Controller since the fire party was set up in the late 1980's. Council made a presentation to David which included a letter from the Mayor thanking him for his invaluable service.

Brightwater Volunteer Rural Fire Force

- 94 callouts for the year with 24 vegetation, four structure, 10 motor vehicle accidents, eight rubbish fires, 13 fire alarm (business alarms) being the main ones.
- For the previous 12 months there had been 34 callouts.
- They have recently purchased a defibrillator.

Full copies of both the Controller's Annual Reports are attached for Councillors information.

The other point I need to make is in regard to the fundraising carried out by these fire parties to purchase more equipment etc for their fire appliances and in Brightwater's case the funds they raised towards the purchase of the Dennis Fire Appliance and the necessary extensions to the Fire Station.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Ngatimoti AGM which was held in the new building although at that stage they were not officially operating from there. Upper Takaka and Wainui have also held their AGM's and these were attended by Rural Fire Network staff and I believe the Lake Rotoiti AGM is scheduled for sometime in September.

The Brightwater Fire Party are very proud of their new Dennis and are bringing it into Richmond to show Councillors at 12.15 pm on the day of the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

L L Kennedy
Community Services Manager