

NEWS

Cowra's RFS support welcome

RURAL FIRE SERVICE

COWRA'S Rural Fire Service (RFS) brigades have been feeling the heat in the last few weeks, assisting with the Mount Canobolas and Gowan fires.

Brigades from Kangaroo Flat, Waugoola, Walli Islands, Darbys Falls, Billimari, Mt MacDonald, Moorbell, Glen Logan and Woodstock were all involved with bringing the fires under control.

Facing her first fire, Kangaroo Flat volunteer Lou-Anne Pech said it was, "a bit daunting" but that she was proud of all the brigades.

"I was scared at first, but we have such a good team that I knew everyone had my back," she said.

"Everyone watches out for each other so I felt ok, I was really proud of the teamwork we had, not just within our brigade but with the other brigades there.

"It was good to consolidate and put it into practice all of our skills we learn in training



Members from Kangaroo Flat, Waugoola, Walli Islands, Darbys Falls, Billimari, Mt MacDonald, Moorbell, Glen Logan and Woodstock were instrumental in helping fight the Mount Canobolas and Gowan fires.

each week," she said.

Canobolas Operations Officer, Cameron Bird, said they received help from all over the state and the Orange crews were appreciative of the assistance.

"All shires that we cover were involved (in firefight-

ing), obviously Cowra was one of those, they were very instrumental in helping us out," he said.

"They (the Cowra Brigades) helped out with airbase operations as well as firefighting, I don't think there was a Cowra brigade

that didn't turn out.

"Talking to the guys on the ground out there, the local guys a very appreciative of the turn out, we've had brigades from Cowra, Blayney, Cabonne and Orange as well as Parks, Forbes, Con-

Sydney.

"We're very grateful to all those areas have come to the call for help.

"We'd like to give a big thanks to the brigades that helped from all of us here, especially those Cowra guys, we sincerely appreciate it

and hopefully we can help them out in return," he said.

All RFS brigades are currently seeking volunteers, those interested in becoming a volunteer can contact their local rural fire brigade or visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer/Join-the-NSW-RFS

App unlocks Cowra's history

Design students begin phase two of the Cowra Voices project

SIX design students from Tokai University's Sapporo campus will visit Cowra between February 23 and February 25 to begin work on Cowra Voices, a project linking people, stories and places via a geo-location capable, heritage trail app, narrating Cowra's story of civic peace and reconciliation.

Cowra Voices will harness the power of storytelling to document, share, and explore new narrative bilateral

connections by creating a multimedia storytelling app, featuring sound rich audio stories of people buried in Cowra's famous Japanese War Cemetery, as well as local people involved in the post war reconciliation work.

The visit is a continuation of the project after phase one saw the Japanese embassy fund the creation of a database of those buried in the Japanese Cemetery.

This mobile app will have

geo-location capabilities that visitors can use to navigate Cowra's Peace Precinct, making the app a valuable resource in encouraging engagement with Cowra's unique history.

The university students will home stay with Cowra locals and visit famous sites including the cemeteries, Japanese Gardens, the Peace Bell, and POW Camp Site.

They will have the opportunity to meet representa-

tives of Cowra Shire Council and learn about Cowra's history.

They will contribute to the technical and aesthetic design of the app, which is expected to be launched at the 75th anniversary of the Cowra Breakout in August, 2019.

Cowra, home of the famous 'Cowra Breakout' is known for building bonds of friendship with Japan, and is arguably the only place to have peace tourism

in Australia.

Cowra Voices is partly funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the Australia-Japan Foundation (AJF) Grant.

The project is a partnership between Cowra Shire Council, Cowra Tourism Corporation, Arts OutWest, and Nikkei Australia, a group promoting research, study, arts, and information exchange about the Nikkei diaspora in Australia.



Japanese War Cemetery.

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