

Firies band together to up the anti

Goolawah rural land sharing co-op hosted what is hoped to be the first annual Rural Fire Service (RFS) joint North Shore and Crescent Head brigades training day on Sunday, November 6.

The day saw 40 fire fighters from five local brigades practise safe back-burning and oil fire fighting techniques, a mock-up property protection scenario where fire fighters defend a house from a bushfire and general pumping and drafting training.

The brigades also held demonstrations for local residents of using breathing apparatus to rescue a person from a burning structure and demonstrated how a cooking oil fire at home can be safely extinguished.

National Parks and Wildlife Service also attended the event and made use of the time to explain the up and coming wildfire prevention strategy for Limburners Wilderness area which adjoins Goolawah co-op.

Goolawah co-op put on a barbecue lunch for all 70 firemen

and residents who turned out for the day.

Deputy captain Paul Martin of North Shore RFS and resident of Goolawah co-op said the co-op was happy to be able to support our local volunteers in any way.

"We live in the bush and rely on the RFS for our safety and property protection," he said.

"We thank all who attended and have been inspired to hold the event again next year because of all of the positive feedback we received from firemen who learned new skills on the day.

"Goolawah co-op is a sub-development by the owners of the land, not a developer.

"Creating house sites in this way allows people to have land to build on for \$7000 rather than 100s of 1000s.

"The co-op is located on Maria River Road and has been active since 2000.

"When all house sites are full, there will be 78 families and friends living here," Decript Martin said.



Firies in action.



The crew putting plans into action.



The gang on the day. Images: Zen Bollard