



## Murrin Bridge Men Fight Bush Fire

Firefighters of Murrin Bridge Aboriginal Station in February took part as a unit in their first bushfire operation.

The men worked efficiently and methodically and helped control a fire which at one stage looked as though it would be a threat to the township of West Euabalong.

Murrin Bridge is not a bush fire brigade on its own. It is an auxiliary of the Euabalong Brigade.

In its baptism of fire, the Murrin Bridge men were called in on a fire that had been burning for two days through dense mallee country about 15 miles to the west of the station.

The local bush fire controllers decided to grade a break about five miles long in the path of the fire, and to burn back from that line.

The Murrin Bridge men were called out at 5 a.m. on February 15, and with men from adjoining pastoral stations working alongside them, they began their jobs soon afterwards.

Eight Murrin Bridge men, including the manager of the station, Mr. R. Snook, used the station truck, a 100-gallon tank, the portable mechanical pump with a double delivery, knapsack sprays and other necessary tools.

One man drove, one tended the mechanical pump and other equipment, two operated the two high pressure delivery hoses and the others with knapsack sprays worked in support on mopping-up work.

The station's 300-gallon trailer tank was left filled and coupled to the tractor with a standby driver and a further group of men in support on the station, as a reserve.

However, dam water was available to refill the 100-gallon tank, and the trailer tank was not needed.

The precautionary grading and burning back took most of the day, and the Murrin Bridge men returned home late that afternoon.

Bush fire fighting equipment was supplied to the station by the N.S.W. Bush Fire Committee last year, as part of its wider programme to protect our State from the ravages of fires.

The local Murrin Bridge unit was formed following a visit there by the members of the Aborigines Welfare

---

**OUR PICTURE: Mr. A. G. Kingsmill, who is chairman of the Aborigines Welfare Board, and Chairman of the N.S.W. Bush Fire Committee (right), inspects fire-fighting equipment at Murrin Bridge Station. Mr. Kingsmill was making a tour with members of the Board. Others in the picture are the station manager, Mr. Snook and handyman, Mr. Bill Webster**

---

Board. The Chairman of the Board, Mr. A. G. Kingsmill, is also Chairman of the N.S.W. Bush Fire Committee, and Supt. J. H. Buck also is a member of both bodies.

Because of a difficulty arising over the allocation of boundaries, it was decided eventually that Murrin Bridge could not be given the status of a brigade, but it was agreed that it should be an auxiliary of the Euabalong Brigade.

Mr. Snook was appointed a Deputy Captain of the Euabalong Brigade.

Cobar Shire sought extra equipment from the Bush Fire Committee for the Murrin Bridge Auxiliary, and the Aborigines Welfare Board also approved the use of permanent station equipment, such as vehicles and pumps in bush fire fighting.