



# The evolution of Buxton Fire Brigade's Shed



## The Buxton Fire Brigade's quest for a Shed

In September 1957 BFB started petitioning for a firefighting vehicle or, failing that, at least a portable water pump. Actually, the brigade started asking (and kept asking) for a water-carrying vehicle from March 1947, but 10 years later the need was becoming acute.

In parallel, the search had been on for a shed and a site to store equipment since the formation of Buxton Brigade. From quite early times equipment was stored under the Buxton General Store, and a 44-gallon drum of water available adjacent to the store. Several deals or donations of sheds fell through. In October 1956 there was interest in obtaining Marysville Brigade's old shed. In November 1958, the brigade investigated using the traffic island at the intersection of Maroondah Hwy and Marysville Rd as the location for a prospective fire shed.



With the 1964 road realignment over the Little Steavenson River, a sliver of land containing the old highway was vacant. Buxton Brigade obtained a Permissive Occupancy Lease from the Country Roads Board for the land under the new shed for £1 per annum

The brigade purchased timber for a frame and metal for cladding and roof. A thief stole much of the raw material soon after delivery, which had to be replaced. Local tradesmen – especially Trevor Beynon, owner of Buxton Trout Farm across the road – built Buxton Fire Shed using the old highway surface for its (not very flat) floor. It was a bare shed with electricity, and a front door that rolled sideways. There was a gap between door and wall, and if you knew exactly where to reach, a key hung on a nail inside.



Buxton's first fire shed, under construction (top right), and completed (left). The C.F.A. lettering can still be seen in our current Engine Bay in 2024.

**1993** CFA purchased the sliver of old road reserve from the Little Steavenson River to Mareeba Ave in 1992. The new Buxton Fire Station was constructed just in front of the old fire shed, on the old highway once again, but with a concrete slab floor this time.

The old fire shed was sold by tender and the new owner took it away. The old siren was moved from the old fire shed to the new fire station (right).



**1997** The new fire station took on its first extension (left), being a meeting room to make things a little more comfortable for brigade business to be conducted.

**2005** A further extension was made to Buxton Fire Station, comprised of a separate office, a kitchen and a toilet. The **2014** extension at front of station under the Rural Fire Stations program was to accommodate a larger Heavy Tanker and allowed for the extra turnout hooks and CABA cleaning station (below).



**2022-23** Refinement of the Station Precinct continued with the installation of new flag poles in **2022**. The successful VESEP grant of 2020 saw the commencement and completion of the workshop in **2023** (above). Building of a gazebo for the use of our Members, completed the Station projects for **2023**.