

Task 151

Create a new Joomla! v 1.5 website for a not-for-profit organization

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Google™



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Contest



Joomla!™

...because open source matters



Narellan

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BEFORE

Before I came across the Narellan Rural Fire Service, their website displayed the usual lack of web presentation that we see in a lot of non-profit organisations. The fact is, a lot of organisations don't have the money to use for a brilliant website.

Their website was powered by another Open Source CMS (Content Management System), Drupal.

The website included basic information, however the problem that I saw with their setup was that they used Drupal for their homepage, however linked to numerous other scripts to take over the parts lacking in Drupal.

I knew as soon as I saw this site that it did not do justice to the fantastic work that the Narellan Rural Fire Service do for their community every day.

The screenshot shows the Narellan Rural Fire Service Website. The page is cluttered with numerous content blocks, each with a yellow header. The main content area is filled with news items, each starting with a date and time, followed by a title and a body of text. The blocks include:

- Work and away at Taralga**: Submitted by greens on Monday, July 30, 2007 - 20:28. Start: 07/09/2007 - 08:00. End: 09/09/2007 - 20:00. Title: Etc/GMT+10. Body: 7th, 8th & 9th September.
- RFS Open Day 2007**: Submitted by greens on Monday, July 30, 2007 - 20:28. Start: 15/09/2007 - 08:00. End: 15/09/2007 - 12:00. Title: Etc/GMT+10. Body: More info to come!
- VB Supercars at Oran Park - Aug 17-19 2007**: Submitted by greens on Monday, July 30, 2007 - 20:28. Start: 17/08/2007 - 19:00. End: 19/08/2007 - 20:00. Title: Etc/GMT+10. Body: See Scott for more information.
- Narellan RFS on the Radio**: Submitted by greens on Wednesday, October 11, 2006 - 21:41. As most of you know, Cassie, Scott and Trent were on CSL3 to promote the Open Day. Not all of us got to hear it, but they were kind enough to supply us with a copy. You can find the files here: First Segment, Second Segment, Third Segment, Fourth Segment. I hear that autographed CDs are available, pay homage to our cubs. Our thanks, again, to Rob and the crew at CSL3 for their help and support.
- Additional Training Night - Macquarie Fields Fire Station**: Submitted by greens on Wednesday, October 11, 2006 - 20:54. Start: 30/10/2006 - 19:00. End: 30/10/2006 - 21:00. Title: Etc/GMT+10. Body: We've got an additional training night setup for this month. It's on the 30th, yes, I know it's the 30th Monday. We have been invited to Macquarie Fields Station and have a look at their truck and what they carry on it etc. Meet at the station at 1900 to leave by 1930.
- RFS Open Day - 2006**: Submitted by greens on Tuesday, September 19, 2006 - 14:18. Ever wanted to know what it was like to sit in a fire truck with the sirens roaring and air horns blaring, wear a fire fighters uniform, extinguish a mock fire with a water extinguisher and hoses from the truck, and over 120 people found this out on the 18th September when the Narellan Rural Fire Brigade opened its doors to the public. Photos of the event can be found here. On display were the Bush Fire Tanker, Narellan Pumper, Narellan's PC and the Lighting Trailer however the big red fire trucks were the favourite of the day.
- MVA Camden Valley Way - Person trapped**: Submitted by greens on Monday, September 18, 2006 - 16:59. Narellan Rural Fire Brigade was called on 11th of September at 16:19 to reports of a MVA - Person trapped on Camden Valley Way nearest cross street of Cobbley Road. Narellan Pumper responded with a crew of 5 at 16:27. On route we were informed that the accident was actually on Cobbley Road nearest cross of Northern. This minor change of address didn't delay our response as we were on scene 6 minutes after our response. Upon arrival Narellan Captain assumed the role of RFS commander and liaised with ambulance, ambulance Rescue and Police. A short time later Narellan 1 proceeded with a crew of 2 for additional manpower.
- Hazardous Reductions - Mount Annan**: Submitted by greens on Friday, September 1, 2006 - 20:48. Start: 23/09/2006 - 09:00. End: 23/09/2006 - 15:00. Title: Etc/GMT+10. Body: We have been asked to get a crew for a HR at Mount Annan on the 23/9/06. We need a crew for the Car3 and the PC, as we're looking for around 9 people. Full details closer to the date.
- RFS Open Day - Saturday 16th September 2006**: Submitted by greens on Tuesday, August 29, 2006 - 20:21. Includes a promotional poster for the event with the text: "Imagine if your whole family was Firewise", "NSW Rural Fire Service OPEN DAY Saturday 16 September 2006", "Why not visit your local rural fire brigade", "See how a fire station works", "Learn to use a fire extinguisher", "Wear a firefighter's uniform", "Meet the crew", "Check out fire trucks", "Learn how to be safe from fire", "Meet our fire officers".
- Sunday's Training Cancelled**: Submitted by greens on Thursday, May 25, 2006 - 12:04. The training session scheduled for this Sunday 28th May 2006 has been CANCELLED. Sorry for any inconvenience and for the late notice. The next scheduled training session is Monday 5th June, hope to see you all there.

The page also features a sidebar with sections like "User login", "Links", "Navigation", "Upcoming events", "Poll", "Random image", "Browse archives", and "Who's online". The footer includes a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 License.

PLAN

Every good site starts with a plan, and after contacting Patrick from the Narellan Rural Fire Service, it was expressed that the following features would be great to have:

*The ability to post **news articles, photo galleries, mailing lists, event calendars** (like training schedules etc.), and also have **general information** about our brigade.*

I spent half an hour searching through <http://extensions.joomla.org> to find appropriate extensions to use on the website, which would fit what Patrick requested. The great thing was that news articles and information pages were already built into the Joomla! system, so there was no need to search for these.

We were also in need of a host to host the website. Fortunately, Web Hosts Australia donated appropriate hosting towards Narellan Rural Fire Service, and as such we were very grateful.

With Joomla! community members waiting at our side in case we needed help, our plan seemed flawless.

AFTER

After approximately 5 days, the site was completed with the functionality requested by Patrick. The extensions we used are as follows:

EXTENSIONS

GALLERY



Extension Used: ImageBrowser

Joomla! Extensions URL:

http://extensions.joomla.org/component/option,com_mtree/task,viewlink/link_id,3506/Itemid,35/

Version Used: 0.1.4 BETA

Type: Component

Native/Legacy: Native Joomla! 1.5

For the gallery, we decided to use **ImageBrowser** as it expressed all the great features you'd expect on an image gallery, including folders and beautiful ajax features.

MAILING LIST

id#	Published	List name	List sender
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Executive Committee	Administrator
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Officers	Administrator

Extension Used: Acajoom News

Joomla! Extensions URL:

http://extensions.joomla.org/component/option,com_mtree/task,viewlink/link_id,964/Itemid,35/

Version Used: 1.4.0

Type: Component / Module

Native/Legacy: Legacy Joomla! 1.5

After discovering that Patrick was interested in having multiple lists, some private and some public, I decided that **Acajoom** would be the best for Narellan Rural Fire Service's website.

EVENT CALENDAR



Extension Used: JCal Client

Joomla! Extensions URL:

http://extensions.joomla.org/component/option,com_mtree/task,viewlink/link_id,1401/Itemid,35/

Version Used: 1.6.x

Type: Component / Module

Native/Legacy: Legacy Joomla! 1.5

The calendar seemed the hardest to find at first, however once we found **JCal**, we both fell in love with it. The module proved difficult to setup at first, with SEF links disrupting the way it worked. However, we hacked the module to work correctly with Joomla! 1.5 SEF links

FIRECALLS / NEWS POSTS



Extension Used: Blog Calendar

Joomla! Extensions URL: <http://forum.joomla.org/index.php/topic,242461.0.html>

Version Used: 1

Type: Component / Module

Native/Legacy: Native Joomla! 1.5

This was an unexpected feature, one that we didn't think about but once installed was completely amazed by. justo.derivera, a fellow GHOP entrant developed **Blog Calendar** which allowed us to add a calendar type system for the FireCalls that the Fire Service went to. This is a brilliant addition to the site, and I personally congratulate justo.derivera for their brilliant work!

SCREENSHOTS

Here are some screenshots of the site to show you the new face of Narellan Rural Fire Service!

Narellan Rural Fire Service
www.narellanrfs.org.au

search...

Latest Firecall
MVA - Camden Valley Way
Narellan Rural Fire Brigade was called on 11th of September at 16:19 to reports of a MVA - Person trapped on Camden Valley Way nearest cross street of Cobbitty Road.

MAIN MENU
HOME
ABOUT US
FIRECALLS
GALLERY
WEB LINKS
CALENDAR

USER LOGIN
Username
Password
Remember Me
Login
• [Forgot your password?](#)
• [Forgot your username?](#)
• [Create an account](#)

CALENDAR
January 2008
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30 31

ADVERTISEMENTS
Free ADSL2+ Broadband
Australia's Only Free ADSL2+ Offer
When You Combine With Phone Line.
www.gosds.com.au
Best Provider & Router
Australia's top Broadband providers
Compare Routers, Prices & Plans
BroadbandGuide.com.au/Router
Ads by Google

PAST FIRECALLS
< January 2008 >
Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun
1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31

Narellan Rural Fire Service
MVA - Camden Valley Way
Tuesday, 22 January 2008 11:00
Last Updated (Wednesday, 23 January 2008 06:07)
Written by Patrick Daly
Narellan Rural Fire Brigade was called on 11th of September at 16:19 to reports of a MVA - Person trapped on Camden Valley Way nearest cross street of Cobbitty Road.
Narellan Pumper responded with a crew of 5 at 16:27. On route we were informed that the accident was actually on Cobbitty Road nearest cross of Northern. This minor change of address didn't delay our response as we were on scene 6 minutes after our response.
Upon arrival Narellan Captain assumed the role of RFS Commander and lased with Ambulance, Ambulance Rescue and Police. A short time later Narellan 1 proceeded with a crew of 2 for additional manpower.

Car Fire - Springs Rd (20/01/08)
Tuesday, 22 January 2008 11:00
Last Updated (Wednesday, 23 January 2008 05:14)
Written by Patrick Daly
TEST TEST TEST TEST TEST

LATEST NEWS
• [Car Fire - Springs Rd \(20/01/08\)](#)
• [MVA - Camden Valley Way](#)

WHO'S ONLINE
We have 1 guest online

MOST READ ARTICLES
• [Car Fire - Springs Rd \(20/01/08\)](#)
• [MVA - Camden Valley Way](#)

POLLS
THOUGHTS ON THE NEW SITE?
 Excellent.
 Great.
 Good, but needs work.
 Average.
 Bad.
 Terrible.
Vote Results

RANDOM IMAGE

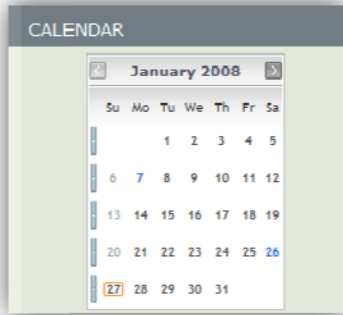
© 2008 Copyright Narellan Rural Fire Service
Powered by Joomla!

Narellan Rural Fire Service
www.narellanrfs.org.au

search...

Latest Firecall
MVA - Camden Valley Way
Narellan Rural Fire Brigade was called on 11th of September at 16:19 to reports of a MVA - Person trapped on Camden Valley Way nearest cross street of Cobbitty Road.

First in, Last out



Narellan Rural Fire Service

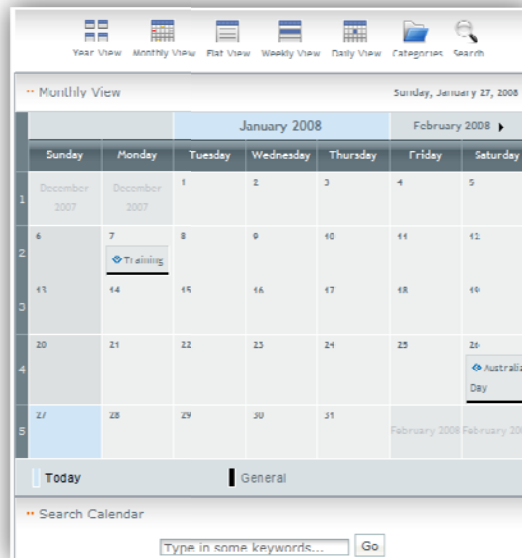
MVA - Camden Valley Way

Tuesday, 27 January 2008 11:00
 Last updated (Wednesday, 23 January 2008 06:07)
 Written by Patrick Daly

Narellan Rural Fire Brigade was called on 11th of September at 16:19 to reports of a MVA - Person trapped on Camden Valley Way nearest cross street of Cobbitty Road.

Narellan Pumper responded with a crew of 5 at 16:27. On route we were informed that the accident was actually on Cobbitty Road nearest cross of Northern. This minor change of address didn't delay our response as we were on scene 6 minutes after our response.

Upon arrival Narellan Captain assumed the role of K-S Commander and liaised with Ambulance, Ambulance Rescue and Police. A short time later Narellan 1 proceeded with a crew of 7 for additional manpower.



THE POWER OF JOOMLA!

I've worked with Joomla! for years now, but to see it through the eyes of someone who has never heard of the system was an amazing experience.

Patrick was able to get up and go, changing stuff before I had even had a chance to do it myself. Whilst there were still things I needed to explain to him, it was amazing that he was able to get up and use the system – self learning as he went a long.

LESSONS LEARNED

At first I think I assumed they had hosting and domains all setup, and that asking for FTP access required a simple answer.

The other lesson I learned was that no matter what type of site you're setting up, Joomla! can be easily setup for whatever functionality you desire!

QUESTIONS FOR THOSE USING THE SYSTEM

Q. What made you want to update your site?

A. Our previous website was outdated, unprofessional and hard for users with limited technical knowledge to use efficiently.

Q. Have you ever used the Joomla! system before?

A. No, this is the first I had heard of Joomla.

Q. Was there any reason, other than the request from Michael, to use Joomla instead of another CMS?

A. No

Q. How was your experience with Joomla?

A. Joomla seems to be a very powerful content management system, which is extensive and extremely modifiable on its backend, but still highly user friendly on the front end.

Q. Are you pleased with your new site, over your old one?

A. The new site is a massive improvement, and all feedback I have received so far is very positive.

Q. How do you feel the management of the site will go?

A. Short term it will take some getting used to, especially training the users and admins of the site to be able to use the new Joomla interface. However after this initial period I believe the site management will be very straightforward and easy.

Q. Did you find the system easy to learn?

A. At first it was difficult to grasp the concept of modules, sections and categories. However after this hurdle, Joomla became very easy to use and understand.



Joomla.. extensive and extremely modifiable on its backend, but still highly user friendly on the front end.

-Patrick

