INTRODUCTION

The Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association (TVFBA), represent the interests and welfare of over 4,000 operational fire service volunteers within the Tasmania Fire Service. The TVFBA provides support for Volunteer Fire Brigade members in all aspects of firefighting and volunteerism in the State of Tasmania. The association has representation on the State Fire Commission and most committees within the Tasmania Fire Service.

The governing body of the TVFBA is the State Council which is drawn from elected delegates from the three Regional Associations. Membership and general meetings of the Regional Associations is open to all members.

The objectives of the Association are:

- to promote and represent the body of members of the Association and to advance and support their interests, wellbeing and skills;
- to increase participation by the members in the core business of the Association;
- to support the passage of legislation that assists members and their brigades in aspects of operational or welfare related matters;
- to cooperate with other organisations having associated interests;
- to actively pursue the aims and goals of the Strategic Plan of the Association; and
- to provide representation on the State Fire Commission as provided for in the Fire Service Act and on other committees as appropriate.

The State Council meets five times a year with the meetings being conducted throughout the State. Additionally the branches meet as required. Some branches hold branch meetings on a regular basis whilst others meet as required by the membership of that branch.

The 2016-18 State Council
## TVFBA State Executive

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Atkins</td>
<td>State President</td>
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<td>Tony Schultz</td>
<td>State Vice President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brad Menzie</td>
<td>State Secretary</td>
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<td>Don Mackrill</td>
<td>State Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lyndsay Suhr</td>
<td>TVFBA State Fire Commission Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colin Cunningham</td>
<td>Southern Branch President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiona Tustian</td>
<td>North West Branch President</td>
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<td>Don Mackrill</td>
<td>Northern Branch President</td>
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## Branch Delegates

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<th>North West</th>
<th>South</th>
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<tr>
<td>Judith Lello</td>
<td>Stefan Frazik</td>
<td>Neesey Groves</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Bramich</td>
<td>Trafford Harvey</td>
<td>Deb Smith</td>
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<td>Mike Connell</td>
<td>Brad Menzie</td>
<td>Ian Wheeler</td>
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<td>Robert Atkins</td>
<td>David Taaffe</td>
<td>Elaine Burns</td>
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<td>Peter More</td>
<td>Lyndsay Suhr</td>
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<td>Fiona Tustian</td>
<td>Colin Cunningham</td>
<td>Raoul Stow</td>
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<td>Liz Hamer</td>
<td>Tony Schultz</td>
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<td>Jocelyn Dunk</td>
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Once again it gives me much pleasure to present my annual report for the T.V.F.B.A 2017-2018.

Well what a year and where has it gone.

There have been many challengers this year with State meetings, Executive meetings, working parties, with DPFEM members, Minister for Emergency Services and now a working party to formulate a document for the new TFS Act.

CAVFA meetings on the mainland. Also meeting with the Chief Officer and Andrew Taylor from the Retained Association.

As you can see from committee Reports the delegates have had many and varied subjects and issues to deal with.

Hopefully all these support our volunteers and the Tasmania Fire Service. A huge thank you and gratitude to these delegates.

I am sure in the coming 12 months there will be a lot more issues that will arise and we will deliberate and have much input into it.

In closing I would pass on to the Chief Officer for his time to communicate and his opinions with me, my sincere thank you.

Thank you to members of State Council for your support over the past twelve months.

A special reference to the Executive for their ongoing support and their time to discuss issues with me.

To our past V.P Tony Shultz for his commitment for the past 2 years. Thank you, Tony.

To Cherie our minute taker, appreciate your time and effort during the year for you to support our secretary and myself.

And finally to my wife Veronica with-out her support and understanding I could not do this.

Robert Atkins AFSM
The past year has been a busy one for the State Fire Commission, due to the importance of the business they have had to deal with. Several out of session meetings have been held, a considerable number of these have involved meeting with various TFS managers & outside consultants & State Government senior personnel. A number of these meetings have related to revenue, spending, setting & controlling the budget, planning the Corporate & Strategic plans.

The Commission is in a stronger financial position than at same time last year, this has been achieved by strong control over spending, assistance from the State Government with $2M for funding of the SES, $3.5M for the purchase of three elevated platforms over the next three years. Despite the rumours that persist without any foundation that the Police are spending our money this is totally incorrect, the SFC controls its own budget & reimburses BES for services rendered.

The class 5 light tanker build has been completed, this year will see the commencement of the class 4 medium tanker, the building & fitting of pods to new class 7 units, provision has been made to commence the replacement program for heavy pumpers.

The Commission inspected 15 Brigades in the South Esk & East Tamar Districts, whilst the majority of stations state-wide are in good to excellent condition, there is a need to replace or relocate, some in the near future.

The major challenge facing all stakeholders of the State Fire Commission is the re-writing of the Fire Service Act, the Commission & I know this Association is fully aware of the need to retain its independency & not become another Government Department relying on funding from government revenue that could be cut at any time.

In closing I would like to thank the Associations President Robert Atkins for his assistance & co-operation, I don’t think many realise the time Robert gives to this organisation, he is always available to all volunteers’ day and night, also thanks to members of the executive, State Council, The Chief Officer of the TFS & his staff.

Lyndsay P B Suhr AFSM.

TVFBA representative to the SFC.

Two face to face meetings the last 12 months. Penrith N.S.W and Melbourne Vic.

Have input and understanding of Australasian issues.

Now have members on AFAC working groups.


Work Health & Safety.

Ian Gabites delegate on Public Safety Industry Reference Group.

Andrew Taylor delegate on Work, Health and Safety.

Working on a 12-month Work Plan and Priority’s for next 12 months.

Stuart Ellis CEO of AFAC attends meetings to air concerns and the future direction of AFAC and to listen to concerns from delegates across Australia.

Good discussion on Volunteer Welfare and Efficiency survey and results from across all States.

CAVFA board members attended memorial service in Canberra and met with relevant ministers.

A great forum for all Volunteer Associations to discuss and learn from concerns that affects Volunteers.

Also, to personally meet and converse with delegates and relate back to our State. With the issues we are having at the moment, we are still a long away ahead and in a good position to move forward.

Minutes of meetings have been circulated to TVFBA delegates for their comment.
Clothing and PPE has continued to be an innovative area for the TFS. Rollouts have continued to occur across the board in terms of the new structural ensemble (currently 130 sets on order), station wear jackets (700 currently on order) and BR9 bush fire helmets. Cost saving initiatives from the DPFEM integration have also allowed us to streamline items such as station wear shirts which will now be the same cut and material across Police, Fire and SES with each organisation having their item ‘branded’ on the left breast (i.e. Fire).

The Chief Officers Operating Instruction for Uniform and PPE has continued this year to be a ‘living’ document but will hopefully soon be signed off.

The new epaulettes have been rolled out and have now reached most brigades, once level three firefighter is signed off then the epaulettes will allow for more consistent acknowledgement of a members skill level.

The Cold Climate Jackets for central highlands brigades without structural PPE have finally been ordered and are expected to arrive 30 August 2018.

The euro style structural helmet, of which samples were extensively trialed last year, is currently out for tender meaning that the rollout can hopefully soon commence to compliment the structural PPE rollout.

In line with the previous Minister’s announcement the first 900 BR9 bush fire helmets have been rolled out across volunteer and retained brigades, the methodology has been to supply helmets (900 per year) to brigades based on the number of vegetation fire responses over the last five years.

The softshell jackets are continuing to be rolled out (to be managed by the DO group) and all future jackets will have the same stitched FIRE on the left breast.

The laundering turnaround time for gear is still an issue that is difficult to address without major financial cost (i.e. having two sets of gear). The biggest issue continues to be the laundering turnaround time in the south. To alleviate this problem it will most likely go back to separate north/south tenders however the market is limited due to the amount of contaminated gear meaning that launderers need TFS only machines which capture all the contaminants out of the waste water.

The TFS come a long way forward in recent times with the current advancements (helmets, structural ensemble, jackets) being the once in every 15 to 20 year decisions. While the TFS is progressing to new technology to improve safety of all members on the fireground, it can get frustrating when the new gear is not available to volunteers straight away. I think that it is important for us to remind ourselves that it will always be impossible to fit out 5,000 members immediately and financially this would not be achievable.

If anyone has any issues or feedback, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Brad
This year finds me writing my last report as a participant on this State Committee.

It is fair to say, that in my opinion over the past years collectively we have achieved considerable outcomes in WH&S aspects by working with the Retained Association. This is a prime example of “working with each other” and “support in numbers”. We should learn from this and take this approach more often.

The success in the Presumptive Cancer and other like situations has been very beneficial for TFS Volunteers.

Whilst we are still working on it the 25kph speed limit also comes to mind re another partial successful outcome. I must thank the George Town Council Safety Committee, who initially took up this challenge on our behalf and then the acceptance of LGAT in pursuing the matter further.

The chance of pace, the committee now being supported by members from DPFEM and the Chairing of the Committee by the DCO has been beneficial. Unfortunately, like some other State Committees there have been cancellations of meetings bought about by a variety of reasons.

During the year elections were held for HSC’s – initially there was difficulty in filling some areas. One of perhaps the drawbacks is the requirement to complete the 5-day qualifying course, but hopefully this is being achieved. These members are the “grass roots” operators within our Safety System. Similarly, the Regional Safety Committee, perhaps need a revitalisation – some regions are good but others have been known to “drop the ball”.

I commend the new possibility of the “Well Being” program something we need to keep our eye on.

Without doubt the opportunities for PSTD in emergency service workers does occur – how much do we know about this subject; how much do we want to know? This could well be a serious problem in the future a similar problem being suffered by our ADF personnel.

I wish my replacement on this committee all the best and thank all those both within the TFS & DFPEM that assist to make these aspects occur.

Don Mackrill AFSM ESM OAM JP
TVFBA OH&S Committee Representative
Report to Associations TVFFAF 2017-2018

It once again gives me much pleasure to submit our annual report for the TVFFAF.

This year the management committee have had two meetings to discuss changes to the committee.

Earlier in the reporting period, it was decided to share the work load with Bruce Corbett taking on the secretarial role and Don Mackrill taking on the treasures role. Don was also appointed to the position of TVFFAF Chairman until the end of this financial period, at which time Bruce Corbett will assume the role.

**Dress Code**

**Medal and Award Presentations**

- Dress will be station wear with full medals worn on outer garment
- Tie can be worn but both presenters must be dressed the same.
  e.g.: Formal Dinners/Functions.

This reporting period there has been a total of 40 nominations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TFS Volunteer Medal</th>
<th>TFS Volunteer Award</th>
<th>Clasps</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 Volunteer Brigades</td>
<td>1 Volunteer Brigades</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Retained Brigades</td>
<td>0 Retained Brigades</td>
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<tr>
<td>40 Total</td>
<td>1 Total</td>
<td>12 total</td>
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The TFS Youth Award has received nil nominations for the year. This Award has not appealed to brigades as much as we would like. Feedback from the two associations and members it has been decided to change the design of the award which should make it more pleasing for recipients to wear. The new badge has been approved and has been delivered to previous recipients to replace the old style. The new TFS Youth Award is based on the TFS Long Service Badge design.

The TVFFAF web page has been upgraded and the latest info uploaded. More info will be put on as it becomes available. Please take a look and pass on any comments to your Association delegate.

Funding for the Framework will remain at $2,500.00 per association for this year and will be reviewed as required.
**Jubilee Medal**

Resultant from comments made at earlier in the reporting period by the TVFBA State Council, as to “what can we do to commemorate to 50yr Anniversary of the RFB “which commenced in June 1968. The concept of a Jubilee Medal was established.

For several years retrained brigades have achieved their 50yr+ anniversary. In 2018 a considerable number of TFS Volunteer Brigades has reached this anniversary having been created via the RFB in June 1968 (or soon thereafter). Service prior to 1968 was as part of the Forestry Commission not the TFS or its predecessors and as such is not deemed to be part of a TFS Brigades service.

The TVFFAF placed a submission before the Chief Officer who in turn approved the design which incorporated the TFS Logo. The Framework Management Committee established Rules for the Jubilee Medal and in association with the State Presidents of both Volunteer Associations, were established which put the wheels in motion to provide the Jubilee Medal at the brigade cost. The resale cost of the Medal has been retained to make it achievable for brigades. Since the initial run of Jubilee Medals which has a “scarlet” ribbon and relates to 50yrs, requests have been received from brigades that have received their “centenary”. This is now being made available with a dark blue ribbon (same Medal Base)

The TVFFAF has only purchased three sets of Jubilee Medals, so any volunteer brigade wishing to procure them should not hesitate to contact the State Coordinator – refer the TVFFAF web page for rules and contact details www.tvffaf.org.

Note this does not stop brigade designing their own Jubilee Medal should they wish to do so, however the cost per medal is greatly increased. The TVFFAF will assist brigades in design and manufacture of their own medal should they wish to consult us.

Hillwood was the first Volunteer Brigade (who designed their own medal) to have the Jubilee Medal presented to their brigade members in late July 2018. Presentations of Jubilee Medal as recommended, occur by the BC or the brigades’ nominee. Other volunteer brigades have already placed orders with the State Coordinator re their presentations later this year.

Don Mackrill AFSM ESM OAM JP  
Chairman Management Committee TVFFAF  
TVFBA Representative
VOLUNTEER OPERATIONAL TRAINING COMMITTEE
Delegates: Colin Cunningham, Don Mackrill, Ian Gabites, Cheryl Mathews, Robert Atkins (Proxy)

Project DELTA - Development, Education Learning Training and Assessment

A review of training and assessment practices, systems and processes has highlighted the need to change Learning and Development methods

TFS has established a centralised business unit “Development Education Learning Training and Assessment” (DELTA). DELTA replaces Organisational Learning and will provide quality assurance and support services for all associated learning and development resources (training programs, learner and trainer tools and materials) throughout and on behalf of the organisation

This approach will ensure the organisation is consistent with the national standard.

Volunteers will be required to provide a USI or permit TFS to obtain it on their behalf if issuance of a nationally accredited training results is requested and/or required by the learner

Flood Assistance Awareness Training – Flooding in 2016/17 highlighted the need to provide training for Brigades - Currently on hold awaiting the outcome of the review into those events

Volunteer Pathway Project – Funding has been approved to develop Level 2 and 3 with Andrew McGuinness appointed as project Manager, the majority of the pathway will be completed in 12 months, but with the addition of Brigade Administration/Management Programs an extra 6 months may be required, this component has been the major hold up with the level 3 pathway.

First Aid - Several hundred volunteers who have now received the new First Aid training, however Operational Training are still in the process of streamlining the administrative burden with APL. A First Aid and Advanced Resuscitation combined course is now available.

MR Licensing

A National Frame Work for Medium Rigid vehicle licensing pathway has been developed for all TFS personnel who wish to drive medium rigid vehicles. Ian Cawthorn with the assistance from State Growth is in the process of finalising this and when competed will go to VOT for endorsement and the relevant COOI will be up dated

The Prospect Brigade have had personnel run through the course.

Minimum skills for Volunteer Firefighters

Discussions are ongoing to develop a COOI for minimum skills for firefighters

Colin Cunningham AFSM
SMS messaging facility now available on TFS website to assist with member communication following the withdrawal of pager messages

TFS Volunteer Workers Compensation – Members claiming Workers Compensation must obtain a medical certificate

BR9 Helmets – Progressive roll out over a five year period

$2 Million equipment upgrade fund – Positions paper being developed by Volunteer Association State Presidents for discuss at upcoming meetings

PFAS update

Working Group Chaired by DCO met on 27 Feb 2018.

Currently working to baseline levels of PFAS on and off sites, some of this testing requires engagement with adjacent landowners. Matter has been elevated to a whole of govt issue with further information being received from DPAC. Updates will be provided to the workforce as actions progress.

COOI’s & COOG’s – For those Brigades without internet access a hard copy or USB stick has been distributed, if a Brigade still requires a copy contact your District Office

PROJECT CONEXUS – INTRANET REDEVELOPMENT

Project Conexus will provide a contemporary single intranet platform for DPFEM that has intuitive search and provides information that is current, relevant and reliable. This new, single intranet platform will replace existing DPEM and TFS intranet sites. The anticipated date for the launch of the new intranet is mid-October 2018.

Upon login, all users (Staff and Volunteers) will arrive at the same homepage regardless of agency, but the content displayed on the home and subpages will differ depending on the user’s profile – i.e. level of access relative to role and the agency/ies they belong to.

Brigade Elections – Discussions are ongoing regarding minimum skills required for election to leadership roles within Volunteer Brigades

Compartment Fire Behaviour training will be scheduled in Training Calendars and be available to identified Volunteer Brigades

Marine Firefighting – Concept of operations paper being developed for VSCC meeting with focus on immediate risk in the Northern region but to consider other State wide risks, the need for this training was highlighted following a marine incident at Bell Bay where volunteer Brigades are remote from Career Units.

Colin Cunningham AFSM
Reluctantly I advised members of the Northern Branch that I would not be seeking re-election as Branch President. I will remain on that Branch as a delegate and fulfil the position of Branch Treasurer (at this stage).

Stepping down wasn’t easy, it meant no further involvement on the VSCC a State Committee that I have had a very passionate involvement for many years – since its start if I recall those days. I urge my replacement and others, that participation on this committee is to provide a State view and whilst there as a regional representative, participate as a State Team Member. I am sure that will occur and I wish Raz all the best in this area.

All branches have there up and downs and perhaps the Northern Branch virtually balanced on the edge of that cliff during the past year. Fortunately, we have continued to move forward and with a new executive I look forward to an ongoing future for this branch. Suffice to say that it’s disappointing to not have one of our fire districts represented at the table.

With a new member at the table we can only look forward to greater participation from all of our delegates. At the present time we have one vacancy on the committee for a delegate ND Im sure that will be addressed in the new reporting period.

The Committee elected in July 2018 for the next two years are:

President: Raz Stoul - Dilston Brigade
Vice President: Ian Wheeler - Hillwood Brigade
Secretary: Nessey Groves - Legana Brigade
Treasurer: Don Mackrill - George Town Brigade

Delegates:
Elaine Burn - Hillwood Brigade
Mike Turner - Kelso Brigade
Ken Nolan - Dilston Brigade

D G Mackrill AFSM ESM OAM JP
Northern Branch President
TVFBA
Tonight concludes delegates two year sitting period and an election to appoint eight Southern Region members, be it returning members or new appointments to represent TVFBA southern branch member’s interests for the next two years.

Unfortunately due to family and work commitments Tony Schultz and Jocelyn Dunk have indicated their desire to resign and not re-nominate. My personal thanks to Tony and Jocelyn for their contribution the last two years.

Delegates have endured a very busy two year period with State Council, VSCC, VOT, Clothing Committee, Executive meetings to name a few. Additional meetings and working groups also have been the norm with DPFEM integration.

Southern Embers our regional newsletter continued to be sent to members with feedback mostly positive, intentions are to increase publications to improve our communication with members and keep up to date with the ever changing environment. Thanks to Secretary Brad Menzie for preparing Embers.

The 2017/2018 Bushfire season was effectively quiet possibly due to the proactive approach from TFS in having strike teams deployed to problem areas and the positioning of air craft in closer proximity to these areas. A suggested improvement for the coming Fire Season would be to consider better utilisation of volunteers at staging areas etc. this approach would certainly have no detrimental effect and be more cost effective.

I must acknowledge the assistance provided by the regional office staff, their punctual mail outs to Brigade Chiefs goes a long way to alleviate the problem with communication since member paging was withdrawn. SMS messaging has helped communication to a degree but is reliant on personal details being up to date and recorded in the system.

Challenges ahead with Project Delta, Project Conexus, Fire Service Act review & Volunteer Pathways will make for an interesting and busy time. Finally thanks to all Southern Region delegates for your dedication and support to Volunteers over the past twelve months.

Colin Cunningham AFSM
Southern President
TVFBA
I would like to present this annual report for the North West Branch of the Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association for the year 2017-2018. I have been Acting President during this time. This is a summary of the past twelve months.

We had another reasonably quiet fire season this time round which made for a less busy summer incident wise.

We are currently in the position yet again in the NW Region where our RCO has been moved temporarily to another position, currently Ty Clark is our Acting Regional Chief and his position as DO Arthur is being covered by SO Don Seymour.

The North West branch has undergone another difficult twelve months with my own absence due to the sudden loss of my mother earlier this leaving me absent for some time.

I was honoured to continue as Acting President and with difficulties now behind me I have enjoyed continuing with this role. We held meetings September 2017, March 2018 and May 2018 with meeting times being moved to 1830hrs to assist members that have to travel greater distances.

I had the pleasure of being a representative on the State Conference Working Group and a very successful Conference was held in May with an opportunity for this Association to be represented along with the Retained Association and newly formed SES association. This enabled the ideal platform to inform our members as of to how we represent them. We also provided a notebook for the satchels for attending members from both ours and the Retained Association with logos and contact details on the covers.

We are still looking to send delegates to some of the more remote areas like King Island to hold information sessions with our members there so that they can be better informed of who we are and how we represent them. Unfortunately, delegates have still been unable to fix dates, and this will be looked at again soon.

The North West Branch current positions are:

- Acting President – Fiona Tustian
- Vice President – Peter Moore
- Treasurer – Mike Connell
- Secretary – Daniel Bramich
- State Delegate – Robert Atkins
- Reserve Delegate – Liz Hamer
- Reserve Delegate – Judith Lello

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the executive and the delegates for their work and time on behalf of the association and its members. I would also like to thank the people who support them including their partners and families.

Acting President NW Branch
Fiona Tustian AFSM
In the 12 months since the 2017 TVFBA AGM, representatives of the MTWG have worked closely with Engineering and Fleet Services (EFS) in the design and development, and fabrication of the prototype Medium Tanker Appliance. There have been a range of challenges in place that have impacted the timeline of the build, where the organisation is into year 3 of a planned 5-year, 30 appliance program. This represents a significant increase in time frame over previous similar type build programs where 30 appliances could be designed and manufactured over a 2 year timeframe.

Significantly however, the increase in the time frame has allowed both volunteer associations the opportunity to engage with their respective memberships, through the implementation of a “Medium Tanker Road Show” that has only just been completed. A formal report has still to be compiled, however a stand out point of feedback has been the acknowledgement from attendees at the road show sessions, that they felt engaged and included in the project, and that it was positive that the volunteer associations were taking a proactive part in this process. Above all it is this recognition that is of most importance to the representative bodies.

The road show engaged with approximately 350 individuals over 9 weeks and from this, valuable insight was gained on various aspects of the appliance, and where improvements and changes were needed to be made. These will all be feed into the aforementioned report for consideration. Generally speaking the appliance was well received, with reflection on the ability of the appliance to be intuitive to a wide range of potential end users. Indeed, this was a key aspect to functional specification of the vehicle needed to fulfill the traditional role and function of a medium tanker, but to also incorporate additional capabilities as directed by the TFS; namely a high output pumping specification, and the inclusion of Compressed Air Foam capability.

It can be reported that the appliance meets and exceeds all the requirements expected of it, with ongoing testing and tuning in place to ensure that the vehicle is delivered to brigades ready for service. This will go hand in hand with an improved training and induction package to ensure competency in operation of all appliance systems. It is expected that a further 5 appliances will be delivered by April 2019.

Raz Stow
TVFBA Delegate
Medium Tanker Working Group
This year the NW Region was given the task of planning, preparing and running the State Conference. I was chosen as the TVFBA representative for this working group along with representatives from all associated groups.

The working group was effective, enthusiastic and eager to take on the challenge which wasn’t easy being the first time the NW Region had done this.

It was a great opportunity for our association to be involved particularly as we were invited, along with the Retained Association, to give a short presentation to inform our respective members of what we are about and how we represent them. The time allotted was shortened when the time came as it was necessary to share this slot with the newly formed SES committee. This was not a problem however and our State Vice President Tony Shultz was able to deliver a very good and informative presentation.

As an association we also took the opportunity to have a notebook with logo and contact details to be added to the satchels given out at the conference. The retained association was invited to join with us in this venture and the result was a very professional looking notebook with TVFBA logo and contact details on one side and TRVFA logo and contact details on the other side.

I am sure everyone would agree that the 2018 conference was a success.

Acting President NW Branch
Fiona Tustian AFSM