

Tasmanian Volunteer Fire
Brigades Association

ANNUAL REPORT

2018 - 2019



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.



STATE COUNCIL DELEGATES 2018 - 2019

TVFBA State Executive

Robert Atkins	State President
Brad Menzie	State Vice President
Simon Cooper	State Secretary
Don Mackrill	State Treasurer
Lyndsay Suhr	TVFBA State Fire Commission Representative
Colin Cunningham	Southern Branch President
Fiona Tustian	North West Branch President
Raoul Stow	Northern Branch President



Branch Delegates

North West

Daniel Bramich
Mike Connell
Robert Atkins
Peter More
Fiona Tustian
Paulette Clarke
Annette Jordan

South

Stefan Frazik
Trafford Harvey
Brad Menzie
David Taaffe
Lyndsay Suhr
Colin Cunningham
Simon Cooper
Peter Eaton

North

Neesey Groves
Ian Wheeler
Elaine Burns
Don Mackrill
Raoul Stow
Mike Turner
Ken Nolan



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STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Robert Atkins AFSM

Once again it gives me much pleasure to present my annual report.

There have been many challenges and issues throughout the year involving many meetings and a huge amount of phone calls. (but you know me by now how I would rather talk to someone than write it).

As you can see by the reports put in by the delegates on various committees the amount of work at meetings and behind the scenes shows the dedication by the delegates, a huge thank you.

The last Fire season was huge for the State and was gratifying to see and hear about Volunteers putting their hands up to support their communities. It did have its issues but hopefully these will be revised and implemented for the next fire season.

Not all issues have gone to plan, but I believe out comes have benefited our volunteers in some way.

Having a weekend workshop and AGM with all Delegates has proven to help with some matters and to help new delegates to understand how State Council operates. And to meet over dinner in a social and get to know environment.

Meetings with the Chief Officer, Emergency Service Minister and DPFEM department heads have improved and the communications link, which has lacked somewhat previously has also improved.

I am sure the next 12 months will be as challenging as in previous but with some direction and support. I am confident we will prevail.

Lastly a big thank you to all members for their understanding during the year and to those I bend their ears more than others. Appreciation to Simon Cooper for his work in past year and to Cherie for supporting our Secretary.

Also, to my wife Veronica for her continued support and understanding as without that I could not do what I positively enjoy.

Robert Atkins AFSM



STATE FIRE COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Lyndsay Suhr AFSM

Finance

2018/19 will show a small surplus this is due to income from the insurance industry being higher than expected.

2019/20 has been budgeted to break even & future years should see a return to the Commission being in a stronger financial situation allowing an increase in capital expenditure.

BES

Closer working relation with BES & its departmental managers, including invitation to attend, brief & report to the commission.

Fire Service Act

SFC had a meeting in May with Mike Blake, the new chairman of the standing committee, who advised the review had to go to the Minister before it was released to stakeholders for comment & is significantly behind the original timeframe.

Workers Compensation

Workers compensation is in the process of being transferred from Alliance to the Tasmanian Risk Management Fund, this will be an additional expense for the SFC as there are remaining claims with Alliance that will take time to settle.

Conflict

Acting under a directive by the Minister the SFC have had outside advice on its responsibilities including what information individuals members can divulge to any other person outside of the Commission including the organisation that nominated them for a position on the Commission.

Appliances

Ariel Appliances the State Government have given the SFC a one-off Grant of \$3.5m to fund the purchase of 3 Ariel appliances, (32mtr Platform Hobart, 32mtr Ladder Launceston, 24mtr Combo. North West). 2 Heavy Pumpers will be delivered in September, 3 second hand Heavy Pumpers have purchased from the MFB & are in service the Medium Tanker build is continuing, a replacement for the present Medium pumpers is being investigated.

General

Fines & Charges the SFC has endorsed (subject to some adjustments) an increase to the fines & charges made by the TFS.

State Fire Management Plan has been endorsed by the SFC.

The past year has been a productive one with many out of session meetings dealing with, items that require additional time to achieve the correct decision, governance information sessions from outside parties, participation by various departmental heads reporting & informing members of matters of a strategic nature.



Lyndsay Suhr



C.A.V.F.A

(Council of Australian Volunteer Firefighters Association)

Delegates: Robert Atkins AFSM & Tony Schultz

Delegates: R. Atkins, B. Menzie.

The discussion around 'Fitness for duty' has been heavily discussed over the last twelve months. It is important for us to note that this is not being looked at nationwide to inhibit volunteers from firefighting (as was initially feared) it is about creating sustainable volunteers in terms of mental, physical and dietary wellness. In other states CFA is just starting fitness for task and all RFS volunteers who attend interstate deployments must meet a minimum fitness threshold. CAVFA is planning to push for the federal government to fund a wholistic health program, we must ensure that the program would encourage people to look after their health rather than them fearing the fitness misconceptions.

The AFAC Rural Land Management Group has settled on the four tiers of prescribed burning curriculum. It has also been continuing to deal with the issue of drones and attempting to set a good framework to support volunteers in the risk mitigation space.

AFAC Work Health and Safety working party has been working on completing the strategy and communication plan for dealing with physical demands of tasks. CAVFA has had last year's survey results analysed independently and a report will be published about the responses on the website.

Identification of hybrid and electric vehicles particularly around NSW and Victoria has been topical and CAVFA will enter conversation with AFAC to moot whether it may be appropriate for a national standard to be developed to identify these along with Gas vehicles.

Brian from RFSA has been delegated the task of looking into indigenous fire management practices on behalf of CAVFA. CAVFA and NSESVA have both signed a MOU. Gordan Hall who is the President has been building a relationship with our President Ken Middleton with both of them presenting a session each at AFAC2018.

The majority of Australia now has lowered speed limits at Emergency Incidents. A volunteer in QLD broke his arm after a land cruiser ran into fire truck, they have also had a volunteer killed before yet their government still hasn't committed. QLD have had issues with road trains and truck associations. South Australia are also having push back from Police as they don't want it. In all other states police are supportive, in NSW police turn off lights for oncoming traffic so only the one side of the road needs to be slowing down.

The April 2019 CAVFA meeting saw the end of an era with a farewell to Andrew Ford from VFBV who has decided to resign as CEO after years of torment from the Andrews Government while they have been butchering the CFA, Andrew Ford had been a long term driver and resource to CAVFA with the provision of staff and finance. The meeting also welcomed Sharon Ellicott as the incoming CEO of NSW RFSA.



CLOTHING AND PPE COMMITTEE

Delegate: Brad Menzie

Over the past 12 months since the last annual report the Clothing and PPE Committee has undergone significant changes in membership gained a number of new people from various areas within the TFS and the Department.

During this period Shane Batt has stood aside after a considerable time of being a committed Chair but remains on the Committee as the executive leadership team representative. DO Tyron Clark has taken on the role of Chair and has been proactive in all areas of concern to Volunteers to ensure all interests are considered.

Further changes to the make-up of the committee include a number of newer career staff coming onboard replacing long term career staff members of the committee and a new retained representative.

Perhaps the most significant new member in terms of a good step forward is the Manager of Procurement, Contracts and Supply in addition to a store representative which means that the committee will be able to keep better informed around supply issues, tender progression and contractual arrangements with clothing and PPE providers.

Again I'd like to remind members that gone are the days of jumping on the back of someone else's contract just for the sake of getting it easily, since integration over the last 3 years an awful lot of work has been done to align processes and to increase the professionalism around our purchasing arrangements which will benefit our members in the longer term by ensuring a fiscally viable funding model for procurement of all clothing and PPE for our members.

The agency come a long way forward in the last three to five years with the current advancements (helmets, structural ensemble, jackets) being the once in every 15 to 20 year decisions. While the agency is progressing to new technology to improve safety of all members on the fireground, we must remember it is not feasible to have every member in the new gear straight away. All rollout plans take into account careful consideration of the priority of rollout based on factors such as incident types, call rates and training requirements of every brigade.

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 is not viable if we want to keep an independent Commission controlled funding model.

If anyone has any issues of feedback, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Brad



CENTRAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Delegate: Ken Nolan

The Tasmania Volunteer Fire Brigade Association (TVFBA) maintains a presence on the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) Central Health and Safety Committee. This allows for direct communication and input into relevant WHS issues.

The 2018 / 2019 fire season has been another busy period for TFS volunteers with fires in the Central Highlands seeing the most significant deployments so far in 2019.

At the time of writing this report there have been 87 reported injuries, and nine near misses (total 96 Reported Incidents).

The top three causes of injury to date, are:-

- slips, trips and falls (17);
- smoke inhalation (13) and
- impact / stuck by object (10)

There were two significant incidents involving volunteer brigades:-

In early 2019 there was a vehicle roll over involving a Toyota Landcruiser 5:1 appliance at Geeveston. An investigation has been conducted by TFS. The current V8 version of the Toyota Landcruiser has a different wheelbase, suspension and water-tank arrangement compared to the previous six cylinder versions. Preliminary investigations have eliminated these as a causal factor in the roll over incident. The roll-over incident has been identified as being an environmental (wet / uneven terrain) and driver technique issues. A Safety Alert has been issued. Anecdotal instability issues regarding the Toyota Landcruiser are being further investigated by Jeff Harper through Alex Lee.

An incident involving a roof collapse (carport) at Deloraine has also been the subject of a TFS Investigation and report. Crew Management has been identified as a causal factor and modifications have been made to the Chief Officer's Operating Instruction (COOI) regarding this matter. A Safety Alert has also been issued.

Recent announcements by TFS with regards to the issue of Pac-Fire BR-9 Bushfire-helmets and Moldex P-2 half-face, silicon dust masks to volunteers was welcomed by the association. The roll out is expected to be commenced immediately with a planned completion date in late 2020.

The TVFBA, through the TFS Central Safety Committee is informed of other long-term WHS Issues including:-

- PFAS (B – Class Foam) contamination – future responsibility with regards to the storage and use of PFAS by high risk facilities where the chemical cannot be eliminated due to risk profile (e.g. high volume fuel storage facilities / aviation etc...)
- Diesel particulate contamination – for volunteers, the adoption of best practice separation of diesel exhaust particulate from the PPE storage (e.g. exhaust fans / improved storage)
- PPE cleaning and storage – the adoption of new cleaning techniques for PPE
- Wellness initiatives including PTSD and mental health awareness – including volunteers
- WAKU Ladders – the retro-fitting of appropriate industrial ladders to appliances
- Remote Area Teams (RATS); TVFBA needs to understand the risk profile and commitment required to support this initiative in the future

Ken Nolan

TVFBA WHS Committee/WHS Representative

Grad.Dip OHM CFSIA RSP (Aust)



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TVFFAF

State Coordinator: Robert Atkins AFSM. Delegates: TRVFA Bruce Corbett AFSM, TVFBA Don Mackrill AFSM ESM OAM.

The following comments have been received from the TVFFAF State Coordinator, Robert Atkins AFSM. This year the management committee have had two meetings to discuss changes to the committee and rules pertaining to medal allocations. Predominately the introduction of the TFS Jubilee Medal has taken time to finalise, suffice to say that a considerable number of Jubilee Medals have been purchased from the TVFFAF as a brigade award (embellishment).

At a earlier meeting this year, it was decided that Bruce Corbett AFSM, take on the State Secretarial role and Don Mackrill AFSM ESM OAM, taking on the State Treasurers role. Other matters determined were dress code at presentations

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.

For the period 2018-2019 there has been a total of **36** nominations.

TFS Volunteer Medal

23 Volunteer Brigades

13 Retained Brigades

36 Total

TFS Volunteer Award

0 Volunteer Brigades

1 Retained Brigades

1 Total

Clasps

11

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.

TFS Jubilee Medal (50yrs)

The introduction of the TFS Jubilee (Generic) medal has seen 472, 50 yr Jubilee Medals being requested by brigades. In addition to that several brigades, (Hillwood & Dilston) in the North, had their own Jubilee Medal (Brigade specific) struck. It is estimated that these two brigades added approx. another 35 medals to the total. – this relates to approx. 30 brigades. 36 Station plaques have been also issued.

TFS Jubilee Medal (100yrs)

At the same time 39, 100 yr (brigades that have achieved 100 years' service since their charter) have been issued, predominately to brigades that are Retained.

Management Committee TVFFAF

The Management Committee is Don Mackrill AFSM, Bruce Corbett AFSM and State Co-ordinator Robert Atkins AFSM who meet as required.

Finances

The Management Committee this year reviewed the annual contribution from associations and reduced 2019-2020 to \$2000 per annum. At this point of time the TVFFAF has a "Holding Account" with \$10,800 in it for the next procurement of medals. It is estimated that the procurement of medals will not be required for approx. 4 years. Monies have been secured to provide for this purchase. During the last procurement funds were requested separately from the SFC. It is our intension that this does not occur in the future.

Don Mackrill AFSM ESM OAM

TVFFAF Management Committee Representative.



VOLUNTEER OPERATIONAL TRAINING COMMITTEE

Delegates: Colin Cunningham, Ian Gabites, Fiona Tustian and Raoul Stow

A culmination of events lead to a disappointing year for Volunteer Training. Firstly a review highlighted TFS were breaching regulations with payment to Volunteer Training Instructors, consequently VTI's were stood down which severely affected Training Services ability to provide all the necessary training to volunteers, although skills maintenance was not affected.

Finally after protracted discussions within DPFEM a resolution was achieved with a new Statement of Duties developed for VTI's and an expression of interest register established on the Government job site, VTI's are starting to recommence training duties with a legal pay structure under development. Following the review Jeremy Smith was appointed as Director to manage a revamp within Training Services.

On a brighter note First Aid Training has been outsourced with St John's appointed for a six month trial period , if successful this will provide a 30% cost saving and allow for greater flexibility when training is undertaken, it will also free up VTI's for other training. St John's have also offered discounts to Volunteer family members for First Aid Training.

The Volunteer Development Pathway has been set back six months mainly due to the protracted fire season, the Project Manager Vacancy and some impact by the recent UFU work bans.

Leadership and Brigade Administration curriculum is under development and should be finalised by September.

An assessment of Brigades in need of Marine firefighting has been completed, with training to be delivered to Brigades when levels of training required are identified and funding is available.

Minimum skills for Volunteer Firefighters COOI hasn't progressed over the last 12 months but when the Volunteer Development Pathway gains traction it will be developed.

Flood Assistance Awareness Training – Flooding in 2016/17 highlighted the need to provide training for Brigades , some training has occurred in the North West with recommendations from the review conducted to determine what level of training is required.

Volunteers were being informed of the need to undertake Drive Vehicles under operational conditions to drive a 3.1, this is not correct but there is an expectation to do low risk driving. Operational Training is currently considering different methods of course delivery, future training options may include online or virtual reality as an option.

The only training in Working at Heights has been in the Structure Mobile Property course, height kits have been removed from trucks due to compliance issues. Not all Brigades will undertake work at height training with identified larger Brigades targeted. A major consideration when working at Heights is risk V's reward.

Colin Cunningham AFSM



VOLUNTEER STATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Delegates: Robert Atkins, Colin Cunningham, Fi Tustian and Raoul Stow

The Committee held two meetings during the year, with the fire season, industrial disputes & a budget estimates committee Meeting effecting the other two meetings.

Brigade Elections – Bruce Corbett in conjunction with Kylie Kapeller have rewritten section 6 of the Volunteer handbook, this covers the election process, voting rights & minimum skills for Brigade Officers, although these skills will not be required to at least January 2020 because some of the required training curriculum is still being developed. There will also be a grandfather clause to allow new officers time to obtain the required skills.

Funding outstanding PC/E – Funds have been made available to enable outstanding PPC/E items to be issued to Brigades, these include BR9 Bush Helmets, Rosenbauer Structural Helmets, PBI Structural Ensemble, Soft Shell Jackets and Moldex half face respirators.

Tasmania Government Volunteer Grant Fund – Round 1 and 2 have concluded with applications for Round 3 closing on the 28th of August 2019. Brigades are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity for non-core equipment.

Donations, Gifts & Benefits – Following the recent fire season, the Chief Officer has identified a need to develop guidelines that are specific to Tasmania Fire Service volunteer members and Brigades with respect to fulfilling responsibilities and obligations for offers of donations, gifts and benefits, undertaking fundraising activities and financial management and record-keeping relating to volunteer brigade monies. These guidelines will be tabled at the September meeting for review and discussion.

Regional Operations Support Brigade - The intent is to establish a 'Regional Operational Support Brigade' or similar to draw on volunteer skills from members who are unable to contribute as a front line responder but would have the required skills for IMT rolls. Members would be able to hold dual membership with their local Brigade. A Concept of Operations paper is being developed for presentation to VSCC.

Conexus – The DPFEM intranet site is now up and running, the main concerns for volunteers is Multi Factor Authentication, the need to have dual login using a security code and the automatic log out time period.

TASGRN Paging Project - The purpose of the Paging Upgrade Project is to restore the DPFEM paging network to a maintainable and fit for purpose state within the original design constraints.

A Steering Committee has been established to deliver the required work in maintaining the existing paging capabilities up to 2024.

Junior/Cadets – Following the appointment of a DO responsible for Junior/Cadets a significant body of work was undertaken in 2015-16 to put a structure around supporting Junior and Cadet Coordinators and programs, several issues were encountered initially, but these have now been resolved and the intention is to progress this work.

Colin Cunningham AFSM



NORTHERN BRANCH PRESIDENTS REPORT

Raoul Stow

In preparing this report I reflect on the past 12 months as being a challenging one for me, and indeed a challenging period for the TVFBA in it's representation of volunteer fire fighters.

I see our single biggest challenge in today's integrated climate as being seen to be relevant to those that we represent. There is no doubt that as a representative body, we have been successful in key areas, but I feel we still have some distance to travel in showcasing ourselves to our constituent brigades.

As a branch we have been partially successful in raising awareness of diesel particulates in stations, notwithstanding that the TFS is still reviewing the effect on fire fighters. I note key input from Mike Turner on this, and the additional assistance given by Ken Nolan, in addressing the concerns brought to the branch by Glengarry Brigade. The installation of a high-volume extraction fan is a proactive measure that is now being rolled out to similar type stations.

We were not able to reach a solution to their request for a station extension primarily on the grounds of Resource to Risk, however discussions are continuing on the options of extending the appliance bay forward onto their apron, and they are also considering the option of an integration with Winkleigh Brigade.

Hadspen Brigade are still without a data connection to their station, and while they are not seeking that the TVFBA facilitate a solution for them, it is notable that no solution has been forthcoming from the TFS for the provision of data services to volunteer brigades at an affordable rate.

As a branch we moved a motion in our February recommending that state council pursue this issue as a matter of urgency. This was in turn listed and discussed at the state meeting in March. Lindsay Suhr was to take the issue to the commission. I am unaware whether he has to date had any workback to state council on this matter.

The Phil Pyke discussion paper has served to galvanize the TVFBA into drawing priorities to issues of most concern to our represented brigades. I note that our branch led the charge in bringing PPC/E/Clothing to the top of that list. As a result of this determination, the TFS have now accelerated the roll outs of Soft Shell Jackets, BR9 Bush Helmets, and Moldex half face respirators. We are still awaiting advice from the TFS on the time frames for Structural PPC ensemble, and Structural Helmets.

Fundamentally however, what Phil Pykes document highlighted, is that the TVFBA have no coordinated communications plan in which we can directly contact all members of all brigades, or where they can contact us, and know who to contact. Being accessible is key to our association being relevant to our membership. We are in many circles seen to be a faceless entity, and whilst we know within ourselves that we take immense pride in representing volunteer firefighters, what do we do to advertise that? To me this isn't our seeking feel good feedback, this is about showcasing the achievements we have made in our representative roles.



The issue of communications however leads to the broader question of strategic direction and do we as an association have one. It is hard at times to undertake self-reflection and performance review, however in undertaking these activities for myself, I find I need to ask myself

'Where are we headed as a representative body, and where will we be in 5 years time?'

A unified communications plan is key to our strategic direction, and this is one aspect that we can implement in a relatively short time frame. However looking at issues of volunteerism (recruitment and retainment), representative succession planning within the branches, and at a state level, adapting to the changes in the fire service industry, and the potential outcomes of the Fire Service Act Review, are also key inclusions in our looking at where the TVFBA is headed.

It is clear to me that clarity be brought to our longer-term direction as a representative body.

I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to all Northern Branch members for their continued support, input and commitment towards volunteers. I look forward to the next 12 months!

Raz Stow

Northern Branch President



SOUTHERN BRANCH PRESIDENTS REPORT

Colin Cunningham AFSM

Southern Region Presidents Report

In December 2018 and January 2019 a significant number of bushfires were ignited as a result of lightning strikes, these set to tone for fire suppression activities for the ensuing months.

The January 15 lightning strikes produced 2402 recorded dry lightning strikes across the state, igniting a large number of additional fires. Over 70 fires were started state-wide in the Tasmanian landscape, of these the Southern Region received it's fair share. A combination of dry conditions, strong winds and inaccessible terrain prevented many of these fires from being controlled.

Of major concern were the Gell River , Riveaux Road and Great Pine Tier fires , the latter being managed by the Northern Region

A deliberately lit fire at Conley's Point on South Bruny on 24th December resulted in the relocation of multiply residents and campers during the late evening and early Christmas morning. Several structures were destroyed or damaged by the fire.

The decision to respond with multiple units assisted by air support to new incidents has to be commended as this resulted in many potential large fires being extinguished in their early stages , there were a number of ignitions created by mowing or slashing on days of Total Fire Ban , these actions may be a result of complacency or highlight a need for TFS and local Brigades to communicate this message to the community, the farming sector is well aware of the dangers of slashing and harvesting procedures , but people seeking a life style change on small acreage are not wise to the dangers associated with rural living.

The TFS declared a total of 13 total fire bans days to the 21st March 2019

The contribution by volunteers during the 2018/19 fire season was incredible , whether on call or stand-by looking after their local Brigade area or committing to campaign fires in remote locations , assisting in IMT's and other support roles over an extended period highlights to value of volunteers to the Tasmanian community. On behalf of the TVFBA Southern Branch thanks to all volunteer for their efforts.

Southern Branch delegates continued to represent the concerns of members with several issues currently being discussed at State Council raised with TFS management for resolution.

Following the resignation of David Taaffe, Bagdad Brigade member Tony Kenner has been co-opted into the vacant Southern delegate position until the next election

Colin Cunningham AFSM
Southern President
TVFBA



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NORTH WEST BRANCH PRESIDENTS REPORT

Fiona Tustian AFSM

I would like to present this annual report for the North West Branch of the Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association for the year 2018-2019. This is a summary of the past twelve months.

We had a busy and challenging fire season which saw many personnel and vehicles being deployed across the state to major fires on the West Coast, Highlands and in the South with appliances as well as personnel being deployed as far away as Huonville.

We have had a more settled year with our DO's being able to spend some time in their proper positions and for the most part we have had Shane Batt in his position as RCO.

I was honoured to be elected as President at last year's AGM after holding the position of Acting President. We held meetings in July 2018, November 2018, March 2019, June 2019 with meeting times being reviewed and agreed to remain at 1830hrs.

We are hoping 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. It is also hoped to hold an event before the fire season to draw members to get them interested in the association and be able to better communicate with them.

Communicating with our members and inviting them to meetings is still a big issue which we hope to address soon.

The North West Branch current positions are:

President – Fiona Tustian

Vice President – Peter Moore

Treasurer – Mike Connell

Secretary – Daniel Bramich

State Delegate – Robert Atkins

Reserve Delegate – Paulette Clarke

Reserve Delegate – Annette Jordan

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all 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.

Fiona Tustian AFSM
President NW Branch



MEDIUM TANKER WORKING GROUP REPORT

Raz Stow



Engineering and Fleet Services (EFS) are continuing with fabrication works on a further 5 appliances as advised in my previous report. The first of these was on show at the Emergency Services Conference, and it has now been evaluated by the Medium Tanker and CAFS working parties

The first 2 of the 5 are imminently ready to be commissioned, with the next 3 to be completed by the end of September

The appliance that was road showed in mid 2018 continues to operate out of George Town Fire Brigade, however not without a range of shake down issues that should be rectified for the substantive build on advice from EFS.

Of note is a small change in the design specification of the medium tanker, where it has been agreed to delete the front monitor from the specification of 4 of the current appliances in build. These will instead be retrofitted to existing heavy tankers to better inform the organisation on the benefits of monitors, as they will be tested on an already established platform.

It is fair to suggest that the process to date has taken a significantly longer period than in previous builds, and this is something that all members of the working party agree should be taken up at state representative level with the TFS executive leadership team.

Raz Stow
TVFBA Delegate to
Medium Tanker Working Group



TFS VOLUNTEER BRIGADE GRANTS PROGRAM REPORT

Robert Atkins, Brad Menzie, Colin Cunningham

Two meetings have been held since the inception to review the brigade's applications. The first meeting was quite lengthy due to items requested and was they brigade or core. So once guide lines were established the process has become easier.

Due to the fire season round one was not expended and a second round was opened to enable brigades to get their requests in.

The second round of round one the budget was overspent so brigades that missed will be encouraged to re-submit in round three. A total of \$431.00 was spent split up amongst 126 brigades.

Some popular items ordered have created an issue in Treasurer's Department to the amount spent in the procurement process to remain within Treasury instructions. i.e UHF Radios

The committee is made up of 3 TVFBA, 3 TRVFA, 1 R.C.O. TFS and Kylie Kapeller (TFS).

Also acknowledge the work Kylie has put into the Grants committee with ongoing issues, an excellent job, well done.

I also encourage Brigades to apply has each brigade has a nominal amount of \$7,700.00 to spend.

Robert Atkins AFSM
Chair

TRMF TRANSITION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

In early 2019, the State Fire Commission endorsed the transition of Workers Compensation insurance to the Tasmanian Risk Management Fund (TRMF). This includes TFS career employees and volunteers. A TRMF Transition Management Committee (committee) was formed in May as a working group representing all key stakeholders, and is tasked with planning and coordinating the implementation of a successful transition.

The committee meet regularly, with the Chair reporting progress to the Chief Officer, and committee members seeking feedback and advice from the stakeholders they represent to report back to the committee to facilitate decision making. The transition process is complex and will likely require some change to Work Health and Safety (WH&S) processes in the organisation. WH&S committees will be consulted in relation to potential changes.

TRMF Transition Management Committee members:

Mr Todd Crawford (Chair) - Director Business Services, DPFEM

Ms Kiran Mudaliar - Manager Injury Management and Advisory Service, People and Culture, DPFEM

Mr Brad Menzie – Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association

Mr Barry Bones – Tasmania Fire Service

Mr Leigh Hills - United Firefighters Union

Mr Andrew Taylor – Tasmanian Retained Volunteer Firefighters Association



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