

Annual Report

June 2005



Volunteer
Fire
Brigades
Victoria

VFBV – advancing the interests of *all* Victorian fire brigade volunteers...

Annual Report of the Overarching Body

For the year ended 30 June 2005

LOGO's

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc.

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VFBV Board Members and Office Bearers 2004/2005

Quentin Turner AFSM

Chairman 2004/2005
Board Member 2004/2007
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Mick Taylor AFSM

Board Member 2003/2006
micktaylor@vfbv.com.au

Gary Lyttle AFSM

Deputy Chairman 2004/05
Board Member 2003/2006
[garylyttle@vfbv.com.au](mailto:garyllyttle@vfbv.com.au)

Rob Waterson AFSM

Board Member 2002/2005
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Bruce Conboy

Board Member 2003/05
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Hans van Hamond AFSM

Board Member 2004/2006
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Tom Brodie

Board Member 2002/2005
tombrodie@vfbv.com.au

Peter Davis AFSM

Joint Executive Officer
Treasurer
vufba@vfbv.com.au

Peter Downes

Board Member 2004/2007
peterdownes@vfbv.com.au

Bob MacDonald

Joint Executive Officer
Public Officer
vrfba@vfbv.com.au

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT Quentin Turner AFSM



Quentin Turner has been a CFA volunteer for over 40 years and Captain of the Creswick Urban Fire Brigade for 24 years. Quentin's service has included Group Officer, Executive Member and Past President of the Victorian Urban Fire Brigades Association and CFA Board Member.

Quentin was a member of the Steering Committee formed to develop VFBV and was elected as Inaugural Chairman in October 2002.

In its third year of operation, VFBV has made further positive steps towards the strategic goal of becoming a true overarching body, accurately representing the views of CFA volunteer brigades.

During this period, I have relished the opportunity to promote the proud traditions and record of true volunteerism within the CFA.

As your representative at a number of Australasian Conferences, I have also been able to gauge our progress against other emergency service organisations.

We can be justifiably proud of the stature of CFA volunteers within this spectrum. We have managed very well to come to terms with the ever changing community expectations. These changes arise through political, social and other community issues which tend to reflect that we, in this country, live in an organised and active environment.

VFBV, due to our networking within CFA, Government departments, communities and other volunteer organisations across Australia, is now well placed with knowledge and strategies to address current and future issues.

Coming out of Regional meetings held throughout the State, is a clear message to continue working towards this goal.

As mentioned in my last Annual Report, the principles we agreed upon guide us forward. The VFBV Board acknowledges a need to assist those Regional Councils who have not as yet conducted conjoint meetings. Whilst the number of Regions meeting together is steadily increasing, it is vital that focus is maintained in this area. We need to continue promoting the principle that all CFA volunteers are equal, therefore we should provide fair and equitable input at the 'grass roots' level.

Once again, I thank my colleagues on the VFBV Board, State Executive members of the Associations, Regional Councils, brigades and volunteers for their support. In addition, we continue to maintain a professional working partnership at a strategic level with CFA administration, always promoting our volunteer based emergency service under the terms of our Volunteer Charter.

Our decision to implement the interim management arrangement within VFBV, has allowed us to further consolidate our position.

The excellent support and co-operation from Peter, Bob, Jenni and Lisa has allowed us to promptly deal with strategic and other pressing issues arising from the monthly VFBV Board meetings.

We are in the process of reviewing our current situation, as there appears to be growing support for a single CEO concept coming from the volunteers.

VFBV has engaged the services of an independent consultant, John Wooles, who is currently working with us to provide a clear and well considered pathway forward.

However, the task we are challenged with has given us an opportunity to increase consultation with the volunteers in such a way that it gives us confidence to move forward.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2004

At the Annual General Meeting of VFBV on 15th October 2004, the following elections were held:

Chairman: Quentin Turner AFSM
Deputy Chairman: Gary Lyttle AFSM
Treasurer: Peter Davis AFSM
Auditors: Christopher Falkingham,
Balance Corporation

Appointments to VFBV Board:

Annual appointments of representatives from the VRFBA and the VUFBA to the Board, took place during September and October. The VRFBA re-appointed Peter Downes and the VUFBA re-appointed Quentin Turner. Hans van Hamond was appointed to the Board as the newly elected VUFBA President, replacing Past President Ron Schultz.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS' REPORT

Joint Executive Officers: Peter Davis

Bob MacDonald

The interim arrangement, reported in the last Annual Report, of Peter Davis and Bob MacDonald acting as joint Executive Officers has proven to be successful and continues to operate, however, as indicated this is an interim arrangement and is not the long term aim of the VFBV Board.

Having said that, the arrangement has continued to ensure a very close working relationship between VFBV, the Victorian Rural Fire Brigades Association and the Victorian Urban Fire Brigades Association, particularly at the Executive level. This close working relationship has helped to strengthen the position of our volunteers, as in most instances we are able to provide advice to the CFA on behalf of all volunteers and effectively pursue the issues that come to VFBV from the Associations. Of course there are still issues which could be called "rural" or "urban", which continue to be addressed by the respective Association.

Staffing levels of VFBV has remained constant with Peter Davis, Jenni Laing, Bob MacDonald and Lisa Preston all currently employed. During the year we found it necessary to increase the hours worked by Lisa due to an increasing workload. The four employees still fulfill their roles with the Associations.

We did engage the services of Alan Woodward and Jeff Moore QC on two specific projects during the year, these being an analysis of the COAG Report and the development of VFBV's position as well as our submission to the Review of the Coroner's Act.

The combined Newsletter has been well received by brigades and towards the end of the financial year, we extended the distribution of the Newsletter to include brigade Captains in an endeavour to get even better awareness of VFBV activities at a brigade level. Previously, the Newsletter was forwarded to brigades via brigade Secretaries only. Some 2,700 copies are now distributed quarterly.

Our website has given us some trouble this year because we changed our service provider to VicNet, which is a division of the State Library of Victoria, and the changeover took longer than expected. The site is functioning now and contains newsletters, reports and copies of submissions as well as general information about VFBV.

The series of Regional meetings has provided VFBV with considerable feedback on how VFBV is perceived at the local level and also views on amalgamation issues, communications, CEO appointment, plus a range of other related areas. We thank Regional Secretaries for their help in co-ordinating the Regional attendance at these meetings and also the participants for attending and contributing to the discussions. In many cases, members travelled long distances to attend. There are still three meetings to be held with Regions before VFBV holds a combined Workshop with both Associations.

During the year we met with CFA Directors separately in an endeavour to get some resolution to the wide range of matters between CFA and ourselves that have been outstanding for some time. It is hoped that in the fullness of time, this course of action will prove productive.

The Board of VFBV continues to meet monthly and act quickly on issues as they arise. You will note towards the end of the Report, the range of issues the Board has acted upon over the last 12 months.

We thank the VFBV Board for their support, commitment and co-operation over the past twelve months.

Peter Davis AFSM

Bob MacDonald

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF VFBV

After positive feedback from the Associations, the VFBV Board agreed there was need to engage a consultant to map the way forward for VFBV. The aim was to develop a framework that could be used in the future for the amalgamation of the two volunteer associations which would be acceptable to our volunteers.

John Wooles of JW Group was engaged to undertake the task. John had previously undertaken a similar role for the VRFBA some years ago.

The project will involve a series of steps before outcomes can be produced. As a first step, the consultant met with the VFBV Board to discuss the manner of conducting the project. At the same time, the consultant took the opportunity to carry out an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats associated with VFBV's proposals.

Secondly our consultant carried out a series of interviews with key stakeholders including senior CFA management, the Emergency Services Commissioner and officers of Life Saving Victoria which had recently merged two volunteer organisations.

The next step involved a program of Regional workshops conducted around the State to obtain the opinions of volunteers in all parts of Victoria. These Workshops have been held at Sale, Hamilton, Stawell and CFA Headquarters. Further workshops are yet to be held at Wangaratta, Eaglehawk and Ouyen.

The VFBV Board was well represented at every one of the workshops held so far and was acutely interested in the views of the volunteers who attended.

A Strategic Planning Seminar involving the State Executive of VUFBA, State Council of VRFBA and the VFBV Board will be held in September and will be fully reported on in next year's Annual Report along with the position finally adopted by the Board.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S RECOMMENDATIONS – Brigade Financial Assets & Liabilities

In April VFBV was briefed by the CFA on recommendations made by the Auditor General to the State Government following his audit of the CFA's financial statements.

The Auditor General had recommended that the CFA include all brigade financial assets and liabilities in its financial statements and also implement a comprehensive accountability and audit framework for all brigades. These recommendations have been accepted by the State Government.

VFBV is well aware of brigade views on the management and control of brigade finances and had reinforced to the CFA the need for full consultation with brigades as it gathers the necessary information to meet the Auditor General's recommendations.

VFBV was also assured that whilst the CFA will need to include this amount in its financial statements, brigade funds will continue to remain the responsibility of the brigades.

CFA has now appointed nine field officers to undertake the task of gathering the financial information from brigades.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL WORKSHOP

Nearly 50 volunteers from around Victoria attended a Workshop hosted by VFBV at Fiskville on Sunday 22nd August 2004. The Workshop had been arranged to provide volunteers with the opportunity to have input into volunteer and employer support issues such as tax breaks, rate rebates, reimbursement for lost wages, national recognition, scholarships etc.

The Workshop overwhelmingly agreed that it was opposed to payments to volunteers for their services and that any support proposals considered for volunteers must be equitable for all volunteers. Attendees also agreed that the CFA should reimburse reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred by volunteers over and above normal activities. Another common suggestion was greater support for brigades via the Brigade Administrative Support Officer system. A national recognition service award was also supported.

MEETING WITH EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMISSIONER

Emergency Services Commissioner Bruce Esplin, sought a further meeting with the Board of VFBV to discuss, among other things, progress made with the implementation of the recommendations from his Inquiry into the 2002/03 Victorian Bushfires.

The meeting was held on Wednesday, 22nd September 2004. The Board expects to meet with the Commissioner before the end of 2005 as part of the continuing dialogue

MEETING WITH SOUTH AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS

Following an approach from Cam Stafford, the President of the South Australian Volunteer Fire Brigades' Association, the Board of VFBV met the Executive of that body in Horsham on Saturday, 24th September, 2004.

The meeting discussed issues that are common to both State bodies, and in particular, matters which are strategic in nature. These included:

- Representation of Volunteers at a National level
- EMA Volunteer Summit 2002 Outcomes
- Volunteer support
- Autonomy of brigades
- Broader Brigade Model

- Honorariums
- Non-operational support
- Burning off
- Communications
- Discount programs
- Safecom (proposed new SA structure for emergency services).

MEETING WITH NEW MINISTER

Representatives of VFBV met with Tim Holding the new Minister for Police and Emergency Services in April. The meeting was to acquaint the Minister with the role of VFBV, as well as VRFBA and VUFBA, and to discuss a range of issues including the value of the Volunteer Charter, the professionalism of volunteer firefighters, Victoria's strong emphasis on "no payment for volunteers", the strategic direction of VFBV, the safety of volunteers working on roadsides, as well as several other issues.

MEETING WITH VICTORIAN FARMERS FEDERATION

Chairman Quentin Turner along with Joint Executive Officer, Bob MacDonald and Board members Bruce Conboy and Tom Brodie met during the year with VFF State President, Paul Weller and Executive Manager of Policy, Simon Price.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the alleged VFF position in regard to the proposed class action that has emanated from the North East fires in 2003. VFF assured us that its position had been misrepresented in the media and that it was not a party to the class action.

The meeting was beneficial to both organisations as a range of other issues were discussed. It was conceded that our respective positions will not always coincide and an example of this was the VFF position in the emergency services funding.

The possibility of the two organisations working together on issues that are common and agreeable to both was discussed and it was agreed that some benefits could be gained by such an approach.

VALUING VOLUNTEERS WORKING PARTY

Following the 2003 fires the State Government made \$3M available to recognise the value of

emergency service volunteers and a Working Party was set up to identify suitable projects which helped to provide recognition for these volunteers as well as assist with volunteer recruitment and retention.

VFBV has two representatives on the Working Party. Other organisations include the State Emergency Service, Lifesaving Victoria and the Coast Guard as well as personnel from the Department of Justice.

The first round of projects has been approved and funding allocated. The Working Party is currently assessing a second round of bids from the agencies involved.

REVIEW OF CODE OF PRACTICE FOR FIRE MANAGEMENT ON PUBLIC LANDS

VFBV accepted an invitation from Department of Sustainability and Environment to receive a briefing on their Review of the Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Lands.

Following the briefing it was agreed that VFBV would make a submission reflecting the views of volunteer firefighters.

This will be reported on in next year's Annual Report.

ONE ABN

As reported in last year's Annual Report the CFA and the Australian Taxation Office have divergent opinions on whether brigades must use the CFA ABN or not.

At the end of this reporting period, CFA still did not have a reply from the Australian Taxation Office to its submission and as a consequence the moratorium that VFBV brokered is still in place.

In the meantime VFBV has agreed to work with CFA to develop a process that will be satisfactory to brigades pending the ATO response.

BRIGADES DONATIONS TRUST FUND

The CFA and Brigades Donations Trust Fund trustees met regularly throughout the year. Four of the seven trustees are members of the VFBV Board with Ron Schultz, Neil Bibby (CFA CEO) and Michael Wootten (CFA Director of Finance & Administration) being the other three.

Len Foster (CFA Chairman) resigned as a Trustee during the year and was replaced by Michael Wootten.

The trustees have reported the Fund has gained ready acceptance by brigades and is operating to the financial benefit of brigades.

VFBV WORKING PARTIES

In an endeavour to reach common ground on some of the differences between urban and rural volunteers, VFBV had formed Working Parties to address these differences. These Working Parties addressed Uniforms, Championships, Awards and a Volunteer Welfare Fund.

Initial meetings of these Working Parties have been held. Recommendations have been made to the CFA in regard to Awards and Championships. Further work is required in the areas of Uniforms and a Welfare Fund.

REVIEW OF CFA ACT

The CFA is in the process of reviewing its Act of Parliament. VFBV along with VRFBA and the VUFBA, is represented on a Steering Committee providing strategic direction to the internal review process. After developing a Discussion Paper on proposed changes to the Act, CFA commenced a consultation process with the volunteers and regional staff. VFBV along with the two Volunteer Associations, successfully lobbied CFA to extend the consultation process as all three bodies, supported by the volunteers, were of the view that the process was inadequate.

The CFA had advised VFBV that further consultation will take place and is developing a program to cater for this additional consultation process.

COAG REPORT ON NATIONAL INQUIRY ON BUSHFIRE MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT

VFBV made a submission to the National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management on issues of interest to Victorian volunteers. Following the release of the COAG Report, a comparison was made of the recommendations in those areas in which VFBV had made a submission. VFBV has since determined its position in relation to these specific recommendations and forwarded copies to VRFBA and VUFBA Regional Councils, VRFBA

State Councillors and VUFBA Executive Members.

REVIEW OF CORONERS ACT

In March, the Victorian Government announced a review of its Coroners Act. VFBV agreed to make a submission to the review on behalf of Victoria's volunteer firefighters advocating a change to the Act by removal of the authority for the Coroner to investigate non fatal fires. VFBV considered investigations into non fatal fires could be dealt with by an independent body which would assist in identifying trends etc. and help to reduce preventable fires in the future. It would also remove Victorian volunteers from the trauma of giving evidence at legalistic hearings as has occurred in Coronial Inquiries.

40KM SPEED LIMIT AT INCIDENTS

Both the VRFBA and the VUFBA had previously made representations to the CFA in an attempt to have a 40km speed limit applied at roadside incidents attended by the emergency services. These representations had not been successful. As this matter impacted on all volunteers, VFBV took this issue up with the CFA and sought to have the Victorian VicRoads Authority reconsider its initial decision not to support such a proposal. Indications are that the proposal is now receiving greater support from agencies such as Victoria Police and VicRoads than previously.

BUSHFIRE CRC VOLUNTEERISM PROJECT

The VFBV Board received a briefing from Dr Jim McLennan a senior researcher from Latrobe University, Behavioural Science Department who is team leader of the CRC project on Volunteerism.

The aim of the project is to assist fire agencies better understand volunteer recruitment and enhance volunteer retention.

Dr McLennan's research team has experience and expertise in applied social and psychological research, working with emergency services and are able to provide arm's length assurances of confidentiality where this is important.

The team has already produced major reports on:

- Recruitment and retention initiatives;
- Volunteer data base management systems;

- Profiles of Australia's volunteer firefighting workforce.

Following input to the project by the VFBV Board Dr McLennan is supplying the Board with regular updates on the progress being made and the outcomes.

CFA OPERATIONAL SKILLS PROFILE (VOLUNTEER) POLICY

The Board has been concerned that the proposed CFA Operational Skills Profile (Volunteer) Policy will not truly reflect the current situation on the fireground in terms of training new members.

Ongoing dialogue has taken place with CFA, including a submission to the Board, in an endeavour to reach a position that reflects current practice and protects the actions of crew leaders and volunteers.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT PAPERS AT AFAC CONFERENCE

Both Chairman Quentin Turner and member of the VFBV Board Bruce Conboy, presented papers to the 2004 Australasian Fire Authorities Council Annual Conference in Perth.

The title of Quentin's paper was "*Volunteerism – Where to From Here?*", whilst Bruce's paper was called "*Improving the Volunteers Lot at a National Level*".

Quentin was also invited to present papers to Volunteering Australia Annual Conference, Rural Fire Service of NSW AGM and the Victorian Fire Brigades Auxiliaries Conference.

POLICIES AND REVIEWS

During the past twelve months VFBV has provided input into or made submissions to:

- Latrobe University's Bushfire CRC Volunteerism Project;
- CFA Media Policy and Procedures for Dealing with the Media;
- Defining the Use and Limiting the Application of the CFA Fire Star;
- review of Fundraising Appeals Act 1998;
- submission to CFA Board in regard to Brigade Operational Skills Profile (Volunteer) Policy;
- Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority Bill;

- CFA Travel and Committee/Conference Attendance policy;
- O H & S Act and Summary;
- CFA Organisational Form (restructure review);
- AAVFBA's Review of Operation;
- review of the CFA Act;
- submission to Valuing Volunteers Working Party;
- CFA Deeds Recognition program;
- CFA Member Benefits program;
- review of the Coroners Act 1985;
- COAG National Inquiry into Bushfire Mitigation;
- Report of the Inquiry into the 2002/2003 Victorian Bushfires;
- CFA Relationship & Diversity program;
- CFA Volunteer Questionnaire;
- Emergency Services Superannuation (Amendment) Bill;
- DSE Review of Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land;
- Associations Incorporation Act 1981;
- 40km speed limit at roadside incidents and submission to the Coroner looking into the roadside death of a policeman.
- issue of UHF radios;
- safety of current residential smoke alarms;
- investigating call taking raffles;
- information on DSE re-organisation;
- Brigade Operational Skills Profile (Volunteer) Policy;
- consultation and involvement on CFA re-structure issues;
- allocation of pagers under the new Country CAD system;
- introduction of Safety Advisors;
- Spectrum pre conferencing;
- continuation of separate Rural and Urban Championships;
- funding a future Welfare Fund for all volunteers;
- hazardous materials awareness procedures;
- management, handling and distribution of CFA's operational fleet;
- Civil Contractors Federation's Worksite Traffic Management courses;
- process of nominating volunteers for leadership courses;
- Auditor General's recommendation relating to brigade finances;
- policy of cascading replacement operational vehicles to brigades;
- replacement of water used for firefighting purposes;
- Joint Operations Committee;
- presentation of National Medals;
- turnouts relating to MVA's;
- farmers not covered by insurance for public liability or personal loss if operating machinery on Total Fire Ban days;
- legal advice on any policies which could have the potential to place a legal liability on volunteers;
- CFA Organisational Form (restructure review);
- misleading wording in a Bunnings catalogue;
- CFA Awards review;
- current tanker program;
- support for joint committees, including a Joint Training Committee and a Joint Operations Committee;
- alternative Joint Committee structure;
- Smorgon Steel Great Scrap Round-up;
- available funding to cover the replacement of the backs of tankers now that the upper limit had been increased;
- inclusion of line clearance as part of Fire Prevention;
- Tanker of the Future Steering Committee;

OTHER ITEMS RAISED WITH THE CFA ON BEHALF OF ASSOCIATIONS, REGIONAL COUNCILS AND/OR BRIGADES:

- clarification of CFA position on 'One CFA';
- position of HR Managers at Regional level;
- site for Memorial for Deceased Firefighters;
- funding of existing group/brigade owned vehicles to provide discrete field command vehicles where applicable;
- agreement between Federal and State Governments on water policies and impact on water for firefighting purposes in Victoria;
- modification of external lug couplings and contacting AFAC Standards Committee;
- support for continuation of Critical Incident Stress system;
- CFA and Brigade ABN issue;
- volunteer involvement in prevention strategies with an emphasis on broader brigade role;
- subsidies in relation to safety issues for private vehicles on the fireground (slip-on vehicles);
- promotion of the Broader Brigade concept;
- volunteers being called as expert witnesses in any formal dispute in regard to daytime manning;
- review of the Volunteer Charter;

- alterations to the Corporate Policy Development Checklist;
- consultation with brigades prior to actions such as the removal of break glass alarms;
- Regional Council 13's issue regarding privately monitored alarms;
- Regional Council 13's issue regarding lack of consultation over several issues;
- installation of warning signals, including traffic lights, at several fire stations;
- arrangements of a new FEM Committee;
- safe egress from Fire Stations;
- Community Safety Emergency Support Program;
- Customer Satisfaction Survey;
- speed limits at emergency incident scenes;
- revised Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2005;
- transport of hazardous goods to Nowingi and brigade involvement at incidents;
- promotion of additional Equity and Diversity Workshops.

**VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADES VICTORIA INC.
REVENUE & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 2005**

Income

CFA Grant Operations	325,000
CFA Grant Travel Reimbursement (Agreed Meetings)	205,000
Association Contributions	120,000.00
Interest Current Accounts	4,498.57
Interest Term Deposits	<u>6,276.14</u>

Total Income

\$660,774.71

Expenses

Accounting		1,090.00
Advertising		286.36
Communications		
Telephone & Internet	5,074.03	
Board Members Tel/Internet	2,697.00	
Web Page	<u>108.90</u>	7,879.93
Contract Labour		
Publicity & Marketing	1,650.00	
Web Design & Maintenance	350.00	
Consultancy, Special Projects	<u>13,454.00</u>	15,454.00
Depreciation		1,807.93
Miscellaneous		
Grant to The Fireman	1,000.00	
AAVFBA Affiliation	500.00	
Contribution Championships First Aid	700.00	
Consumer Affairs	31.82	
Flowers	<u>45.45</u>	2,277.27
Rent		
Office Rent	10,500.00	
Outgoings	<u>1,118.24</u>	11,618.24
Stationery & Software		
General	171.48	
Maintenance	97.10	
Printing	1,591.80	
Postage	3,702.54	
Board Member Consumables	1,018.16	
Software	326.36	
Stationery	<u>269.50</u>	7,176.94
Salary & Wages		230,076.90
Annual Leave Provision		4,045.00
Long Service Leave Provision		2,909.00
Superannuation		20,379.70
Travel Reimbursement (Board Meetings etc.)		
Chairman Approved Travel	3,351.18	
Board Member Travel	15,434.52	
Executive Officers/Staff Travel	3,538.19	
Accommodation & Meals	2,389.17	
Room Hire	77.00	
Catering	<u>591.00</u>	25,381.06
Travel Reimbursement (CFA Approved Meetings)		
Travel Volunteers	189,774.65	
Room Hire	2,210.00	

Catering	5,310.45	
Admin Support	121.44	
Accommodation & Meals	<u>28,912.02</u>	226,328.56
Travel Reimbursement (Regional Workshops)		
Travel	10,391.40	
Accommodation & Meals	<u>5,494.28</u>	15,885.68
Total Expenses		<u>\$572,596.57</u>
Net Profit		<u>\$88,178.14</u>

**VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADES VICTORIA INC.
BALANCE SHEET
FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 2005**

Assets

Current		
General Cheque Account	138,785.15	
Travel Reimbursement Account	74,070.89	
Term Deposits	<u>250,000.00</u>	
Total Current		462,856.04
Non Current		
Office Equipment		
Office Equipment at Cost	8,050.52	
Office Equipment Accum Dep	<u>-5,249.97</u>	
Total Non Current		<u>2,800.55</u>
Total Assets		\$465,656.59

Liabilities

Current		
Long Service Leave	3,845.00	
Annual Leave	6,945.00	
GST Liabilities		
GST Collected	63,802.11	
GST Paid	<u>-40,842.70</u>	<u>22,959.41</u>
Total Current		33,758.41
Payroll Liabilities		
Superannuation Payable	6,702.59	
PAYG Withholding Payable	<u>31,730.22</u>	
Total Payroll Liabilities		<u>38,432.81</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>\$72,191.22</u>

Net Assets \$393,465.37

Equity

Retained Earnings		305,287.23
Current Earnings		<u>88,178.14</u>
Total Equity		<u>\$393,465.37</u>

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the members of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc.

Scope

We have audited the attached special purpose financial report comprising the Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet, of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc for the period ended 30 June 2005. The Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc. Committee of Management is responsible for the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies used are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc. constitution and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee of Management's financial reporting requirements under the Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc.'s constitution. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly. (These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia).

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the Balance Sheet of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc. as at 30 June 2005 and the Profit and Loss Statement for the period then ended.

Christopher Falkingham FCA & FCPA
15th August 2005