

Annual Report

June 2006



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 2006

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc.

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VFBV Board Members and Office Bearers 2005/2006

Gary Lyttle AFSM
Chairman 2005/06
Board Member 2003/2006
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Quentin Turner AFSM
Board Member 2004/2007
quentinturner@vfbv.com.au

Mick Taylor AFSM
Deputy Chairman 2005/2006
Board Member 2003/2006
micktaylor@vfbv.com.au

Rob Waterson AFSM
Board Member 2005/2008
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Tom Brodie
Board Member 2005/2008
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Hans van Hamond AFSM
Board Member 2004/2006
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Peter Downes
Board Member 2004/2007
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Peter Davis AFSM
Joint Executive Officer
Treasurer
vufba@vfbv.com.au

Bernie Pearson
Board Member 2005/07
pearsonb@tpg.com.au

Bob MacDonald
Joint Executive Officer
Public Officer
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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT Gary Lyttle AFSM

Gary Lyttle has been a CFA volunteer for over 44 years, a former member of Miners Rest Rural Fire Brigade for 25 years and currently a member of Cardigan Rural Fire Brigade. He is also a former DGO of the Ballarat Group and a past President of the Victorian Rural Fire Brigades Association.

Gary was a member of the Steering Committee formed to develop VFBV.

Having been in the position of Chairman of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria for the past 12 months, I have much pleasure in submitting my report on some of our activities over this period.

Firstly I must say this has been a very challenging year and I believe we have addressed these challenges as they have arisen and always with the best interests of our 58,000 volunteers in mind.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet with many CFA volunteers around the State, to discuss issues with them and listen to their concerns. We have a terrific network of volunteers and must continue to ensure their interests are protected.

The VFBV Board has travelled extensively to a number of Regions around the State in order to better understand and liaise with volunteers, and to promote the bringing together of both Volunteer Associations to give one voice for volunteers. These meetings have been positive.

We have had meetings of both executive members of the VUFBA and the VRFBA to further develop a number of the issues that have arisen from the meetings around the State.

The first of these was held at Fiskville last September, which developed and enhanced the constitution and proposed time lines for the amalgamation of both Associations.

Two further meetings were held, one at CFA HQ and the other at Bendigo. At these meetings the executive members were given the tasks to develop a position for the VFBV Board to consider.

Discussion papers were developed on:

- system of representation
- selection process
- meetings and committees
- size of the VFBV board and how appointed
- affiliation and general fund
- relationship between VFBV board and existing councils
- raising of issues.

The VFBV Board has advertised the CEO position and interviews will be held early in the forthcoming financial year.

Communication has been one of the major issues the Board has encountered as we have travelled around the State. We have attempted to address these issues by adding brigade Captains and Group Officers to our quarterly mailing lists.

The Enterprise Bargaining Agreement between CFA and its career firefighters has certain aspects within it that impacts on volunteers. We are not interested in the pay or conditions that affect the career staff, only those aspects that impact on volunteers. This has been very time consuming to try and have the aspects removed from the current EBA. We have met with the Minister Tim Holding on a regular basis to get his support in trying to resolve the issues. More recently we have written to the Premier to gain further support from Government.

All we want as volunteers, is an equal say in matters that affect us that is reasonable, equitable and democratic, following a consultation process with all affected parties. The CFA must be allowed to make a decision without the requirement of the UFU agreement.

I must thank the members of the Board for their hard work throughout the year. It is a team-orientated Board working together for the betterment of volunteers across Victoria.

Gary Lyttle AFSM
Chairman

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – OCTOBER 2005

At the Annual General Meeting of VFBV on 21st October 2005, the following elections were held:

Chairman: Gary Lyttle AFSM
Deputy Chairman: Mick Taylor 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 Tom Brodie and the VUFBA re-appointed Rob Waterson. Bernie Pearson was appointed to the Board as the newly elected VRFBA President, replacing Past President Bruce Conboy.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS' REPORT

**Joint Executive Officers: Peter Davis
Bob MacDonald**

The interim arrangement of utilising two joint Executive Officers for the management of VFBV as reported in the last Annual Report, has continued for the 2005/06 financial year. Peter Davis (Secretary VUFBA) and Bob MacDonald (Executive Officer VRFBA) have continued to jointly act in the capacity of Chief Executive Officer whilst still fulfilling their respective Association roles. The relationship between the VRFBA, VUFBA and VFBV has continued to strengthen as a consequence of the joint management arrangements.

This management arrangement still continues to be an interim measure however, and late in May and June 2006, the Board agreed to advertise for a Chief Executive Officer and approved the terms of the position description. Applicants for the position will be interviewed early in the 2006/07 financial year and, hopefully, the successful applicant will be in place shortly thereafter.

The Board continues to position VFBV for the eventual amalgamation of the two Associations, and facilitated a joint meeting between the VRFBA State Council and the VUFBA Governing Body in September 2005 to discuss the manner in which an amalgamated Association might operate. Two subsequent

meetings of the Executive Committees of both Associations have further developed suggested options for consideration by the Associations.

Staffing of VFBV has continued at the same level with Peter Davis and Jenni Laing at the VUFBA office and Bob MacDonald and Lisa Preston at the VRFBA office.

The workload of VFBV has increased over the year with more issues being referred to it by the two Associations and more regular contact with brigades. As well as the quarterly joint Newsletter, VFBV is now including other items of correspondence on issues of interest to all brigades. To widen its distribution network, the quarterly Newsletter and any additional correspondence is now forwarded to brigade Secretaries and Captains, and Group Officers.

Meetings of the Board continue to be held on a monthly basis. This enables the Board to receive regular updates on current issues and deal with other issues as they rise. As well as meeting regularly at CFA Headquarters, meetings of the Board have also been held at different country locations, which have provided opportunities for volunteers to meet with the Board members and discuss matters of interest.

The CFA/UFU Firefighters Enterprise Bargaining Agreement has occupied a considerable amount of administrative effort in the latter half of the year. A separate report on the EBA is included elsewhere in the Annual Report.

The Executive Officers continue to meet the CEO of CFA on a regular basis to informally discuss matters of concern to both parties and we appreciate this open door policy.

We must thank Gordon and Allan King at The Fireman for their support and coverage of volunteer issues, and also for providing the opportunity for VFBV and the Volunteer Associations, to continue to provide regular updates on their activities. The Fireman is a great publication and plays an important role in our communications with our volunteers.

In conclusion we thank the VFBV Board for their continued support and enthusiasm for the challenges of the past year and of course we acknowledge the contributions made by Jenni and Lisa without whom the job would be so much more difficult.

Peter Davis AFSM

Bob MacDonald

CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF VFBV

VFBV has continued to take a greater role in representing the interests of all CFA volunteers and continues to move towards the eventual amalgamation of both the VRFBA and the VUFBA.

The Board has continued to meet with a wide range of volunteers and in the latter half of 2005, regional meetings were held at Eaglehawk and Ouyen. In June 2006, the Board met at Warragul and further meetings are planned for July, August and September.

In September 2005 the VFBV Board, VRFBA State Council and VUFBA Governing Body met jointly at Fiskville to workshop the continued development of VFBV. The outcomes from this Workshop formed the basis of a Strategic Directions 2006-2007 document, which was distributed to all Regional Councils and brigades seeking their feedback. The Strategic Directions document provided an indication on a possible structure for VFBV from brigades through to Regional Councils, to a State Council and then to a Board. Goals for State level amalgamation by September 2008 and amalgamation of 80% of Regional Councils by September 2006 were set. No adverse comments were received to the Strategic Directions document.

In May and June 2006, joint meetings of the executive committees of both Associations and the VFBV Board were held to develop positions on:

- size of VFBV Board;
- relationship between Board and State Council;
- system of representation on State Council;
- selection process for State Council delegates;
- meetings and committees;
- affiliations and general funds;
- how issues are to be raised.

These positions will be further discussed at future joint meetings of both Associations and the VFBV Board.

Consistent with the aim of amalgamating the two Associations, VFBV has been encouraging joint meetings of Regional Councils. At this stage, approximately half of the Regional Councils are meeting jointly.

ENTERPRISE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

For many years the two Associations had been raising with the CFA, the need to remove or reword some clauses in the Career Firefighters Enterprise Bargaining Agreement which were having adverse impacts on the CFA's volunteers.

This year the CFA Board agreed it would support the Associations' concerns and VFBV took over the running of this issue on behalf of our volunteers.

There were only about five clauses which we were concerned with and these included a requirement for the United Firefighters Union to agree to certain CFA initiatives. If the Union did not agree, basically the status quo remained even though the volunteers may have been consulted and supported the initiatives.

The parts of the EBA which were impacting on volunteers included areas such as our wish to have the ability for volunteers to be employed as sessional training instructors when the need arose, protective clothing, allocation of staff to volunteer brigades, new firefighting and road rescue appliances, Country CAD and the Emergency Alerting System, and better recognition of volunteer service for regional positions within CFA.

Not wanting the Government to instruct the CFA Board to sign the agreement as it had in the past, VFBV commenced a campaign of informing State politicians on the impacts of the EBA, meeting with the Minister for Police and Emergency Services on a regular basis and a meeting with the Premier. Brigades were informed of the implications of the EBA and encouraged to contact their local Members of Parliament.

As at the end of the financial year, the campaign was on-going with the CFA Board indicating it would not sign the EBA unless the clauses impacting on the volunteers were amended.

MEETINGS WITH MINISTER

In the months of May and June the Chairman Gary Lyttle, the Presidents of the two Associations in Bernie Pearson and Hans van Hamond along with the two Executive Officers had meetings with the Minister, Tim Holding on a fortnightly basis.

The primary purpose of the meetings was to discuss our issues with the current CFA/UFU Enterprise Bargaining Agreement but a number of other matters were also canvassed. It appears the meetings will continue on a regular basis.

VOLUNTEER CHARTER

In December 2001, the State Government, CFA and the two Volunteer Associations signed the Volunteer Charter. The Charter was to be reviewed four years from that time.

As the Charter has proven to be an important document to ensure proper consultation takes place between all parties, VFBV invited the original working party under the Chairmanship of Quentin Turner to carry out the review. At the end of the financial year, the working party was scheduled to meet early in July.

REVIEW OF CFA ACT

Last year we reported that CFA had agreed at our request to extend the consultation process for the Review of the CFA Act and to refer the items of contention back to the membership for further consideration.

At 30th June, no further consultation has taken place and the high priority given to the Review seems to have diminished over the past twelve months.

BRIGADE OPERATIONAL SKILLS PROFILE

Following a recommendation from VFBV in conjunction with the two Associations, CFA developed its Brigade Operational Skills Profile (Volunteer) Policy. This changed the emphasis on the requirement for all volunteers to possess all of the Structural Minimum Skills, to a requirement for crews to have a mix of Structural Skills required to tackle the task at hand.

VFBV was concerned with one part of the policy which stipulated that members had to possess

Wildfire Minimum Skills to be able to enter the fireground. VFBV wanted the ability for recruits to be able to enter the fireground, under supervision, and perform tasks for which they were competent.

The CFA did not support the VFBV's position and undertook to expedite recruit training to ensure that recruits were given every opportunity to obtain their Wildfire Minimum Skills as early as possible.

UNIFORM POLICY

During the year, VFBV chaired a Working Party comprising representatives from both the Urban Association and the Rural Association to develop a Uniform Policy for all volunteers. The policy has now been finalised and submitted to the CFA. The policy basically provides:

- (i) All Brigade members are entitled to and should be issued with a basic uniform of belt, tie, shirt, trousers/skirt, a V neck jumper, as a minimum requirement.
- (ii) Basic uniform should be issued at the completion of probationary period at the Brigade's discretion.
- (iii) The basic uniform should include a broad brimmed style hat (replacing peak cap), for wearing with jumper, lumber jacket or dress tunic.
- (iv) Optional baseball cap cannot be worn with lumber jacket or dress tunic.
- (v) Once eligible for CFA long service awards (10 years), members are entitled to and should be issued with a lumber jacket.
- (vi) The dress tunic should be issued as an option to:
 - Officers of Brigades or as required to fulfil Brigade activities;
 - Officers of Groups;
 - member/s of the Volunteer Association/s.
- (vii) Existing dress tunics should be retained and future replacements will be in accordance with the above criteria.
- (viii) Current rule for retention of uniform items after 20 years service or 5 for a Captain to remain.

SERVICE AWARD

During the year VFBV chaired a Working Party comprising representatives from both the Rural Association and the Urban Association to develop a service award for all volunteers to replace the current Urban and Rural awards. The Working Party has met on several occasions.

The Working Party agreed on the design of the medal and developed two options for a ribbon. The Working Party agreed to survey all brigades on their preference for the ribbon (*pictured below*). The survey results will not be known until after 30th September 2006.



MEETING WITH VICTORIAN FARMERS FEDERATION

Chairman Gary Lyttle along with Joint Executive Officer Bob MacDonald and Board Members Mick Taylor and Tom Brodie met during the year with VFF staff in Graeme Ford, General Manager, Policy and Asher Judah, policy adviser.

The meeting discussed a number of issues including the Fire Services Levy, replacement of private water used for firefighting and maintenance of fire access tracks on public lands.

The two organisations have many issues in common given that many of their members are also CFA volunteers.

REVIEW OF THE CORONER'S ACT

As reported in last years Annual Report VFBV, with the assistance of Jeff Moore QC, made a written submission to the Law Reform Commission which was reviewing the Coroners Act.

Subsequently the Executive Officers were invited to make an oral submission to the Law Reform Commission. We are still awaiting the results of the Review. Details of our submission are available on the VFBV website.

40KPH SPEED LIMIT AT INCIDENTS

VFBV has continued to pursue this issue with CFA and VicRoads but progress has been slow and disappointing given the number of incidents that have occurred on major roads in the past year.

Board member Peter Downes has been appointed by the Board to work with CFA to get the matter resolved.

BRIGADE AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS NUMBER (ABN)

Some considerable time has elapsed since this issue first arose. CFA is still waiting for the Australian Taxation office to make a ruling on the legality of brigades having their own ABN or being required to operate under the CFA ABN.

From the work of the Brigade Financial Management project, it has become evident that some brigades do not require their own ABN, some have not submitted a Business Activity Statement (BAS), and some were not accurately recording their income and expenditure in accordance with the requirements of the BAS details.

Additionally, FEM transactions normally processed by brigades are to be processed centrally by CFA as from 1st October 2006. This change would see many brigades reducing their financial transactions considerably.

In view of this information, the Board of VFBV agreed to a joint CFA/VFBV letter being forwarded to brigades indicating that whilst the moratorium was still in place, brigades could surrender their ABN's if it was in the best interests of the brigades to do so.

COUNTRY CAD / EMERGENCY ALERTING SYSTEM (EAS)

VFBV together with the two Associations, has continued to monitor the progress of the introduction of Country CAD and the Emergency Alerting System.

Representations have been made to the CFA in regard to the numbers of pagers issued to brigades, the need to improve the Observation Reports system, brigade coverage issues and the need to continue to develop a Statewide incident management communication system.

All of these issues continue to be addressed by CFA and a Statewide incident communication system is eventually proposed subject to Government funding.

These projects will continue to be developed in future financial years.

PRE-AMBULANCE BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (PABLS)

The CFA received an approach from Metropolitan Ambulance Service (MAS) to participate in a trial of CFA brigades in the MAS area providing a basic life saving support service where an ambulance could not respond within an acceptable time frame.

The CFA Board agreed to the trial on the basis of the ability of the brigade to provide this service and the agreement of the brigade members to fulfill this role. CFA approached VFBV to be represented on a Steering Committee to oversee the trial. Mick Taylor (Mornington) and Darryl Wells (Werribee) have been nominated to represent the interests of the volunteers on the Steering Committee.

MARINE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The VFBV Board has agreed to work with CFA on the development of a marine management strategy both for the coastline of Victoria and inland waters. Increasing development along the coastline, around lakes and on rivers is, as a consequence, increasing the exposure of our brigades to marine incidents.

A working party has been established and Bob Smith from Ocean Grove Region 7 and Rick Hill from Paynesville Region 11 have been appointed to represent volunteer brigade interests.

INTEGRATED MUNICIPAL FIRE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

VFBV Board in this past year provided its feedback on the draft position paper produced by the group working on the Integrated Municipal Fire Management Project (IMFMP). Whilst the Board agreed with most recommendations in the draft position paper, we did raise a number of matters including:

- The most desirable number of Regional Strategic Fire Management Planning Committees.
- The fact that volunteers were not specifically mentioned in the make up of Regional Strategic Fire Management Planning Committees.
- There is no reference to brigade representation on Municipal Fire Management Planning Committees.
- That the audit process should be independent and have an enforcement phase to ensure actions occur.
- The importance of a process to resolve issues of non compliance.
- The need for adequate funding to enable the recommendations to be brought to fruition.

REVIEW OF CODE OF PRACTICE FOR FIRE MANAGEMENT ON PUBLIC LAND

As indicated in last year's Annual Report the VFBV Board on behalf of the two Volunteer Associations made a submission to the Department of Sustainability and Environment on the contents of its draft code.

We stressed that the application of the Code was of intense interest to our constituents particularly where they live in towns in close proximity to public land or own private property adjacent to public land.

The fact that DSE has acknowledged the need to work in partnership with local communities in fire management was in our view a step in the right direction. It will lead to a better understanding in the community at large on the need for prescribed burning for the protection of human life and property as well as the general good health of the forest areas.

VFBV also made the point that an integrated approach needed to be taken to fire management involving all stakeholders be they corporations or private individuals.

We also sought to strengthen a clause that referred to the provision of turn around areas for firefighting vehicles in the case of dead end fire access roads and tracks, by replacing the word “should” with the word “must”.

Generally speaking we agreed with the intentions and contents of the draft code.

NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Lakes Entrance brigade was successful in its application to stage the 2007 National Firefighter Championships and CFA as the host organisation, requested VFBV to take over the role of facilitating the competition events. This included modifying the events to suit CFA Pumpers and the organisation and conducting of the events over the days of the Championships.

The VUFBA's Competition & Rules Committee with assistance from members of the Lakes Entrance brigade, adapted the events to suit CFA appliances and trialed the events at the Dandenong competition track. Discussions will be held with the other States in October 2006 to explain the changes made to meet Victorian equipment and appliances.

The CFA and Lakes Entrance brigade have sponsorship arrangements in hand and the Championships have been promoted at appropriate venues.

Early in the 2007 year, expressions of interest will be sought from Victorian teams to enter the Championships. Only four teams from each State compete with the host State being given the opportunity to make up any shortfall of entries.

POLICIES AND REVIEWS

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

- Review of the Coroners Act 1985;
- COAG Report on National Inquiry into Bushfire Mitigation and Management Summaries;
- Review of CFA Act;
- projects for submission to the State Government's Valuing Volunteers Program;
- CFA Brigade Minimum Operational Skills Profile (Volunteer) Policy;

- CFA Organisational Form;
- CFA Members & Disability Pension report;
- DSE Draft Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land;
- Marine Management Strategy;
- Volunteer Viability – A Strategic Review Report;
- Integrated Municipal Fire Management Planning (IMFMP) Initial Discussion Paper, 'An Initiative of the Victorian Bushfire Inquiry';
- Recruitment and Retention paper;
- Co-located Brigades;
- Heavy Duty Pumper;
- Crew Leader Identification;
- Pre-Ambulance Basic Life Support Strategy;
- Interim Report of the Review into the Fundraising Appeals Act 1998;
- AFAC Smorgon Steel Project;
- Wildfire and Asset Identification and Consequence Evaluation Project;
- Draft Building Regulations; AS 1851-2005 Revised Standard – Maintenance of Fire Protection Systems and Equipment;
- Wildfire and Asset Identification and Consequence Evaluation Project;
- Fire Strategy for Victoria;
- Emergency Management Discussion Paper.

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

- flat batteries in Type 3 Pumpers;
- Brigade Minimum Operational Skills Profile Policy;
- support for Victorian produce;
- leadership training;
- appointment of a volunteer to VicRoads' Speed Limits at Emergency Incident Scenes sub-group;
- attendance of recruits at fires and incidents;
- allocation of pagers to all volunteers with Minimum Skills Wildfire;
- new guidelines for the processing of applications for new members;
- community campaign to educate the public on the information required for reporting of emergencies;
- private water replacement following wildfire suppression activity;
- re-activation of the Country CAD User Reference Group;

- co-located brigades and an appropriate classification on a risk basis;
- Volunteer Viability – A Strategic Review Report;
- increasing the time taken by VicFire call takers;
- request that Regional staff complete the Observation Reports;
- 2006 AFAC Conference;
- retention of the existing structural jackets for use in inclement weather;
- Challenge Program and VFBV's support for the continuation of the program;
- use of the CFA logo on a shirt produced for Auxiliary members;
- exemption from the requirements of the Food Handling Regulations applying to food handling at emergency incidents;
- number of brigades agreeing to surrender their ABN;
- a Forum for Under 35 Year Members;
- a review of catering at major fires and incidents;
- the formation of a Joint Operations Committee;
- involvement on a Working Party to investigate the cost of future CFA uniforms;
- travel reimbursement to ensure a consistent and equitable State wide approach;
- VFBV Awards Working Party's recommendations;
- the need to ensure that every volunteer with Minimum Skills including new recruits, is issued with a pager;
- 2 stage pumps;
- issues with the procedures for an FEM centralised payment of accounts system;
- VFBV's policy on CFA Uniforms;
- provision of ICS forms in an electronic format;
- procedures as set out in the Discipline Policy for use in harassment issues;
- Regional selection of candidates to attend the AFAC Conference;
- chassis and vibration problems with the new Tankers;
- support for brigades carrying out FEM servicing;
- formation of a separate Working Party to look at uniforms for all CFA volunteers;
- Sub Committee to review implications of AS 1851-2005 and its relationship with the Building Regulations;
- supporting VUFBA's action of referring the issue of possible uses of existing structural jackets to the PPC Committee, and advocating that existing structural jackets be used for non-aggressive firefighting activities;
- recommending a Register of Auxiliary Members;
- the ability to recommend whether or not to charge for a false alarm in certain circumstances and a review of CFA's policy in this regard;
- CFA support vehicles being supplied to Groups;
- Non-delivery of Gembrook brigade's replacement 1,400 litre tanker;
- Concerns with BASO's undertaking Regional work.

**VFBV REVENUE & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 2006**

Income

CFA Funding Operations		325,000.00
CFA Travel Reimbursement (Agreed Meetings)		225,000.00
Association Contributions		120,000.00
Interest Current Accounts	6,055.44	
Interest Term Deposits	<u>18,815.54</u>	<u>24,870.98</u>

Total Income

\$694,870.98

Expenses

Accounting		1,790.45
Advertising		295.91
Communications		
Telephone & Internet	3,575.88	
Board Members Tele/Internet	2,400.00	
Web Page	<u>300.00</u>	6,275.88
Consultancy, Special Projects		47,700.00
Depreciation		2,257.37
Miscellaneous		
Grant to The Fireman	1,363.64	
AAVFBA Affiliation	500.00	
Contribution State Championships First Aid	437.46	
Consumer Affairs	36.70	
Conference Registrations	4,478.27	
Sundry account transfer	47.41	
Flowers	<u>40.91</u>	6,904.39
Rent		
Office Rent	10,500.00	
Outgoings	<u>1,118.24</u>	11,618.24
Stationery & Software		
General	90.00	
Printing	4,090.53	
Postage	8,281.79	
Board Member Consumables	1,120.00	
Stationery	<u>2,243.18</u>	15,825.50
Salary & Wages		231,272.23
Annual Leave Provision		3,954.00
Long Service Leave Provision		2,909.00
Superannuation		20,891.00
Workcover		3,112.60
Travel Reimbursement (Board Meetings etc.)		
Chairman Approved Travel	4,214.60	
Board Member Travel	15,979.95	
Executive Officers/Staff Travel	3,203.88	
Accommodation & Meals	<u>1,633.14</u>	25,031.57
Travel Reimbursement (CFA Approved Meetings)		
Travel Volunteers	182,921.71	
Room Hire	800.00	
Catering	2,037.20	
Admin Support	9.46	

Accommodation & Meals	<u>36,112.50</u>	221,880.87	
Travel Reimbursement (Regional Meetings)			
Travel	21,796.32		
Accommodation & Meals	<u>8,017.85</u>	29,814.17	
National Championships			
Program	40.00		
Project Work	7,100.00		
Travel	2,640.62		
Accommodation & Meals	<u>1,143.40</u>	10,924.02	
Total Expenses			<u>\$642,457.20</u>
Surplus of Income Over Expenditure			<u>\$52,413.78</u>

**VFBV BALANCE SHEET
FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 2006**

Assets

Current			
General Cheque Account	94,172.42		
Travel Reimbursement Account	98,178.11		
Term Deposits	250,000.00		
Debtor	<u>60,000.00</u>		
Total Current		502,350.53	
Non Current			
Office Equipment			
Office Equipment at Cost	11,248.52		
Office Equipment Accum Dep	<u>-7,507.34</u>		
Total Non Current		<u>3,741.18</u>	
Total Assets			\$506,091.71

Liabilities

Current			
Long Service Leave	6,763.00		
Annual Leave	10,899.00		
GST Liabilities			
GST Collected	105,072.34		
GST Paid	<u>-83,366.47</u>	<u>21,705.87</u>	
Total Current			39,367.87
Payroll Liabilities			
Superannuation Payable	6,356.43		
PAYG	<u>14,391.38</u>		
Total Payroll Liabilities		<u>20,747.81</u>	
Total Liabilities			<u>\$60,115.68</u>

Net Assets \$445,976.03

Equity

Retained Earnings		393,562.25	
Current Earnings		<u>52,413.78</u>	
Total Equity			<u>\$445,976.03</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 2006. 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 2006 and the Profit and Loss Statement for the period then ended.

Christopher Falkingham FCA & FCPA
August 2006