



Newsletter

July 2009

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OVERVIEW COMMENT

As we write this newsletter, there are several key issues confronting CFA and VFBV on behalf of CFA volunteers. Whilst these issues might not initially appear to impact on you as an individual volunteer or your local Brigade, they will shape the future of CFA and therefore the future of CFA's volunteer and integrated resource model.

One such issue, the Royal Commission, has been a catalyst for much discussion about what CFA has done and what should or could be done into the future. Another involves an industrial relations Board of Reference/Dispute Panel process that seeks to determine how, what, when and where the CFA Chief Officer will provide resources to support volunteer Brigades. And of course there the ongoing issues relating to training, equipment and Brigade support etc.

As decisions are made in response to these issues, whether it is policy decision flowing from the Royal Commission; decisions about what, how and when to provide paid staff resource support to volunteer Brigades; design/delivery of training programs; provision of firefighting equipment; or attention to the resource and support needs of Brigades across all of Victoria - VFBV's driving philosophy and focus is to ensure that decisions are underpinned by a priority focus on maintaining and strengthening an even more effective volunteer based CFA.

Investment in volunteer recruitment, training, equipment and support for volunteers to enable us to effectively carry out our work and to build an even more effective volunteer based CFA for the future must be the central organisational and resource (funding) priority for CFA.

This is the central point VFBV continually makes to the CFA Board, CFA management, and to the Victorian Government. It is the central point of our position regarding the CFA's planning for the provision of support to CFA Brigades and therefore the conduct and potential outcome of the Industrial Relations Dispute Panel on Career Staffing at CFA Brigades.

This doesn't just mean equipping and deploying volunteers as 'boots on the ground' but also means developing and engaging volunteers at all levels of CFA; engaging volunteers at all levels of leadership and incident management; and meaningfully involving volunteers in all decisions about matters affecting the future of CFA. Amongst CFA's 60,000 volunteers, there is incredible experience and professional knowledge and to be successful CFA must ensure that this volunteer leadership and knowledge base is engaged and listened to. We need to help CFA get better at this.

VFBV is working at many levels to ensure these messages are understood and used as the foundation for decision making and CFA effort. Over the next year or so, it is likely that CFA will need to consider changes to the way some things are done and/or adapt to implement lessons learned. Please ensure your Brigade engages with VFBV via Regional Council discussions and by tuning into issues being addressed at State level.

Whether you have constructive suggestions about how to resolve an issue impacting on the welfare and efficiency of CFA volunteers or whether you have a concern about how a certain decision is adversely impacting on the viability of your Brigade – your input is important and your active participation in VFBV processes will strengthen our ability to influence outcomes that are in the best interests of a vibrant volunteer based CFA into the future.

BUSHFIRES ROYAL COMMISSION

The Commission has now adjourned until the 17th August at which time they will hand down their Interim Report to the Government. This Report is expected to include recommendations on a number of issues canvassed in evidence during the recent sittings, and which it is considered desirable to implement prior to the next fire season. VFBV's Submission has touched on many of these issues and has provided further expert opinion upon which the Commission can build its interim recommendations for the benefit of the whole community.

VFBV's Submission to the Interim Report is available on our web site and you are encouraged to discuss it within your Brigade. VFBV also invites comment on the matters raised and other issues that will assist our on-going involvement on behalf of all CFA volunteers in the future conduct of the Royal Commission.

Volunteers will be aware that the Government has already announced significant funding to ensure that a number of the lessons learned from the February 2009 fires can be addressed in time for this fire season. VFBV acknowledges the need for change to some of our programs and procedures to ensure that our communities better appreciate the steps that need to be taken to prepare their houses and buildings, and have a clearer understanding of the risks associated with staying and defending their properties during a bushfire.

If the lessons from 7th February are to result in reduced loss of life and better prepared and more resilient communities, then we should expect that volunteers will play a key role in improved education and support for what are in effect "our communities". VFBV has raised these matters with the CFA in the context that any endeavour to expedite additional community education and advisory programs prior to this fire season, that are primarily based on using paid resources and do not involve a comprehensive partnership with volunteers, will not benefit the community in the long run.

The process of changing community perceptions, attitudes and behaviour is a long one and will only gain on-going acceptance and long term results if the process is supported by the involvement of local CFA volunteers.

The CFA has acknowledged the need for volunteers to remain an integral part of any new approach and accompany the whole journey of change and has indicated a desire to ensure volunteers are consulted about and engaged in any new initiatives and programs. VFBV sees this as an opportunity to further promote the Broader Brigade Membership concept and utilise those members of Brigades who may not want to be active fire fighters, but who wish to continue their contribution to the community in a positive and meaningful way.

VFBV will continue to consult with CFA to ensure that any new programs and activities are designed in consultation with volunteers and that the delivery of new programs to our communities is structured to include volunteers as part of the education team within their communities, where they are able and willing to undertake this work. The Commission will resume sitting on the 24th August at which time it is believed that the initial focus will be on buildings, including the fire resistance of housing and other buildings and materials used in construction.

BLACK SATURDAY RECOVERY FUNDS BEING DISTRIBUTED

We are now confident we have captured the details of the vast majority of volunteers who suffered significant financial loss from the February fires. VFBV is most grateful to the many donors who contributed to our fund and to CFA Regional staff who have helped identify volunteers who could be assisted by our fund. It has been a difficult logistical exercise with 10 CFA Regions being involved.

There are nearly 300 volunteers and their families who have suffered from the fires in many different ways and we are pleased that we are in a position to assist the majority of them in some small way.

VFBV Board has accepted recommendations from the fund's Trustees and are now in the process of disbursing \$800,000 to affected volunteers which represents the bulk of the money raised for our VFBV Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery Fund. A small amount has been reserved to provide for volunteers whose circumstances we are not yet aware of.

Cheques are being drawn and distribution commenced in early July to the last known address of the volunteers concerned. VFBV has been pleased to undertake this project to assist volunteers and has absorbed all costs associated with the establishment and administration of the Fund.

3.4C TANKER – ENGINES RUNNING BACKWARDS - HINO

Some tankers in the CFA fleet have experienced problems with the engines upon stall restart, running backwards. This highly dangerous fault has been investigated by CFA and Hino engineers and the problem has been identified to 235 vehicles within a production period. Vehicle chassis numbers have been identified and an engineering solution found. The rectification program commences immediately, with all affected vehicles to be completed by the start of December 2009. VFBV will continue to monitor progress on this matter to ensure satisfactory resolution of this matter by CFA.

VACANCIES ON VFBV BOARD

The terms of office of Board Members Gary Lyttle (Rural) and Mick Taylor (Urban), are to expire on the 1st October 2009. Both members are eligible for re-appointment, however, any member of a VFBV affiliated Brigade, is eligible to apply to fill the vacancies. An advertisement included in The Fireman carries details of the vacancies. A Role Statement can be obtained from the VFBV office or VFBV website; applications close 28 August 2009.

CFA CONSULTS ON DRIVER TRAINING & ENDORSEMENT STRATEGY

In 2008, CFA Chief Officer and the Director Human Resources commissioned a discussion paper on a Driver Training and Endorsement Strategy for CFA. The aim is to provide CFA with a comprehensive understanding of the issues and proposals associated with the complex issue of driver training and the endorsement of drivers.

As part of the discussion and feedback phase, VFBV has been asked to provide a consolidated response to CFA, we therefore seek comments and written responses. VFBV will collate and provide CFA with comprehensive feedback.

VFBV encourages responses and feedback be directed to our office as indicated by 30 September 2009 to PO Box 453, Mt. Waverley Vic. 3149 or via email to: vfbv@vfbv.com.au

A downloadable copy of the Driving Strategy Discussion paper can be found on the VFBV Website or should brigades request a hard copy will be mailed out. Contact Allan Monti for more details.

CFA CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

VFBV acknowledges the work of outgoing CFA Chief Executive Officer Neil Bibby AFSM who leaves CFA following 10 years with the Authority, and CEO since 2002.

VFBV also welcomes the announcement of a new CEO, Mr Mick Bourke formerly Chairman and CEO of the Environment Protection Authority. Mick is expected to take up his post with CFA in September. VFBV is keen to work with Mick to lead and shape a CFA culture and focus that will maintain and strengthen an even stronger volunteer based CFA for the future.

PPC ROLLOUT –UPDATE

Many concerns have been raised with VFBV regarding the roll out of Structural PPC. CFA have recently produced an update flyer with a briefing of the project status for the Structural PPC rollout. This flyer is available for viewing or downloading from the VFBV website.

BOARD of REFERENCE / DISPUTES PANEL on Career Staffing at CFA Brigades Update (July 2009)

VFBV continues to actively pursue this matter with CFA and the Victorian Government. There have been a number of meetings with CFA leadership to discuss our key points:

- CFA is a Volunteer based organisation and the application of the 'continuum' policy for volunteer support with the allocation of paid staff only determined by the effectiveness of local volunteer capacity enhancement under the 'continuum' policy and only after other efforts to build community and volunteer capability had been exhausted
- The statutory duty and obligations of the Chief Officer and the Authority to determine staffing matters rather than such determination to be by an industrial relations body.
- The actual application of support measures for volunteers under the 'continuum' of support policy at the Brigades under review.
- How CFA would vary any implementation of proposals by the Board of Reference / Disputes Panel in the case of changed (improved) circumstances at the subject Brigades. For example, if Brigade support by CFA was successful in achieving appropriate service capacity at one or more of those Brigades, would the proposed deployment of paid staff be cancelled. Or, if Brigade capacity developed to a level that only day manning by paid staff was actually required, would any proposals by the Board of Reference/Disputes Panel for 24 hour paid staffing be amended.

To date we have had no detailed response to the issues but further talks are being scheduled.

CFA has continued to advise that there is no funding for the Board of Reference / Disputes Panel career staffing proposals. The UFU have taken exception to this and sought the assistance of Mr Merriman as Chair of the Board of Reference / Disputes Panel. Mr Merriman has recommended that the CFA and UFU work together to prepare a funding submission to the State Government. How this may work is still unknown at the time of writing and no formal advice has been received from CFA.

VFBV is resolute in maintaining that funding priorities must be determined according to genuine community safety priorities, importantly those which focus on building volunteer/community capacity as canvassed in the Bushfire Royal Commission and the implementation of 'continuum' volunteer support initiatives.

STATE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CAMPAIGN

The Victorian Government has announced funding for a major campaign aimed at increasing public awareness and acknowledgement of the importance and value contributed by CFA and other emergency service volunteers to Victoria. VFBV has been pushing for this initiative for several years and will now form part of a small steering team working with the Department of Justice to drive this initiative and to ensure that key messages reflect our views and needs.

VFBV will also be implementing support campaigns, working at regional level across Victoria to leverage from the State level campaign and to pursue local opportunities that raise the profile of volunteer issues and achieve an ongoing recognition of the value of CFA volunteers and volunteerism. A project officer is being appointed to help drive this initiative, refer advertisement below.

VFBV SEEKS TO APPOINT PROJECT OFFICER

VFBV PROJECT OFFICER OPPORTUNITY

12 month appointment commencing immediately

Help VFBV achieve greater recognition of the value of CFA volunteers.

Are you interested in assisting VFBV to develop a greater recognition of the value of CFA volunteers throughout Victoria and a better understanding of the value of the volunteer experience?

VFBV is seeking to appoint a suitably skilled project officer, skilled in public relations or media relations; with an understanding of the contribution CFA volunteers provide to the community of Victoria; and an ability to create opportunities that develop a greater awareness and recognition of the value of CFA volunteers and volunteerism in general. You will work with VFBV at a regional level across Victoria, developing relationships with media and other partners who can assist in promoting a greater recognition of CFA volunteers.

The position will be based at VFBV office in Burwood, however there is opportunity for flexible working arrangements to suit the right candidate. Remuneration is negotiable to attract the right person.

Further details available on the website www.vfbv.com.au

Interested and skilled applicants should contact Andrew Ford, VFBV CEO via email a.ford@vfbv.com.au or by phone 03 98861141. Applications will close 28 July 2009



VFBV
VOLUNTEER FIRE
BRIGADES VICTORIA

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDALS

Congratulations are extended to the recipients of the Australian Fire Service Medal awarded in June's Queens Birthday Honours. This is the highest award available in our fire service and is well deserved recognition of outstanding contributions by these members.

Our congratulations to:

- Group Officer David Gibbs AFSM (Somers)
- Ex Captain Bruce Pickett AFSM (Geelong West)
- Group Officer Jim Read AFSM (Scoresby)

2009 OPEN FORUM

The VFBV Open Forum held Saturday 20th June, was well attended with over 140 volunteers representing approximately 90 brigades.

CFA Chairman Kerry Murphy PSM AFSM was invited to address the meeting and his attendance provided a great opportunity for a wide range of questions to be directed to the Chairman from members, which was greatly appreciated by all.

DCO Greg Esnouf AFSM was invited to give an update to those present in regard to the Teague Royal Commission, and Liza Sturzenegger, CFA Director Community Safety also attended and gave a brief update on current Community Safety issues.

As well as these presentations, numerous issues were raised by the Brigades which the Association will be following up with the CFA, including:

- lack of structural instructors;
- Workplace Assessors not meeting endorsement criteria;
- concerns about industrial agreement impacts on CFA decision making and volunteer support issues
- re-commencement of the measuring up process for the new Structural turnout gear;
- PPC funding issues;
- faults/failures being experienced with 3.4C Tankers;
- DSE ban of Nissans on the fireground; and appropriate tyres on ultra light vehicles.

DROUGHT RELIEF FUND SUPPORTS NW INITIATIVE

The VFBV Committee which looks after the Drought Relief Fund has approved a grant in excess of \$22,000 to the CFA North West Area to enable it undertake a program of bus trips to major provincial cities.

In its proposal, the NW Area team intends to run a bus trip from three drought stricken rural areas in the north west to either Mildura, Swan Hill or Bendigo/Echuca. The funding will mean that the female partners of volunteers and female volunteers invited to participate, will have a day out without incurring any cost as the bus hire, morning tea and lunch are covered. There will also be lucky prizes and small gift packs provided.

VFBV is most grateful for the support of the Brigades and Groups who have provided donations to the Drought Relief Fund.

CFA BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Minister for Police and Emergency Services announced the appointment of two members to the CFA Board being the re-appointment of David Gibbs for a further 3 year term as a representative of Rural brigades, and of the appointment of Tunde Meikle – Region 15 for a 3 year term, replacing Peter Marke as a representative of Urban brigades.

Peter Marke, who did not seek re-appointment when his term expired in April 2009, had represented Urban Brigades on the CFA Board since May 2004.

IMPENDING VACANCY – CFA BOARD

The term of Michael Tudball as a volunteer representative of Urban brigades on the CFA Board is due to expire on 30th December 2009. Michael is eligible for re-appointment, however, any registered CFA volunteer wishing to represent Urban Brigades should consider applying. A Role Statement can be obtained from the VFBV office or VFBV website, with applications due by 30th October 2009.

2009 AUXILIARY CONFERENCE, FISKVILLE

The 2009 Auxiliary Conference will be held at the CFA Training College, Fiskville on Saturday 15th August, from 10.00am to 5.00pm. Invitations to the Conference and Dinner were forwarded to all Auxiliaries last month.

Auxiliaries are requested to advise of their attendance for catering purposes. For further details contact VFBV office or email j.laing@vfbv.com.au.

VFBV STATE COUNCIL MEETING – 21st June

State Council received reports from the VFBV President and CEO, and Acting DCO Peter Baker made a presentation in regard to proposed changes to the Brigade Section 29 inspection process.

Emergency Services Commissioner Bruce Esplin was invited to the meeting and addressed the members covering a wide range of topics including:

- the Bushfire Royal Commission
- the role of technology and leadership
- support and encouragement for all CFA members
- message of strong support from Government
- the profile and voice of volunteers in public
- the pivotal role of community education and preparation
- encouragement for members to stay and contribute during this review and possible changes.

Commissioner Esplin encouraged questions and provided some excellent responses.

The President welcomed newly elected member Sean Brittan, Werribee Brigade, as an Observer to the State Council meeting; Sean will replace Ian Thomson as a Region 14 State Councillor when Ian retires in August. The President announced that this would also be the final meeting attended by three other State Councillors due to retirement: Bob Horner, Peter Downes and Kevin Murley.

On behalf of all VFBV members, the President conveyed the Association's appreciation to all four members for their past service and contribution as former VRFBA and VUFBA members, and more recently, as VFBV State Councillors.

ISSUES RAISED AT STATE COUNCIL

Issues raised at State Council by Regional Councils and Brigades, which are to be raised with the CFA, or directly referred to Joint CFA/Association Committees include:

- issuing flash hoods to all CFA personnel who could undertake internal structural attack with BA, irrespective of the issue of the new structural ensemble;
- lack of a suitable spare pumper in Region 14 that meets the operational requirements of the Melton Brigade;
- the Landrover Discoveries to be traded in and replaced by ultra light vehicles in Region 4, remain in the Region for use as forward command vehicles;
- previous recommendation that CFA brigades be given the power to undertake Roadside Burning, also include “reserves and other Council controlled land”;
- installing an extension speaker for radios in the ROPS;
- a current trial being undertaken to streamline the Police record check process and automate registration if successful, be introduced in all Regions;
- development of a standard computer based maintenance and mapping program for fire hydrants;
- positioning of the new Long Service Award;
- the location of the 2010 Memorial Service and the development of a long term plan;
- issues associated with 3.4C Tankers and brigades be advised of the risks;
- the supply of tow chains to Command Vehicles, and the ability to undertake the recovery of a vehicle etc., if competent to safely do so;
- helmet lights be provided on OH&S grounds.

2009/10 VFBV AFFILIATION FEES

VFBV State Council has ratified a Board recommendation for the 2009/10 Affiliation Fees for Brigades. In line with a focus to keep fees as low as possible for Brigades, the fee structure for the coming year will remain the same as last year.

Abolished this year is the Regional Contribution Fee previously struck to assist Regional Councils with meeting operating expenses. VFBV will allocate grants to each Regional Council to offset the discontinued Brigade contribution fee.

2009/10 Affiliation and Welfare Fund Notices will be forwarded to Brigades during July.

VOLUNTEERS SPONSORED TO ATTEND LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Ten (10) volunteers will attend the **2009 Police and Emergency Services Summit** held in Melbourne during July as a result of sponsorship made possible by the establishment of the **VFBV Volunteer Promotion and Development Fund**.

Each volunteer selected expressed a desire to further their leadership knowledge and each has committed to share their learning's with the wider volunteer membership contributing to future planned VFBV leadership and volunteer development programs.

The VFBV Volunteer Promotion and Development Fund has been established as a result of generous financial support for volunteers from the Victorian Racing Club and from HH Sheik Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

REGIONAL FUTURE FOCUS WORKSHOPS & COMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

The Region Council Planning Workshops Project is well underway, with 11 Regions having held meetings amongst their Regional Council Executive, and the VFBV Project team to plan, shape and prepare for their upcoming Future Focus workshops. The involvement and enthusiasm of all Regional Councils involved to date has been extraordinary and overwhelmingly positive.

The aim of the Future Focus workshops is to assist the Regional Council engage with Brigades, Groups and Regional and Area Management Teams within their Region, to assist the Council build upon its strengths, and to help plan and promote each Regional Council's goals for the future. The project is about strengthening our Regional Councils and ensuring they continue to be the peak forum for Brigades to effectively and efficiently raise and resolve matters affecting volunteers, and the capacity of volunteerism into the future.

The project team is hoping to have met with all remaining Regional Council Executives' over the next 4 to 6 weeks, with Future Focus workshops then being planned and booked over the upcoming months.

WELFARE FUND FEES SET FOR 2009/10

Following the first partial year of operations (Fund established November 2008), the VFBV Welfare Fund enjoys comprehensive support from member Brigades with just over 800 Brigades as contributing members.

VFBV State Council has ratified the Brigade Contribution fees for 2009/10 will be decreased to **\$85 per Brigade**, this decrease in line with the principles of keeping fees as low as possible for all Brigades.

VOLUNTEERS VISIT DARLEY STUD

On Friday 22nd May Darley Stud, owned by Sheik Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum entertained the North East Area Management Team and VFBV representatives to an open day on one of their Australian properties Northwood Park near Seymour.

The day began with Area General Manager Alan Davies and VFBV CEO Andrew Ford facilitating a largely informal meeting to allow both staff and volunteers to stock take how the area was recovering from the Black Saturday fires. A tour of the state of the art breeding barn and the stallion facilities was most informative to the gathering.

General Manager of Darley in Australia, Henry Plumtre generously offered the use of the facility to CFA and VFBV for activities in the future. Sheik Mohammed through Darley Stud, contributed \$1M to VFBV after the season's fires for use in volunteer development, and provided another \$1.5M for use in rebuilding community infrastructure in the North East area after the fires.

CFA MEMORIAL SERVICE

VFBV representatives joined with more than 300 fire service, community representatives and family members in attending the 2009 CFA Firefighter Memorial Service held at Fiskville on Sunday 3rd May.

Marking the significance of this year's Memorial was the large contingent of Political Leaders, Emergency service leaders, community and family members to take part in this remembrance service, so soon following the tragic events of the 2009 Bushfires.

The Victorian Premier Hon. John Brumby MP spoke to those gathered of the sacrifice and commitment emergency service personnel give every day, and implored all CFA members who may be at this time reflecting on their involvement in the future, to stay on and continue the fight - 'your State and our communities need you' was a resounding and clear message to all present.

Bishop Michael Hough unveiled plaques on the Wall of Honour for Joseph Sheppard from Arthurs Creek, who lost his life as a result of the 2009 bushfires, and a special plaque remembering 10 Tarrawingee Brigade members lost in fires in 1943 prior to the formation of CFA.

Also remembered was David Balfour from the ACT Fire Service, who was tragically killed while on support force duties assisting his Victorian colleagues in the recent fires.

VFBV ON THE MOVE

On 17th July VFBV will be moving to new office accommodation at Suite 9 / 24 Lakeside Drive, Burwood East so that offices previously operated by VUFBA, VRFBA and VFBV can be consolidated. CFA does not have the space at their CFA HQ to accommodate VFBV as a consolidated unit.

The new offices are in close proximity to CFA Headquarters and will still allow us to meet with CFA personnel quite speedily when the need arises. Bob MacDonald, Allan Monti and Jenni Laing will relocate to the new offices from 17th July.

Please note all calls to VFBV should be directed to: **03 9886 1141** and correspondence to VFBV to: **PO Box 453, Mt Waverley 3149** from the 17th July.

VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES COMMEMORATIVE BADGE

The badge (pictured below) is being offered by the State Government as part of its program to acknowledge and thank those who combated the 2009 bushfires. The badge is available through CFA Public Affairs and orders are to be coordinated through your brigade.

If you or members in your brigade would like one of these badges please contact Corlie Powell at C.Powell@cfa.vic.gov.au. Please include the number of badges you wish to receive, along with your Brigade mailing address and the name of the person who is receiving the items.



VFBV CHAMPIONSHIP ITEMS

VFBV URBAN ENTRY FORMS & RULE CHANGES

Entry forms and Nomination of Officials forms for the 2010 State Urban Championships, have been forwarded to all competing Urban Brigades. These forms are also available from the VFBV office or website.

Urban Competition Rule changes have been approved as follows:

- to not allow borrowing for 4 competitor or less events;

- allow borrowing one competitor for Pumper & Ladder event, but not as Pump Operator or Ladder competitor;
- the Pump Operator be identified by wearing a tabbard/vest for both Pumper events;
- the pumper event be amended to reflect the sequence of operation.

Rules 7(b), 70 and 71 have been amended accordingly, and separate advice of these and other competition items have been forwarded to all Urban competing Brigades; Rule amendments are also highlighted on the website.

2009 Urban Judges School & Coaches Meeting

VFBV will be conducting an Urban Judges & Officials School on Saturday 3rd October, and a meeting of Urban Coaches on Sunday 4th October, both to be held at Fiskville. Closing date for Nomination forms is Friday 14th August 2009, and can be downloaded from:

http://www.vfbv.com.au/ch_judges.php

Brigades are requested to encourage new judges and officials who have not attended an Urban Judges School to nominate.

All Urban Coaches are encouraged to attend the Coaches meeting on Sunday 4th October. For further details contact VFBV office or email j.laing@vfbv.com.au.

VFBV URBAN CHAMPIONSHIPS ELEVATION AND RELEGATION

Following the 2009 VFBV State Urban Championship, the Association has approved the following elevation and relegation of Brigades for the 2010 State Urban Championship:

Elevated from C Section to B Section:
Kerang, Werribee, Seymour.

Elevated from B Section to A Section:
Trafalgar/Moe, Maffra, Euroa A.

Relegated from A Section to B Section:
Morwell, Sale.

Relegated from B Section to C Section:
Sorrento, Pakenham.

Whilst the above is in accordance with the accepted urban system of elevation and relegation, the Association will review the grading of any team when requested.

AUSTRALASIAN FIREFIGHTER CHAMPIONSHIPS ROTORUA NEW ZEALAND OCTOBER 2009

Six Victorian teams have entered the 2009 Championship to be held in Rotorua between the 16-18th October. CFA volunteers and officials will make the journey with competition teams from [Swan Hill](#), [Echuca](#), [Dandenong](#), [Lakes Entrance](#), [Ocean Grove](#) and [Melton](#)

A training camp is planned to be held at Lakes Entrance (the host venue of the 2007 Australasian Championship) in September, where competing Brigades will have an opportunity to shake off the cobwebs and familiarise themselves with events and rules that will apply in Rotorua.

You can view the full program and gather a great deal of information from the 2009 Australasian Firefighter Championship website at: <http://www.ufba.org.nz/events/challenges/australasian.firefighterchallenge.php>