



**VOLUNTEER  
FIRE BRIGADES  
VICTORIA  
REGION 13 COUNCIL**  
[www.vfbv.com.au/region/13](http://www.vfbv.com.au/region/13)

<b>President:</b>	Geoff Peacock	<b>Secretary:</b>	June Cabena
	Tel: 9737 9476		16, Owen Street
	Mob: 0427 514 753		KALLISTA, 3971
	Email: geoffpeacock@bigpond.com		Tel: 9755 2187

<b>State Council Delegates:</b>	Allan Roberts
	Paul Denham

Minutes of meeting held on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup>. February, 2010 at Lilydale  
Fire Station

**PRESENT:**

Badger Creek	Bayswater	Belgrave
Belgrave Hts. & Sth.	Boronia	Clematis
Coldstream	Eltham	Ferntree Gully
Healesville	Hurstbridge	Kallista
Kalorama	Kinglake	Lilydale
Macclesfield	Monbulk	Montrose
Mooroolbark	Mt. Evelyn	Olinda
Research	Rowville	Sassafras
Scoresby	Selby	Seville
Silvan	South Warrandyte	The Basin
Upper Ferntree Gully	Upwey	Warrandyte
Wattle Glen	Yellingbo	
Dandy Ranges	Maroondah Group	

<b>Visitors:</b>	Lex de Man	General Manager
	Gary Weir	Ac. Operations Manager
	Peter Beaton	VFBV Media Officer
	Adam Barnett	VFBV

<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Jason Caine	Kinglake West
	John Grover	Kinglake West
	Eric Donald	Monbulk
	Sandra Dunn	Research
	Leone Turner	Hoddles Creek
	Helen Brain	Hoddles Creek
	Brian Sandlant	Eltham
	Tom Caldwell	Healesville
	Christine Thomas	Olinda
	Ian Warburton	Belgrave
	John McLeod	Boronia
	George Wright	Kangaroo Ground
	Zenon Gawronski	Hillcrest

The meeting was chaired by Bill Watson who welcomed visitors and delegates.

A minutes silence was held for Tolmie member Hugh Monroe who died going to a fire call following a truck roll-over.

**Motion:** Minutes of previous meeting, held at Lilydale Fire Station on Sunday, 18th. October, 2009, be accepted

1. Macclesfield 2. Kallista Carried

**Correction to Minutes:** Incorrect reporting of Training and Community Safety report.

**Business arising from previous minutes:**

1. Volunteer Travel Allowance Rates
  - Response: raised with CFA some time ago.
  - Issues to be re-raised and discussed with new CFA CEO, with a report back to the State Council meeting.
2. Scott Aspin Helmets
  - To be sorted out between Gary Weir and Paul Denham

**Motion:** Business arising from previous meeting be accepted

1. Belgrave 2. Mooroolbark Carried

**VFBV representatives**

1. **Peter Beaton VFBV Media presentation**
  - Peter discussed how to help your brigade increase the number of good news stories presented in your local media.
  - Need to educate city people to understand volunteers
  - VFBV are getting through to CFA hierarchy
  - Politicians spend money on events that impinge on them.
  - Need to get to people who make decisions so that they understand **our** message and not rely on their idea of ‘experts’
  - Bob Horner stated that the Royal Commission tends to go for the ‘man and not the game’
  - VFBV needs to pick up a problem prior to a problem arising  
Contact Peter if you wish to use the kit prior to August

Report and contact details included.

**2. Adam Barnett VFBV**

- Working on volunteer “Future Focus Project”, for brigade reps which is funded by Dept. of Justice.
- VFBV directs information up to CFA Board and down to volunteers
- VFBV need to keep CFA Board aware of the Volunteer Charter
- Consultation goes two ways, which both sides need to remember.
- Volunteers need to ‘vote with their heads and not their feet’.
- Need to improve relationships between vols, staff and METS.
- Region 13 volunteers appear to be abreast of these issues.

**CORROSPONDENCE.**

**IN.**

- Kangaroo Ground . EAS Pagers  
. O2 therapy
- General Manager . CFA Annual report  
Black Saturday information report
- VFBV Volunteer Travel Allowance  
New Knapsacks

**OUT:**

- VFBV Volunteer Travel Allowance  
New Knapsacks
- Tolmie Fire Station Card on loss of 1<sup>st</sup>.Lt. High Monroe

**Business arising from correspondence:**

Nil

Moved correspondence be accepted: 1. Yellingbo 2. Kallista Carried

**REPORTS:**

**a. President - Geoff Peacock**

- Volunteer Input to Royal Commission
- Individual Strike Team Bags
- First meeting with Brigades affected by “Boundary Alignment” changes have been conducted
- Brigade Early Issues Resolution Policy
- Thanks to Mick Ryan for years spent heading training dept.
- Thanks to Region for supplying out of pocket expenses to Volunteers on working bees for Black Saturday Fire Damage.

(Report attached)

**b. Treasurer - June Cabena**  
**IN: Nil**

<b>OUT:</b>	Card to Tolmie F.B.	\$ 4.75
	Lilydale Feeding Group	\$ 960.00
	Morning tea 14/02/10	\$ 38.45

**TOTAL OUT** \$1003.20

Balance on 31<sup>st</sup>. December, 2009.. \$2,797.26 CR

**Business arising from Treasurers report:** Nil  
Treasurer's report be received 1. Kalorama 2. Hurstbridge Carried.

**c. General Manager - Lex de Man**

- Gives support to what previous speakers have stated.
- Need to support VFBV so that change can be managed by us to obtain the best results.
- Jim McKee on three months leave, as he needed a break. His replacement to be announced on Monday.
- PPC. A backlog is in stock. If brigades have a problem, then ring either Lex or Scott.
- A detailed report handed to attendees

**d. Acting Operations Manager Gary Weir**

- Delighted to see the number of people attending and their commitment and passion
- Supports everything that Adam and Peter stated
- Background with: forestry, Region 9 and 14, vehicle design and working with DSE.
- Working on public warning systems
- Seconded to region 13 for five months

**e. State Council Delegates - Paul Denham**

- Auxiliary Long Service Medals
- Life Membership Medals
- Region Spare Pumper
- Brigade Management Manual
- Community Safety Training
- Need a dedicated OH&S Manager at Region
- Wearing of seat belts
- Use a guide whilst reversing
- Kangaroo Ground motion for O2 on tankers is not supported  
(Report attached)

**e. Occupational Health & Safety- John Felstead**

- Supports Paul's call for OH&S Manager at Region
- If brigade requires support need to fill in paperwork

**f. Training and Community Safety - Rodney Beale**

**1. Training**

- Mick Ryan thanked for his work over many years

- Some outstanding issues still need to be addressed
- Public Safety Package
- New chainsaw training provider
- Region will focus on Group training need rather than brigade
- Minimum requirement to do advanced pumps course
- MCV Operators minimum requirement
- Class A foam manual
- Instructors position being finalised.

**2. Community Safety**

- Concern with inspections and approvals
- FRV – 99 meetings to date
- Fire ready kits have been distributed
- Brigade information kits
- Brigade delegate for Community Safety
- Introduction Public Affairs
- Township protection plans discussed  
(Report attached)

**g. Competitions - Jim Dusting**

- Last report as Region13 competition representative as Hurstbridge transfers to Region 14 on 30<sup>th</sup>. June
- Because of transfer has not done anything on the Urban side
- Hurstbridge and Research will compete in the Rural championships at Whittlesea on 27<sup>th</sup>./28<sup>th</sup>. March, 2010

**Motion:** That this council recognise the effort that Jim has given to competitions in this region

Moved: 1. Bob Horner 2. Mark Lane Carried

Paul Denham stated that like fires region knows no boundaries and would like Jim to help mentor another person to run the competitions in this region.

Jim will go with his brigade but willing to help as required.

**i. H.R. & Welfare. - Bill Watson/June Cabena**

- Pre Summer Phone checks
- Up-date on OH&S programme
- Peer programme fencing work & other help projects continue to be well received
- Region will assist with out of pocket expenses, for volunteers working on help projects in support of volunteers in Region. Vice Pres Bill Watson is co-ordinating this financial support.
- Lower Yarra Group heavily impacted by coming boundary changes and state have received none or little communication on this issue.

(Report attached)

**Motion:** That the reports be accepted.

1. Upwey 2. Lilydale Carried

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

1. **The three months leave of absence** is causing some concern for students in the fire service.

**Motion:** Change wording to reflect the need of leave of absence for students.

1. Belgrave
  2. The Basin
- Carried

Any time off in excess of three months goes to region. Gary Weir to ask Catchment Officer to contract brigade concerned.

General Manager to mail out membership requirements

## 2. **Region 13 spare pumper.**

**Motion:** That the Region 13 Council write to VFBV expressing concern about the condition of the Region 13 spare pumper (and similar other Hino pumpers) and request a plan be instigated to replace the existing Region 13 spare pumper with a type 3 medium pumper comparable to current existing fleet.

1. Knox Group
  2. Boronia
- Carried

## 3. **Findings of incident investigations**

No further information

## 4. **DSE and CFA web site.**

Both agencies web sites do not co exist as both agencies operate independently and provide at times conflicting information in relation to Incident Summaries.

**Motion:** Concern about discrepancy in web sites of CFA and DSE.

1. Scoresby
  2. Olinda
- Carried

## 4. **Seat belts in ROPS**

**Motion:** That VFBV region 13 adopts a policy position that all vehicles be fitted (and retro fitted) with lap sash belts in all positions and request VFBV to adopt the same policy and pursue retro fitting of all existing vehicles in all positions

1. The Basin
  2. Yellingbo
- Carried

## 5 **First Aid Training Policy**

**Motion:** That Region 13 VFBV Council write to the General Manager and request an investigation into the provision of first aid training currently provided to region 13 and report back to VFBV Region 13 Council on the adequacy of that training, how it compares to the training provided within other regions and if a discrepancy is identified. A plan needs to be developed to align training in region 13 within the Statewide standard.

1. Scoresby
  2. Rowville
- Carried

## 5. **Oxygen Therapy**

After considerable discussion request did not receive regional support

**Motion:** Table till further discussion

## 6. **EAS Pagers**

**Motion:** A letter to VFBV noting the lack of availability of pagers at State level

1. Lilydale
  2. Bayswater
- Carried.

## **7. T Shirts**

Size of T-shirts is being measured at the same time as structural gear is measured

## **8. Driver Training Endorsement Strategy**

Read before the end of February and comment as needed.

## **9. Intercom on 3.4C tankers**

The intercom does not work. Being a general problem CFA has stated that they have to fix the whole fleet

## **10. Working party on database.**

Anyone Auxiliary or Brigade member interested in receiving training designed for assisting on TFB days at Region HQ, please contact the Operations Manager

## **11. GPS**

It has been noted that in the Kallista area that drivers are following (GPS) navigational devices, receiving advice & being guided incorrectly to disobeying road signs, leading to extremely dangerous practises.

This advice is given as a caution to all drivers of a potential danger.

## **12. Media.**

There have been articles in the papers from the Royal Commission that residences do not have confidence in the CFA or their fire fighting abilities in the Dandenong Ranges. Geoff to contact Peter Beaton

## **13. Issues raised by Coldstream**

- a) Traffic Management. As yet no further outcome
- b) 40Kms at road accidents. No rules at the moment. VFBV to push for legislation.

## **14. Dedicated OH&S Managers**

**Motion:** That VFBV Region 13 adopts a policy position that CFA engage dedicated OH&S Managers for each Area and requests VFBV to pursue CFA to engage dedicated OH&S Managers for each Area.

1. Upwey
2. UFTG
- Carried

## **15 Public Safety and Community Safety activities.**

**Motion:** That VFBV Region 13 request Yarra Area to conduct yearly training sessions for brigade members involved in the management of Public relations and Community Safety activities, and in particular that those members report back to their BMT's

1. Scoresby
2. FTG
- Carried

## **NEXT MEETING**

**Date:** Sunday, 11<sup>TH</sup>.July, 2010  
**Time:** 0900 hours  
**Venue:** Lilydale Fire Station