



Report to Region 13 (Yarra Area) Council for Meeting of 14 February 2010 at Lilydale.

June Cabena, Bill Watson RPC Delegates:

HR & Welfare: Meeting held, 18th Jan 2010 @ RHQ Lilydale

Items of interest:

Staff Changes

Mick Ryan new role Bushfire Recovery Project Manager. Richard Cromb currently filling role of Mgr Training & Development. Liz Thomas new role of Community Safety Project Manager and subsequent fill of Liz role by Kate Murphy. Two vacant BASO roles at Knox and Lower Yarra Groups

Pre Summer Phone Checks

- Discussed the summary report findings and the committee was provided with a draft summary of report findings for brigades who had calls completed.
- Kate Harrap will be meeting with each captain by March 2010 to discuss the individual report findings. A summary of the issues will be presented to each functional manager for planning purposes to respond to issues raised in the welfare phone checks
NOTE: VFBV R13 Executive recommend this be carried forward to other brigades
- Pat Bigham. Overall, volunteers impacted by the Black Saturday fires are financially okay. There will be some issues in the future once homes are constructed as there is a shortfall for many from contents insurance levels to what it will take to replace the contents actually.
- All of the Peers have had a holiday break and are well rested
- Two peers from Region 13 are assisting with the truck rollover incident from Tolmey.

Sam Ryan provided an update on the OH&S program;

Peter Langridge and the Health Team have been working hard behind the scenes. At the recent Ingham Chicken Factory fire, the Health crew attended to monitor the health of those working at the event. Results were good

Peter Langridge & team has prepared a reference sheet for the Incident Controllers to help them factor in health problems arising from hot weather. The sheet provides a scale with humidity measures etc to help make the process easy. The flyer also contained information about the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website and how to access humidity information etc were very useful

Discussions were held about funding to purchase items like chilled trailer (filled with ice and Staminade and water) that can be hooked onto a car and taken to an incident.

Salmon OH&S cards. These cards are used for reporting issues at Level 3 incident. Medical Units that form part of an Incident Management Team can now enter this data in real time and provide up to date information. The personnel qualified to do this in Region 13 are Trudi Pitches and Samantha Ryan

General Business

June Cabena queried whether the Black Saturday Firestorm book has stirred some emotions in contributors to the book. Committee responded that the emotional effects were mostly on readers and not so much the contributors
Peer program fencing work continues to be well received. Bill Watson queried whether Region 13 could contribute to the expenses of some of these programs e.g. replacement drill bits and catering for working bee. Kate Harrap responded that all proposals will be considered and should be referred to Kate or Lex
Boundary realignment is due for 1st July 2010. Neil Marshall raised that the Lower Yarra Group who will be heavily impacted by the changes have received none or little communication on this issue. This is causing a great amount of angst amongst the group. Kate responded that Mick Bourke CEO has tasked the General Managers and the Area Management teams with the program. The General Managers will be meeting on 20.1.2010 to formulate plans which will then be communicated as soon as possible.