



Report to Region 13 (Yarra Area) Joint Council – Rodney Beale VUFBA Delegate, RPC Sub Committees – Community Safety, Training.

12th October, 2008 Meeting @ Lilydale Fire Station.

1. Training Sub Committee

Meeting 14 August 2008.

Items discussed and presented to RPC:

Inoperative Prop at SETG

Proposal: That the prop be either repaired and put back on line or replaced by a prop of similar value to our training programs.

Recommendation: That RPC write to the Chief Officer and Executive Manager Learning and Development requesting that the prop be repaired as a matter of urgency. If it is unable to be repaired we should request that an immediate start be made on the process to select and install an acceptable alternative prop.

Staffing Levels at SETG

Background / Issues: A number of training sessions have been cancelled at the last minute by SETG due to staffing shortages. At other times there have been some restrictions placed on activities able to be conducted during training sessions for the same reason.

The RPC Training Work Group discussed this and made several points:

- ⌚ There are OHS concerns at the intensity of the work the staff at SETG is putting in.
- ⌚ The cancellation of courses is very disruptive to brigade and group training programs.
- ⌚ We need SETG to provide live fire experiences, particularly for new people who will probably never have seen a fire prior to joining CFA.
- ⌚ Due to current water restrictions training grounds are one of the few places we can use water in sufficient quantities to make our exercises worthwhile.

Staff levels need to adequately reflect our needs at the training grounds.

Recommendation: RPC write to Chief Officer and Executive Manager Learning and Development, with a copy to Director Human Resources, expressing our concern at the current state of staffing at the Bangholme campus of the Fire Services College.

Recommendation: That we request that staff ceilings be investigated and altered to meet the needs of users of the training ground.

Items of Interest:

First Aid – Refresher course at Mooroolbark in September (after this meeting) – Excellent presentation and training all were greatly appreciative at the improvement in the course and the knowledge and training skills of the presenter, Jim Fellows, St John Ambulance.

Firefighting Skills - The new Structure Manual, which covers Low Structure, Wildfire Structure and Structure Wildfire has now been released. Region is in the process of ordering copies

Brigade Training Officers - The Basic Officer course will commence in October, and letters inviting nominations will be sent out shortly.

Leadership - A Fireline Leadership course was conducted in July. Unfortunately we did not fill this course, and Mick Ryan has invited two of the participants to give a talk to the RPC on it. Those who attended were full of praise for the course.

Yarra Training Team – Region has reviewed the operations of Training in Yarra, and believes that, whilst things are moving along reasonably well, we can improve the way we do things in some areas. Accordingly we are looking at our processes and procedures to see how we can do it better. Mick Ryan believes it would benefit this committee to review its operations as well. That is not to say that there is anything wrong with what people are doing, but a review is likely to reinforce what we are doing well, and perhaps show us how we can improve some aspects of our operations. There was general agreement.

Training CABA Sets – Issues with condition of these sets when received and also action not taken to fix notified issues. This includes condition of cylinder cases / boxes.

SETG Training – could all groups and brigades let the Region know how many people are undertaking courses so that they can plan for the appropriate PPC issue? It was also requested that the names of people going to SETG be forwarded to Jim McKee or Kerri Dalziel prior to them going so that gloves can be issued locally. It is more expensive to have them issued at SETG.

Assessments – There are still issues with the model answers being incorrect when checking assessments. e.g. Isolated/Remote Structure assessment.

PAD Instructors - Members raised the question of identifying pad instructors with the new structural PPC. The suggestion was that blue helmets be issued. Mick Ryan is to follow up. Following on from the pilot program, the committee felt that a course for new pad instructors and a skills maintenance course for existing pad instructors would be beneficial

Course Organization - After some discussion over the best way to organize courses on a brigade, group and region basis it was suggested that the committee come together with the Region 13 instructors in workshop format to decide which courses should be conducted on:

1. Region basis
2. Group / Catchment basis
3. Brigade or other basis

Next Meeting: 20 November for RPC meeting of 4 December 2008

2. Community Safety Sub Committee

13 August 2008.

Items of Interest:

Community Safety Volunteer Workshop 10 August 2008

I attended this workshop along with other members of the sub-committee.

Outcomes and Updates are available at:

Brigades Online > Community Risk >
Comm Safety Framework

CFA Community Safety is developing the Community Safety Framework 2025 which will set the long-term direction for Community Safety. Volunteer input was requested and the issues covered were:

- What problems need to be addressed to make the community safer in your brigade area?
- How can brigade's best contribute to a safer community in the future?
- What are the most significant barriers to brigade involvement in Community safety?

I can provide you with a copy of the outcomes on request.

Business from the Meeting 13 August.

Information update provided on the R.13 Community Safety/Brigade Planning project.

Brigade Communications Project – a on line tool being developed (Pilot in Knox Group)

Shire of Yarra Ranges – Wildfire Management Overlay amendment update. Amended maps sent to shire.

Community Safety staff resourcing update. Ray Fritz is now permanent. FSO resources were discussed. Funding has been obtained for a FSO split position. Extra BASO funded for 6 months.

Tank fittings from LYG - (issues with the standard – 1 ½" fitting) or 50MM (2") fitting – to be raised in Ops Sub Committee. (AFAC)

BASO – role is it value for money?

Further Strategic Direction – to cover the next 3 years, considering the input from the Community Safety Workshop.

Next Meeting: 12 November 2008

3. Control Line 2008 Seminar 6 September 2008.

I attended this seminar conducted by Bayswater Brigade – This was surely the best \$5 that I have spent in my lifetime.

The presentations were excellent and the topics presented and discussed were first class. Lunch was excellent.

Topics covered were:

- Managing a Terrorist Event
- Strategic Incident Leadership – this showed what happens when leaderships fails (US example)
- Living with Fire Strategy
- Incident Management – The future
- Managing a Mass Casualty Event

I would strongly recommend that you attend next year's event – contact Bayswater brigade for more information the topics will address the "Next Generation"

4. This is last report from the VUFBA delegate.

Thank you to all who have helped in the past, and provided reports that I have extracted information for this report, now with the re-organization of the Volunteer Associations to VFBV, we look forward to better things in the future.

Rodney Beale

Vice President,

VUFBA

R.13 Combined Council

12 October 2008