

**Victorian Rural Fire Brigades Association
Region 13 Council**

Report from Association Annual Meeting., 14th August, 2008.

A significant meeting of this Association was held on the above date. Resulting from a motion moved that " This Association combine with the Victorian Urban Fire Brigades Association to represent volunteer fire fighters under the banner of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria "

The motion was put, with 104 in favour and two against. Thus the final Annual Meeting took place after some 60 years of operation. During that time, much work was undertaken by various members to improve many facets of fire fighting and welfare for volunteers.

In opening this meeting, Board Member Mr. Michael Tudball commented on a number of items including:

- Climate change,
- Extremities of rainfall
- Sustainability of volunteerism
- Population changes
- Dry fire fighting.
- The CFA Holistic Survey.

Office Bearers

All senior positions within the Association have been re-appointed pending the formation of VFBV.

Items covered by other speakers included :

The need for CFA to demonstrate support for volunteers, and ongoing support of brigades.

A successful Youth Forum for members between the age of 18 and 24 had been recently held. Over one hundred members attended, and useful information for the future of the organisation was recorded..

CFA Board had established a better working relationship with the board of VFBV.

CFA going ahead with a workforce planning program for future operations

C I S Program applauded for the ongoing commitment by their members to supporting our personnel.

A review of Learning and Development Dept. to be undertaken. It was noted that a better balance of practical vs theory training needs to be attained.

Motor vehicle accidents are often treated as crime scenes, and the scene should be protected as such until told otherwise

3000 new map books for central regions will be issued next month. Concern expressed that book size is becoming too big for easy storage in utilities.

Discussion given to Community Safety, prevention is better than cure, look outside the square.

CFA to be asked to pursue the need for more fire prevention work to be undertaken in Alpine villages. Present situations are not acceptable.

CSESP. Concern over the ability of some Brigades to be able to afford replacement cost in twenty years time ..No guarantees of continuance of this program. Is dependant on ongoing Government support.

Memorial Service for fire fighters lost in duty to be held at Fiskville next year. Need for Memorial Wall to be upgraded before hand.

Catering. This Contract will be in two parts . Main part will be for major / Campaign fire. Local part will done through a Regional Co-ordinator.

A Catering manual is being prepared for the field.

In an Emergency situation, you do not have to have a certified food handler on site, you work alongside the Act, not under it. If a certified person is on hand, so much the better.

DSE. The fitting of 64mm outlets to DSE tankers is considered a necessity. This motion to go to CFA.

Proto Type small Tanker. A proto type tanker, (similar in size to the old Austin / Inter 1410) is to be produced for evaluation purposes. This size of tanker is in demand by many brigades that currently have difficulty with the size of our 2.4C & 3.4C vehicles. It is hoped to have this vehicle built by December / January.

Please feel free to contact if more information needed

Bob Horner.

Region 13

State Council Delegate.