



112 Years of Representing Volunteer Firefighters

NEWSLETTER First Edition 2010

Welcome to 2010!

It is important that members keep the Association informed, through their Zone Executive Representatives, of all matters, positive and negative, affecting you! FESA matters are to be directed through your Manager.

York VFRS Celebrates 100 years

Congratulations to York VFRS Brigade who are celebrating their Centenary at a dinner and Open Day on Saturday, 27th March.

Busselton VFRS Celebrates 100 years

In a big year for Volunteer Brigades, Busselton will also celebrate its Centenary in July 2010. As part of their Centenary, they recently held the 2010 State Open Championships – full details of the event are further in this Newsletter.

Other Centenary Celebrations

Albany will turn 100 in November 2010; Meekatharra and Toodyay also turn 100 this year.

Passing of Members

The Newman Volunteer firefighting community recently celebrated the life of Bruce Bonner, following his passing at the end of January 2010, after a long illness. Bruce was a longstanding member of the Newman VFRS, a previous Captain, Life Member of the Brigade and the North West Zone. He was instrumental in the formation of the Zone. His contribution, both to the Brigade and to the Association (especially in his role as a VVEAC Representative) will be sorely missed. The Bonner Family was kind enough to request mourners donate funds to the Association Welfare Fund instead of flowers. This gesture raised a significant sum. The Association would like to thank the Bonner Family and offer our condolences.

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Moora VFRS is also mourning the passing of a long standing member, Brian “Trippy” Tripp. He joined the Brigade in 1965 and was a life member. He held the position of Foreman for a total of 19 years and was Brigade treasurer for a number of years. He was usually the first one on Station if a call was received and will be sorely missed by all. He was also recognised for his outstanding 43 years of unbroken and decorated service to the Moora St John Ambulance sub-branch. Just before his passing, he was honoured with an international award for his strong and everlasting commitment to St John Ambulance of Australia. Our condolences to the Tripp family, and to the Moora community, on their loss.

Stress Prevention and Management (SPAM)

This Association is continuing to lobby FESA for the provision of SPAM training, on your behalf.

Hazmat Structural Rescue (HSR) Appliances

The Association has been advised by FESA of remedial action being undertaken to reduce the weight of the HSR. They will be re-licensed to have a GVM of 10.4 tonnes and will be certified to this weight by a qualified engineer.

Currently, there are 27 appliances of this type in the system, and a working party to evaluate cab/chassis requirements for future appliances (including, but not restricted to, HSR, Urban Tanker, Rural Tanker and Broad-acre) is being formed.

There has been some reductions in the weight to resolve the GVM problem for the HSR Type 1 appliances.

Recoups

The Association and FESA Operations have agreed, in principle, to payments being made as a bulk, lump sum amount in July of each year. These payments will be linked to the Brigade Training Profiles. The payments included in this initiative are:

- Emergency Support;
- Telephone Recoups; and
- Drivers License Recoups

As part of this review, the amount of hydrants that a Brigade is expected to service will also be linked to Brigade Training Profiles. For example, the average number of hydrants currently serviced by a career fire station is approximately 300 for each shift.

2010 State Open Championships

The 2010 State Open Championships were held at Busselton VFRS Brigade on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th February 2010. In a close fought competition that came down to the final event, South Kalgoorlie and Harvey 1 tied for the Aggregate Winners; whilst Northam won the Handicap Competition. Champion Firefighter was Cory Goodhill from Coolgardie, who won the competition with 6 points, closely followed by Marc Papalia from Busselton and Jezza Naude from Kambalda, both on 5 points.



Cory Goodhill from Coolgardie, receiving his Champion Firefighter trophy from 2009 Champion, Marc Papalia.



Northam



South Kalgoorlie



Harvey 1



2010 Composite 8 Team

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Dress Uniform Review

As a result of a few problems being encountered by Stewart & Heaton in the provision of the trial uniforms, the review has been extended to the end of March 2010.

VFRS Annual Conference – 2011

Discussions continue with FESA with regards to this initiative. Further information will be provided as it comes to hand. Any Brigade member who has ideas for this Conference, please contact your Zone Executive representatives or the Association office.

Personal Protective Clothing (PPC)

The question of which active members are to be issued with PPC is a decision to be made between the FESA Manager and the Brigade Captain. FESA Chief Operations Officer Craig Hynes has advised the Association that there are no restrictions on the provision of this clothing.

Pinjarra VFRS Competition Equipment

The Pinjarra VFRS Brigade thanked all Brigades for the interest in their competition equipment. All their equipment have found new homes.

New VFRS Epaulettes

Brigades are advised that the new VFRS Epaulettes are now available to order. To order these epaulettes, please complete a Stewart & Heaton Clothing Order form and forward through your Manager.

Service Medals

The inaugural issue of the new Service Medals, as agreed between the Association and FESA, will be presented to current serving members who have received (or are due to receive) 40, 45 and 50 year medals. These will be presented at the 2010 Annual State Volunteer Easter Championships by FESA CEO Jo Harrison-Ward.

The new style Service Medals will be available from FESA Volunteer & Youth Services branch, as required.

FESA Volunteer Employer Recognition Program

Brigades are advised, as per FESA General Circular 15/2010, nominations for these Awards are now open and need to be received by the FESA Reward and Recognition Co-Ordinator by Monday 31st May 2010. Nomination forms are available online at the FESA Website. **We encourage your members to nominate any of your deserving employers.**

2010 Annual State Volunteer Easter Championships

Pumping Competition

The Pumping Competition is only open to “C” Class Brigades, so that the current format can be reviewed. The following amendments will also apply:

- Use of 40mm flaked hose – which is to be stored in a hose tray on the appliance
- will now be a non-prescriptive event
- No “water on” and “water off” signals/calls

“C” Class Competition

The “C” Class Competition has been revised for the **2010 Annual State Easter Championships** and the *minimum age for competitors is 16 years of age* on the day of competition. There will be no 8 competitor events in this Class.

All dry work events will continue as per current competition rules. The following wet events will be available for 4 competitors, and up to 6 competitors.

- Ladder 5 competitors (cart);
- Straight 6 (cart);
- Champion 4 (cart); and
- **Disabled 6 (cart) – this event will not be run at these Championships**

The following additional junior style events will also apply:

- Double disc
- Disabled Hose Event
- 3 Hose “Y” Event

60mm hoses will be used in the revised junior type events and will be supplied by FESA.

The points system for all wet events in “C” Class will now be expanded to the first 5 placegetters (5, 4, 3, 2, 1) however, trophies will only be presented to the first 3 placegetters.

Competition Rules

Rules for the 2010 Championships will be Version 10.1 – these are available on the Association website!

Mass March

Brigades are advised that, as per Procedures Booklet, a trial of a new format for the mass march will be implemented this Easter; where all Brigades will muster adjacent to A and F points and will march across the oval to a position at the front of the official dais, with the Executive in front of the Brigades, behind the Guard of Honour who will be at the front of the march.

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Single Competitor Events

Nomination forms for the single competitor events have been emailed to all competing Brigades. To assist with the smooth operation of the Championships, it would be appreciated if you could email the forms back to Jodie at the Association office by Thursday, 1st April 2010. If you are unable to email them to us, please ensure they are handed in to the Secretary's Office in the timing stand prior to the commencement of the first event (Straight Ladder).

Competition Equipment Checks

Competing Brigades are advised that **ALL** equipment and hoses are required to be checked at Gilbert Frazer Reserve, North Fremantle, on Good Friday 2nd April 2010, between 1300 hours and 1600 hours. As a result of hoses now being checked on Good Friday, there will no wind on judges at the Championships. However, spot checks will apply during the events.

Ladder Person Harnesses

As a result of checks of Ladder Person Harnesses at the recent Victorian State Urban Championships in Mildura, there is a possibility that harnesses may have a fraying of the webbing where the straps are attached to the hose coupling cradle. This may result in the harness being returned to the Association. Brigades will be advised at Easter.

Promotional Video

As part of the promotion of Volunteer Firefighting Competitions, Dean Lomax from Lomax Media, will be at the 2010 Easter Championships, recording some of the events. The footage will be used for future media promotion.

Competition Hydrant Clutches

Replacing the securing bolts on competition hydrant clutches is a safety issue and Brigades are advised these bolts must be replaced and square headed bolts specifically for this purpose are now available from FESA's main store, O'Connor. The bolts can be ordered on a standard FESA Competition Equipment order form.

