



# JOINT PRESIDENTS REPORT VFBV REGION13 to REGION 13 JOINT REGIONAL COUNCIL Geoff Peacock / Bill Watson Meeting – 19 April 2009

The following Joint Report is presented to the Joint Regional Council Meeting from both Volunteer Presidents

- ***Black Saturday Fires - Condolences.***

To the families and friends of all those who have perished our sincere and heartfelt condolences. To the many who have lost homes and personal possessions, we extend our deepest sympathy. Together, all of us, working in many different ways, with our communities we will recover from this tragedy.

We will never forget.

- ***Black Saturday Fires – Operations.***

Acknowledgement of the commitment, dedication, courage and tenacity of Volunteer and Career Firefighters, CFA personal, other agencies from Region 13, other Regions, Interstate and Overseas personnel to bring the Black Saturday Fires under control. We also acknowledge personnel working on recovery across a broad spectrum in many different ways and recognise this work will be ongoing for many years.

- ***High activity level for VFBV Region 13 at the present time – Bushfire related.***

Key Priority (1). Identify the project based work stemming from the fires relating to affected volunteer firefighters. *(clarification at meeting 19/4/09 for VFBV funding – all affected will receive equal share of funds)*

Key Priority (2). Application of the bushfire volunteer fund in support of these projects *(as above)*

Key Priority (3). Gathering information to support VFBV State Level submission to the Royal Commission

Key Priority (4). Implementation of a State wide “Protocol” when Volunteer Firefighters are interviewed in relation to accident / incident investigation

- ***Dovetailing drought appeal relief and bushfire relief***

Requests to continue on with the drought appeal have been noted and will be actioned

(1) R13 Volunteer and CFA staff drought relief committee to be combined to work on bushfire relief work including brigade partnership project. Brigades in North of Victoria offering help to brigades in fire affected areas

(2) Yarra Glen brigade working with local Red Cross for excess goods to drought appeal, The Basin Community House similar project

- ***PPC for Career Firefighters whom are Volunteers.*** Separate issue of PPC for Volunteer Firefighters whom are Career Firefighters, positive outcome.

- ***Issue of reimbursement for cotton / poly mix T shirts.*** Will require action at the State level, noted a number of brigades with these concerns.

- ***Knox Group Torchlight.*** Great night public very appreciative. Would like this event to have more brigades from region 13 to participate.

- ***Request that the implementation of the Merriman decision be suspended.*** Outcome of CFA/UFU Board of Reference, Major Increase in Firefighter Numbers for CFA New and Existing Locations. The Board of Reference process has been used. Concern the decision making process has marginalised the Chief Officer and the Authority in carrying out their statutory duties of determining operational staffing and resource deployment. Request a tripartite review of this matter be conducted (VFBV, Victorian Government and CFA) as per the rights and obligations under the Volunteer Charter. We (VFBV) have suggested that the Emergency Services Commissioner assist with this review.

- ***Volunteers web site.*** Our Region 13 web site continues to grow please check in and feel free to comment and question issues, comments and questions come back us locally. If you have a project happening in your brigade and others may benefit please advise us. <http://www.vfbv.com.au/region/13/>