Aviation risk set to soar in Junee

With new opportunities come new challenges. This is certainly the case in Bendigo with Qantas domestic flights between Bendigo and Sydney commencing

In addition to these flights RMFT is setting up a pilot training school in Bendigo. The Qantas service will start operating return flights six days a week and accommodate up to 50 passengers per flight. These developments have resulted in upgrade works at the Bendigo airport including security upgrades and a revamped terminal.

Statistically air travel is very safe, with the greatest risk of an accident occurring during the final approach and landing phase, or on take-off. Captain Heath Martin (Junortoun Fire Brigade) said: “This increased traffic in air traffic activity is something to consider in our brigade preparedness as flight paths to two of the four runways are over our brigade area.

“One with the increased traffic to the airport, we needed to do some familiarisation training so we will be responding to support Bendigo Fire Brigade at an incident at the airport or immediate surrounds.”

On Wednesday 13 March 2019 Captain Martin and a District 2 Operations Officer facilitated an awareness session and a tour of the Bendigo airport for the Junee Volunteer members.

“The intent of the evening was to provide our members with an awareness of what can happen, how we should respond and what we can expect,” said Captain Martin.

This session was well attended by brigade members and it was standing room only in the brigade meeting room. A presentation in all areas of response to aviation incidents was covered. Members had the opportunity and were encouraged to ask questions and clarify any concerns they had regarding aviation. Training in this space needs to continue to be a focus for the brigade moving forward.

“While the risk of an aviation incident is low, the Junee Airport Fire Brigade certainly feel more confident in its ability to respond and assist if and when required.”

Walking Off The War Within is held across the country each year in memory of Nathan Shanahan, a CFA firefighter and returned soldier from Ballarat who was a fierce advocate of mental health awareness.

In April 2015 Nathan walked more than 400 kilometres from Mildura to Adelaide to raise awareness and funds for PTSD and depression. Sadly, he lost his own battle with PTSD in December 2016.

The event aims to reduce the stigma associated with mental health, encourage conversations and help-seeking behaviour, and highlight well-being support services.

The WOTWW challenge is a replica of Nathan’s walk, encouraging people to share the burden and march as much as they can. Each year, participants can complete the ultimate challenge—a 20 kilometre walk carrying 20 kilograms—or a 2, 3 or more kilometres.

This year’s event included family and children’s activities, community education displays, face painting and jumping castles. CFA also hosted a wellbeing chill-out zone for participants with members of the wellbeing team available to talk to anyone who needed it. Members from Ballarat City and Mildura units undertook the event.

Three events will continue to be a focus for this year: one in Bendigo, one in Mildura where 40 walkers tackled a 20 kilometre walk and another in Mildura where 40 walkers tackled a 20 kilometre walk and the Mildura community walked in solidarity for mental health on Saturday 24 March in Ballarat to raise awareness and funds for Walking Off The War Within (WOTWW).

More than 1000 people including CFA members and staff, fellow emergency services personnel, defence force personnel and the community walked in solidarity for mental health on Saturday 23 March in Ballarat to raise awareness and funds for Walking Off The War Within (WOTWW).

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Those who couldn’t make the journey to Ballarat held their own localised WOTWW events including in Mildura, where 40 walkers tackled a cross-Mildura hike, and Warrnambool.

Many CFA people have also found their own individual ways to support the cause: In January Hallam firefighter Shayne Egan competed in the Hobart Marathon to raise awareness and funds for Walking Off The War Within. Shayne will back this up on 14 April, raising money for Walking Off The War Within by running in the Canberra Marathon.

Donations can be made directly via bank deposit: Walking Off The War Within BSB 083-325 Account number 331460303.

For more information on the WOTWW visit www.walkoffww.com.

CFA Wellbeing Support Line—1800 959 232

If you are not okay, or if you notice a change in someone you know, contact the CFA Wellbeing Support Line to access free, confidential and 24/7 support. These services are available to all CFA staff, volunteers and immediate family members.

The support services include the Member Assistance Program with psychologists and counsellors, Traditional and Career Firefighter Peer Support Program, Chaplaincy Program, Let Me Know platform, Bullying and Harassment Hotline, Centres Against Sexual Assault as well as the CFA Organisational Wellbeing team services.

To view the complete range of services visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/wellbeing.

INVITATION TO APPLY: Board Members of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV)

IN VITATION OPEN TO ALL VOLUNTEERS TO APPLY

Closing date for written applications is 31st July 2019

VFBV advances the interests of all Victorian volunteer fire brigades and advocates on their behalf to CFA and other key stakeholders.

VFBV Board drives policy development based on volunteer input and monitors the performance and governance of the Association. Also actively contributing to policy discussion at Board Meetings, networking with others about policies and issues management, and not only making decisions but being prepared to actively advocate for the benefit of all CFA volunteers and ultimately the Victorian community.

A Board Member Role Statement including the key selection criteria is available from the VFBV office on request.

This is an honorary position; no remuneration is paid.

If you are motivated by the prospect of making a difference for CFA volunteers, then send your written application addressing the key selection criteria in the role statement, plus an outline of your CFA activity including the names of two referees.

Applications must be lodged with VFBF by Wednesday 31 July 2019 to:

VFBF, 9204 Lakeside Drive, Burwood East 3151
Tel: 9886 1141; Fax: 9886 1618
Email: jiang@vfbf.com.au

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