

RESPONSE

QUEENSLAND'S OFFICIAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES MAGAZINE

EDITION 6



RUFF JOB

LIGHTS AND SIRENS ON FOR SEEING EYE DOGS

AFAC16:

NEW RECRUITS:

PSO WEEK:

CONFERENCE HEADS TO BRISBANE SOON

NEW PROCESS SELECTS TOP CANDIDATES

DEDICATED PEER SUPPORT OFFICERS ACKNOWLEDGED

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Seeing eye dogs in training visited Roma St station to be familiarised with the sights and sounds of fire appliances and rescue tools. A few pats may have also taken place.

Cover image: Sheree May Photography

RESPONSE is a bi-monthly magazine produced by the Public Safety Business Agency on behalf of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. Contributions and feedback are welcome. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for brevity and clarity.

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FOREWORDS



Katarina Carroll

Commissioner

QUEENSLAND FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The first three months of the year have been incredibly busy with events, incidents and the continuing transformation of our department.

In March, we saw lots of events encouraging and supporting the people of QFES from International Women's Day to Peer Support Week and our personnel have also been awarded in a number of external award schemes, which is fantastic recognition for the hard work our people continually put in.

I have been able to travel around the state as well, and was privileged to handover a parcel of land to the Mareeba Shire Council in March.

The extra parcel of land adjacent to our station in Mareeba will be used for the Mareeba Heritage Museum and Visitor Information Centre.

This event was a great reminder that while we protect the community, we operate within communities and our relationships with other agencies that support those communities too are so important.

In the past couple of months, QFES personnel from all divisions have also assisted our interstate colleagues in Tasmania.

In fact, RFSQ Assistant Commissioner Tom Dawson is currently working on behalf of AFAC to review the response to the Tasmanian emergency.

It makes me incredibly proud to have QFES represented on a national level like this, showing how brilliant we are technically.

The PSBA review implementation continues and as such our QFES structure will look different in the future.

I encourage you to stay up to date with these changes, and more information can be found on Pages 4 and 5 about the implementation and the changing structure, as we regain functions that were previously performed by PSBA.



Doug Smith

Deputy Commissioner

CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER

Staff and volunteers are getting a unique opportunity to have their say on the future of QFES with the release of a capabilities map by the Commissioner earlier this month.

The capabilities map has been released so staff and volunteers can assist in determining that a future QFES will have all of the capabilities or functions it needs to service the community into the future.

These are exciting times to work for QFES. It's not often that employees have a chance to contribute to shaping the future of their organisation to ensure it operates as a modern and mature department.

This work is being conducted alongside the implementation of the recommendations of the review into the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA) and the transitioning of functions identified in that review back to QFES.

The implementation team has been working closely with teams from PSBA and the Queensland Police Service to analyse what functions will return to QFES and the resources required for QFES to perform those functions in its own right.

There's a lot to consider here and I urge you remain patient as the implementation team finalises recommendations to the Board of Management which will, ultimately, make the final decision on which roles will return to QFES.

In the meantime the implementation team has already started a series of engagement workshops across the state to gather information from staff on what capabilities they believe a future QFES must have.

We are looking for you to provide as much information as you can in these sessions.

If you are not attending an engagement session please provide your feedback to the implementation team at reviewpsba@qfes.qld.gov.au or on the telephone feedback line (07) 3635 2443.

I look forward to hearing about your suggestions and feedback.



QFES capabilities map released

1

Strategic capabilities

Strategic planning
Demand management
Volunteer strategy
Ministerial correspondence
Cabinet legislation liaison
Governance
Service development
Portfolio/Project management
Service & contract management
Customer relationship management
Intelligence collection
Workforce strategy
Policy management
Information management
Volunteer engagement
Service innovation & transformation
Org performance management
Stakeholder management
Partner liaison (e.g. Councils)
Communications
Risk management
Data & Reporting
Community insights

2

Service delivery capabilities

PREVENTION & PREPAREDNESS

Disaster management plan	Cyclone shelter preparedness
Training (commercial)	Regional community safety
Predictive	Hazard identification & risk assessment
Alarm review & advice	Hazard mitigation & risk reduction
Community education	Building & infrastructure safety
EM preparedness	Facility continuity & planning
Fire investigating	

RESPONSE

Fire & Incident communication	Vertical rescue
Vehicle fire services	Building fire safety
Landscape fire services	Specialised operations & response
Structural fire services	Flood response
Road crash rescue	Swift water & water rescue
Hazardous condition incidents	Animal disease outbreaks
Land, marine, air, urban search & rescue	Crime scene, missing person, forensic

RECOVERY

Bushfire recovery	Disaster assessment
Flood recovery	Recovery management
Cyclone & storms recovery	Long term reconstruction
Structural safety checks	Community care & rehabilitation

THERE WILL BE A RURAL FIRE SERVICE, STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE WITHIN A FUTURE QFES.

THE ROLE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE INTEGRAL TO ALL PHASES OF PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY.

FUNCTIONS IDENTIFIED TO TRANSITION FROM THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUSINESS AGENCY WILL RETURN TO QFES.

3

Operational support capabilities

Fire engineering

Regional training delivery

Scientific research

Supply services

Fleet management

Curriculum & training development

Property services

Operational planning

Operational logistics

4

Business support capabilities

Employee industrial relations

Campaign management

Infrastructure & support

ICT

HR services

Health & safety

Ethical standards

Legal

Procurement

Culture and change management

Finance & Business management

Right to information

Diversity & inclusion

As the PSBA review implementation steams ahead and several services transition across to QFES, the Commissioner has released a capabilities map to show what services QFES requires to meet the needs of the community.

The team conducting a review of the QFES structure and implementing recommendations from the Public Safety Business Agency review has released a capabilities map for discussion.

The capabilities map was developed following early consultation with QFES executives, unions and volunteer associations which identified what capabilities or functions they believe were needed for QFES to deliver services to the community as a modern and mature department.

The implementation team is encouraging QFES staff and volunteers to identify all the capabilities needed for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery across all parts of QFES.

The team also wants to know whether they are sitting under the right capability categories. The categories include Service Delivery Capabilities, Strategic Capabilities, Operational Support Capabilities and Business support Capabilities.

Commissioner Katarina Carroll recently emphasised a number of points for consideration when looking at the capabilities map.

- There will be a Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Service and Fire and Rescue Service within a future QFES.
- The role of Emergency Management will continue to be integral to all phases of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
- Functions identified to transition from the Public Safety Business Agency will return to QFES.

Once all capabilities have been identified then the team will turn its attention to what kind of structure QFES will need to deliver the capabilities.

Anyone who wants to provide feedback on the capabilities map can do so through the implementation team's email reviewpsba@qfes.qld.gov.au or on the telephone feedback line (07) 3635 2443.



Queensland's world-leading speakers on show at **AFAC16**

There is something for everyone in emergency and disaster management at AFAC16 powered by INTERSCHUTZ.

AFAC16, the annual AFAC and Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC conference, is coming to Queensland this year from 30 August to 1 September.

With an exciting program of keynote speakers, considered world-leaders in their respective fields, AFAC16 will address innovative ways to get the balance right between mitigation, response and recovery.

AFAC16 will focus on the Queensland context, with hand-picked local speakers including Frankie Carroll (Director-General, Department of Infrastructure,

Local Government and Planning), Dave Mazzaferri (Manager Disaster Management, Recovery and Resilience, Livingstone Shire Council) and Iain Mackenzie (Inspector-General Emergency Management).

In addition to keynote speakers, the program will include nine invited speakers and over 90 selected speakers.

A dedicated Research Forum will begin the conference week, emphasising the diversity of the research being conducted across all hazards.

The Research Forum will provide the opportunity for focused discussions between the research community and emergency managers on industry issues.

The trade exhibition is set to be bigger than ever this year through the partnership with INTERSCHUTZ, showcasing the latest developments in emergency services equipment and technology both locally and around the globe.

AFAC16 will take place at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre
30 August to 1 September

Registrations are now open at
www.afacconference.com.au/register/

Keynote speakers

Dr Jeff Kepert, Centre for Australian Weather and Climate Research and CRC project leader.

Professor Gavin Smith is the Executive Director of the Centre for the Study of Natural Hazards and Disasters in the US and the US Department of Homeland Security's Centre of Excellence.

Dr Craig Cormick is an award-winning science communicator, specialising in public attitudes towards new technologies.

Commissioner Katarina Carroll who is responsible for efficiently leading all divisions of QFES.

Katherine Jones is the Deputy Secretary, National Security and Emergency Management Group, Attorney-General's Department.

Rhoda Mae Kerr is a thirty-year veteran, and fourth-generation firefighter, who is Chief of the Austin Fire Department and President and Chair of the Board of Directors of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

Dr Anthony Bergin is Deputy Director, Australian Strategic Policy Institute.



We want your photos



Are you a budding photographer?
Do you go everywhere with your camera in hand?
Show us what you've got!



Response magazine is seeking entries for a regular photo 'competition', with the winning images to be published in each edition.

We want to see a unique perspective on what you do day-to-day in your role, through the lens.

The ongoing competition is open to all members of the QFES community — this includes friends, family or other colleagues who may be photography fanatics and have an interest in capturing the emergency services.

Entries should be creative, high-quality and give an insight to the emergency services.

Photos uploaded to Snapshot via the [QFES Gateway](#) will automatically be considered in the competition.

If you cannot access the Gateway, please email your entry (under 5MB per e-mail) to magazine.editor@qfes.qld.gov.au

Winning entries will be selected by the Corporate Communication team and published.

For any questions, contact the editor on 3635 3314 or email magazine.editor@qfes.qld.gov.au

Please note: Images taken at incidents where patients are identifiable or minors are pictured without express parental permission will not be accepted as entries.





Developing software to support the frontline



The QFES Research and Scientific Branch (RSB) has developed a tool in conjunction with national and international partners that is being used by more than 1700 agencies world-wide to manage chemical emergencies.

The Emergency Response Decision Support Software (ERDSS) allows responders at chemical, biological, radiological nuclear and hazardous materials emergencies to accurately assess the variable components of each incident to inform the level of response required.

Functions within the ERDSS currently include foam application, clandestine laboratory recognition, respiratory protection selection, detector use and chemical property information.

RSB Director Dr Michael Logan said the software was designed to assist all frontline emergency service personnel making decisions about incidents involving hazardous materials.

“The ERDSS will make a huge difference to the safety of responders and how they approach managing incidents,” he said.

“QFES’ involvement in developing this software also demonstrates the breadth of our expertise and international reputation.”

A new ERDSS app for mobile devices has been released and will be rolled out to all QFES senior officers and specialist areas.

A scenario-based training program will also be provided to support the roll out and the RSB is continuing to develop new tools for the ERDSS based on user feedback and annual user-trials.

The branch also provides specialist training to frontline responders, technical, operational and policy advice at a state and Commonwealth level, and emergency planning for industries storing and using chemicals across Queensland.

Library Services offers innovation information



The PSBA Library Services curates a range of information for subject guides that are relevant to QFES in an effort to keep personnel abreast of current literature.

In addition to subject guides on fire, disaster management, health and wellbeing, management and leadership as well as technology, Library Services has recently collated a new guide on the topic of innovation.

Working in conjunction with the PSBA Innovation team, the guide includes articles, books, websites and reports on the topic, as well as access to innovation tools, event calendars and examples of best practice.

The guide is aimed at keeping people up to date with the rapidly expanding world of innovation, and to share key information and resources across the portfolio.

➤ Anyone with access to the portfolio intranet can view the guide at <http://bit.ly/216ma07>

Volunteer summits expanded for 2016



Rural Fire Service will host two volunteer summits this year in Townsville and the Gold Coast, providing an opportunity for up to 400 volunteers to attend.

Previously only one summit has been held annually on the Sunshine Coast, however feedback indicated the popularity of the event among staff, volunteers and guests.

Both summits will provide a chance to review and discuss a range of topics within the RFS and QFES, but also look more broadly at priorities for emergency

services nationally and for the first time, a focus on leadership within the department.

The first summit will be held at the Rydges Townsville from 13 to 15 May, bringing together personnel from Far Northern, Northern and Central Regions.

The following month, the Intercontinental Sanctuary Cove will host the second summit, with people from North Coast, South Eastern, Brisbane and South Western Regions in attendance from 24 to 26 June.

The summits offer volunteers an opportunity to engage with fellow volunteers, QFES staff and a range of industry experts.

Eight SES volunteers were invited to attend each summit and SES will also have trade stalls at each event.

Volunteers can also take the chance to put forward their ideas, needs and experiences and contribute to the way forward for RFS and QFES.

Places for attendance have now been finalised.



Open data to help build community resilience

Around the world governments are embracing the potential of open data and Queensland is no exception.

Queensland joined the global open data movement in December 2012 and since this time has been regularly and proactively publishing data on the Queensland Government open data portal.

The portal is designed to make all Queensland Government data available through a single, searchable point of access.

It now features more than 7000 data resources that anyone can freely access, use, modify and share for any purpose.

The PSBA has collaborated with partner agencies to develop the Public Safety Portfolio (PSP) Open Data Strategy.

By providing access to this data, it is hoped that products will be developed to improve community resilience and preparedness.

Published datasets include the performance of operational officers, crime statistics,

mapping data and much more.

The PSP will provide the most up-to-date data available to the community, while also meeting current legislative and privacy requirements.

PSP data is highly sought after and currently, 77 datasets from PSP agencies can be viewed via the portal, however this will continue to grow.

➤ View the Queensland Government's open data portal at <https://data.qld.gov.au/> or email opendata@psba.qld.gov.au for any questions regarding the PSP Open Data Strategy.



Commonwealth Games now two years away

The QFES Commonwealth Games Office (QFES CGO) is on track in planning for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games as they reach the milestone of two years to go.

As GC2018 approaches, QFES is busy preparing for the largest sporting event to be held in Queensland since the 1982 Brisbane Commonwealth Games.

Commonwealth Games and Major Events Director, Chief Superintendent Darryl King, was also involved in the 1982 Commonwealth Games as a young army trooper appointed as the team driver for Scotland.



Chief Superintendent Darryl King with his 1982 Commonwealth Games accreditation and medallion



“I was lucky enough to be involved in this event and was responsible for driving the Scotland team to and from events,” Mr King said.

“It was a great time and it is amazing how an event like this can bring together nations and the community.”

A lot has changed for Mr King as he now leads the Commonwealth Games Program for QFES.

“It is hard to believe how much work goes into planning an event like the Commonwealth Games,” he said.

“QFES is part of the Safety and Security Functional Area which is responsible for public safety at the event.

“We have been working with the organising committee, GOLDOC, for more than 12 months now and have established ourselves as a key partner in emergency planning for GC2018.

“This will be the first major event where all QFES streams will be working together as an integrated emergency service.

“We have already achieved so much and with the recent engagement of two permanent Safety Assessment Officers, we are on track with two years to go.”

The team has commenced inspections of venues and key sites for GC2018 as building fire safety compliance is a key deliverable for this program.

The early inspection regime will allow venue management sufficient lead time to address any compliance issues and ensure the venues are ready for the Games.

The QFES CGO will be expanding with other project stream managers coming on board in July 2016.

This next phase will see designated streams focusing on volunteering, operations, training and exercises, communications and business capability.

“This will be an exciting time for the program as we enter the preparedness phase and detail our response capability at the event,” Mr King said.

For more information on the planning for GC2018, visit www.gc2018.com, the Queensland Government “Embracing 2018” website www.embracing2018.com or email the QFES CGO comm.games2018@qfes.qld.gov.au

QFES intervenes in fire fascination

The Fight Fire Fascination program targets youth who have experienced concerning incidents involving fire.

Specially trained firefighters will mentor youth to give them a greater understanding of the dangers of fire under the Fight Fire Fascination (FFF) program.

Parents and caregivers can request the program for their child if the child has been involved in a fire incident and specialised education is required.

The aim is to teach young people to respect fire and develop fire safety skills.

Senior Firefighter Peter Derges has been involved with the program since 1999 and

was first attracted to the program for its ability to help families.

“The program allows a more one-on-one personal approach to guiding children and families through a rough part of their lives,” Mr Derges said.

“With our normal work we very rarely see the final outcome to any jobs we attend. FFF allows us to follow the path from start to finish.

“To see someone who was potentially a threat to the community transformed into a person with the knowledge to help guide others is simply outstanding.”

Mr Derges said the program was unique in being able to assist an individual, their family and the community at the same time.

“There will always be young people with a curiosity in fire and the program provides a proven intervention flexible enough to address each individual case,” he said.

“The program will continue to evolve and improve our ability to connect with the child and develop the rapport needed.”

For more information on the program, visit www.qfes.qld.gov.au/FFF/



Charity ready to support fires in need

The Queensland Firefighters Charity provides support to career and auxiliary firefighters when they need it most.

Anything from a bag of groceries to covering the cost of cancer treatment could be asked of the Queensland Firefighters Charity.

Station Officer Phil Paff came up with the idea for the charity in 2011 and in 2013 it was fully realised with State and Federal Government recognition.

“It was my idea initially and I sat on it for a number of years,” Mr Paff said.

“In those years I saw workmates and friends get critically injured or pass away, both at work and outside of work.

“I got together some friends from other regions and we started to push things along after that.”

The charity currently “assists firefighters in necessitous circumstance”, however Mr Paff said as the charity grew and could support a greater number of people, volunteers would also be considered.

“At the moment, we’re looking out for all paid firefighters because that’s their primary job and, in a lot of cases, these people are the bread winners,” he said.

“We acknowledge that paid or not, you can get pretty messed up in the emergency services, and we would love to be more financially set so we can spread the love to volunteers.”

Mr Paff said while financial support was possible through the charity, it offered more than that to the firefighting community.

“We try to be creative in how we help people, because we don’t just say ‘here’s money’.

“We can pay bills, buy groceries, through to the school fees. We want to engage in what people actually need help with.

“The fire service traditionally has been like a big family, so we try to help out and get some things sorted for people who need a hand up.”

If they can’t assist themselves, the charity can also provide advice on what other support may be available to firefighters in need and connect people with services.

To learn more about how you can support the charity, search **Queensland Firefighters Charity** on Facebook.





New style recruitment process progressing

The first round of applicants to pass the initial stage of the new recruitment process will begin their final 16-week course at Whyte Island this month.

Less than three per cent of firefighter recruitment applicants will be successful in gaining a position as a Recruit Firefighter with the QFES under the new process, with around 100 candidates to be offered a place on recruitment courses in 2016.

In the new campaign-style recruit process for Fire and Rescue firefighters, about 5000 candidates submitted an application when the new process opened in December last year.

All applicants were then invited to participate in an online cognitive test, of which more than 3000 successfully completed the initial assessment, meeting the minimum requirement.

The Beep Test followed by the supervised, more in-depth cognitive testing process then narrowed the candidates to 1000.

Of the 1000 who completed the physical abilities test, 850 were successful from which 150 applicants were selected and invited to participate in an interview process and psychological testing.

With class sizes of up to 30 recruits, people who have succeeded in the recruitment and selection process will be scheduled to complete the 16-week recruit course throughout the year.

With the first of these courses beginning on 18 April, recruits who successfully complete this course will then be rostered on shift.

The number of places offered will be relative to the availability of recruit positions around the state.

Applicants will have an option to nominate location preferences, however

must demonstrate a willingness to be relocated if required.

Assistant Commissioner John Watson said with the first campaign of this style being finalised, he was confident the changes to the recruitment process would mean that QFES came away with the most skilled firefighters.

“There will be continual reviews of our process to ensure we address what is working and what isn’t working, however overall we are happy with the success of our first campaign,” Mr Watson said.

“This style of campaign recruitment will ensure that we are able to select from the best in field to keep a high standard of firefighters coming through the ranks.”

Recruitment campaigns are likely to continue on an annual basis, with the 2017 recruitment campaign kicking off around July this year.





Smoke alarm legislation before Parliament

Fire and Emergency Services Minister Bill Byrne has introduced a Bill to Parliament to mandate the installation of photoelectric, hard-wired or 10-year lithium-battery smoke alarms in homes by the end of 2026.

To be phased in over 10 years, the *Fire and Emergency Services (Domestic Smoke Alarms) Amendment Bill 2016* would also require these alarms in all bedrooms in addition to living areas and escape paths, and for alarms in the same house to be interconnected.

This Bill proposes to fully implement the Coroner’s recommendations following on from the tragic Slacks Creek house fire in 2011, where 11 lives were lost.

Commissioner Katarina Carroll welcomed the reforms, as research has indicated interconnected working smoke alarms in every room could reduce the risk of death in a house fire by up to 50 per cent.

“No doubt we have all seen the devastating effects of what can happen if smoke alarms are not up to a suitable standard in homes and this proposed legislation aims to reduce the risk of that tragedy occurring in our communities,” she said.

“We have always campaigned to educate people on the fact that working smoke alarms save lives, however it’s often the reality that people learn about fire safety after the fact, and this legislation aims to stop this happening.”

➤ Further details on the Bill can be found at <http://bit.ly/1Xoksq2>

WOW Day approaching



For the first time, the SES in Queensland will celebrate WOW Day – or Wear Orange Wednesday – in May.

The changes bring Queensland into line with how WOW Day is celebrated nationally.

The event will coincide with National Volunteer Week from 9 to 15 May, instead of during SES Week in November as it has been in the past.

This year’s WOW Day will fall on Wednesday 11 May and as always will encourage people to wear orange to show support for SES volunteers.

Visit www.wearorangewednesday.com.au for some ideas on how to make the most of the day and stay tuned for how you can participate.

Are you having a WOW Day celebration? Contribute your photos by emailing media@qfes.qld.gov.au, sharing them to any of the QFES social media channels or via Snapshot on the QFES Gateway.

WOW DAY

WEAR ORANGE WEDNESDAY TO SUPPORT SES VOLUNTEERS



How to eat better on the run

Eating smarter is the secret to juggling lifestyle demands and maintaining a healthy weight.

As busy emergency services workers, finding time to fit in three square meals a day isn't the easiest task.

Fast food can often be seen as the solution when there is little time to prepare a meal, however soon enough, this can take a toll on your health.

To avoid the high fat, sugar and salt content often found in fast food, there are some small changes you can make to your habits to ensure that you are getting the correct nutrients to help fuel your body.

Try limiting fast food to once a week, but in lieu of fast food don't be tempted to skip meals altogether.

If eating out is a must, try picking a meal with vegetables or a salad and stick to meats that have been grilled, barbecued or boiled. Supermarkets now also stock pre-prepared meals which save time but do not have the same poor nutrition as a takeaway meal.

Planning your meals a week ahead can also help you to be organised so that relying on fast food happens less

frequently. Make extra portions of your favourite meals and freeze them so you have a go-to option when time is short.

Packing lunch for the day including snacks will also mean you are less tempted to visit a vending machine for an energy pick-me-up.

By making nutrition a priority, healthy eating will enhance your performance and help you get through the work day.

Quick and healthy meal options

breakfast:



yoghurt smoothie



small can of baked beans



instant porridge



pieces of fruit



scrambled eggs and toast

lunch:



tuna and salad wrap



quiche and salad



turkey and salad baguette



tomato and bean pasta salad



chicken stir-fry

dinner:



risotta, paella or rice dishes



pasta with tomato sauces



stir-fry with noodles



large soup with bread



fish with salad or vegetables

QFES helps southern colleagues



Over 42 days, QFES deployed 129 personnel to assist in the Tasmanian bushfire emergency.

As the Tasmanian Fire Service (TFS) battled more than 70 bushfires, mostly in inaccessible land, our southern colleagues requested assistance from QFES for the first time.

The event was one of the most protracted incidents QFES has been involved with, in vegetation conditions vastly different to that of our own state.

From 27 January, QFES deployed eight rotations of Incident Management Teams, including Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) officers, as well as seven rotations of Fire Behaviour Analysts, with the final deployment arriving home on 8 March.

Eastern Australian states and territories as well as New Zealand deployed resources in what was estimated as the largest ever mobilisation of interstate and international firefighting resources to Tasmania.

The bushfires, sparked by about 1500 lightning strikes from dry storm cells on 15 January, damaged more than 20,000 hectares of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

Within QFES, every region supplied personnel from across Fire and Rescue, Emergency Management, Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service.

RFS Fire Research and Training Manager, Bruno Greimel, took part in two deployment teams – Bravo and Golf – firstly as a QFES Liaison Officer and secondly as a Deputy Operations Officer.

“As the QFES Liaison Officer I was based at the State Fire Operations Centre in Hobart as part of the Interstate International Liaison Unit (IILU), which was a fairly new concept designed to take the pressure off local logistics personnel by coordinating the crew and resource requirements and changeover of various agencies,” Mr Greimel said.

“We were part of the daily briefings in the State Fire Operations Centre and were responsible for linking information on the fire situation, what resources are being used and what was required between TFS, QFES and other agencies.”

As Deputy Operations Officer, Mr Greimel was based at the Burnie Incident Control Centre and helped to develop and implement the action plans

for about 250 firefighters and support personnel to tackle the Pipeline and Wuthering Heights fires.

“This was probably the most complex fire I’ve worked on. We had to consider the accessibility of the fires in remote, steep country with dense vegetation and limited or no road access and what firefighting techniques we could use that would be effective and limit impact on organic farms and the heritage-listed areas – in some cases using traditional firefighting techniques was not possible.

“It was great experience in managing such a large multi-agency operation and familiarisation with different techniques and resources than what we typically see in Queensland.”

Due to the length of the assistance, the focus changed from initially supporting the fire suppression to the rehabilitation and recovery phase of the event.

Rural Fire Service Assistant Commissioner Tom Dawson has been appointed as the lead for the AFAC Review Team which will examine the response to the Tasmanian bushfire emergency.



QFES marks International Women's Day with portfolio partners

The Public Safety Portfolio International Women's Day Luncheon in Brisbane is now the largest annual gathering of Queensland public safety staff.

QFES representatives marked International Women's Day by attending this luncheon and others around the state.

At the Brisbane event, the theme was Moving Forward Together and the inaugural winners of the QFES Women in Fire and Emergency Services Awards were announced.

Commissioner Katarina Carroll said the awards were a small step towards a big goal of increasing diversity in the workforce through supportive and inclusive strategies.

"The introduction of these awards means that we are now in line with other agencies which formally recognise the contributions of women in the workforce this way," Ms Carroll said.

"Progressing the status of women is a responsibility for each of our agencies individually as well as collectively as a public safety portfolio. It is one that requires sustained commitment and effort from all staff, at all levels in the organisation, women and men.



2016 QFES Women in Fire and Emergency Services Award winners

Outstanding Female Leader
(Operational Staff)

Jennifer Holmstrom
Captain
Wallangarra Fire Station
South West Region

Outstanding Female Leader
(Volunteers)

Rhy Baker
Local Cadet Coordinator
Childers Emergency
Service Cadets

Outstanding Female Leader
(Support/Admin)

Evonne Harding
Manager
SES Logistics
Volunteer Support

Mentor of the Year

Neil Reid
Assistant Commissioner
South East Region

Champion of Change

Tia Rowley
Senior Field Operations
Member
Holloways Beach SES

“Celebrating on International Women’s Day is one way we can demonstrate this shared commitment as well as take time to acknowledge the contribution of our women and the value diversity brings to our agencies and to the services we deliver to our communities.”

Five awards were presented including for Outstanding Female Leader for Operational Staff, Volunteers, and Support and Administration, as well as Mentor of the Year and Champion of Change.

See more images from the event on Page 33.

QFES endorses AFAC’s diversity efforts

The Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) has released a Statement on Workforce Diversity, outlining the commitment required by agencies to address unacceptably low levels of diversity in the workforce.

AFAC released that statement on International Women’s Day and Commissioner Katarina Carroll – now the first and only female AFAC board member – has endorsed the statement.

“Since beginning at QFES I have committed to encouraging diversity across our services, and working to ensure our department is a safe, respectful and inclusive workplace for all,” she said.

“I am passionate about improving opportunities for women in emergency services and I hope my role with AFAC will give me a greater chance to do this on a national level.

“In endorsing the Statement on Workforce Diversity, QFES has committed to change the way we attract, recruit and support diverse people in our workforce so that we can better reflect the communities we serve.”

Diversity will be a key theme in the AFAC16 conference to be held in Brisbane from 30 August to 2 September.

➤ Read the full Statement on Workforce Diversity here: <http://bit.ly/1TZnwLL>



Recognition for Peer Support Officers

The annual Peer Support Week ran from 13 to 18 March to acknowledge the valued role of volunteer Peer Support Officers (PSO) in QFES.

The Fire and Emergency Services Support Network (FESSN) runs two peer support programs – FireCare and SESCare – which both rely on members volunteering to take on an extra commitment to be there for their colleagues in times of need.

The culmination of the week was the PSO of the Year awards which were presented in a ceremony at Kedron. Sue Connors took out the award for SESCare and travelled from Proserpine to accept her award from Commissioner Katarina Carroll.

“It is really very touching that the SES members, Group Leader and Local Controllers feel the support I have given to their groups and individuals is worthy of being nominated for this very prestigious award,” Ms Connors said.

“The peer support program is such an important part of health and wellbeing in an emergency services workplace, looking after the psychological welfare of the main resource we have: the members.

“I became a peer supporter in 2002 and here I am 14 years later having supported many groups after cyclones and floods and many individual members.

“The feeling of great satisfaction and the appreciation I receive when doing this is my reward, I just love helping people.”

Michael Everingham won the FireCare PSO of the Year and said it was an honour to be nominated by his peers.

“I would like to acknowledge all of the PSOs who make up this great service which we are able to provide,” he said.

“We often work as a team and are always there to assist each other.”

If you are interested in becoming a Peer Support Officer, contact a PSO in your area to find out how, visit <https://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/fessn/> or phone 1300 309 508.

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From Capalaba to Canada

Station Officer Shan Raffel has been working with Canadian fire departments to develop a best-practice fire dynamics program.

A team of more than 30 international experts has been working for two years with Canadian fire departments to develop a comprehensive Fire Dynamics Curriculum to build the capability of Canadian firefighters.

QFES Station Officer Shan Raffel, from Capalaba Fire and Rescue Station, is one of only seven fire dynamics experts invited to inform the development of the new training package, representing QFES on the world stage.

The six-phase International Fire Dynamics Curriculum Development Program, due to be completed in May 2016, has required Mr Raffel to travel to Canada on three occasions for two-week face-to-face sessions. The rest of the program is developed online while participants are in their home country.

The package is being worked on by fire dynamics experts, education and training specialists and fire scientists from the USA, UK, Sweden, France, Germany, Netherlands and Belgium.

Mr Raffel said a highlight of the program has been the chance to meet and work with experts from around the world.

“The people involved in the program have been hand-picked and are the best of the best in their respective fields,” he said.

“Having the opportunity to collaborate with experts, not only in fire behaviour but instructional design and situational awareness, from some of the best research institutions in the world has been mind-blowing.”

Although the curriculum is being developed primarily for Canadian firefighters, the extensive, multinational collaboration behind the project is expected to set the benchmark for fire dynamics training worldwide.

As a project participant, QFES will benefit from permissions to use all program material for future firefighter training courses throughout Queensland.

“QFES will have access to high-quality multimedia content that will enrich current fire dynamics training programs,” Mr Raffel said.

“This content will enhance our ability to provide participants with the best possible practical experience in managing and making decisions in live fire scenarios, without exposing them to risk.”

Mr Raffel heads back to Ottawa in May for the sixth and final phase where he will be involved in mentoring curriculum delivery staff.

Emergency Management



The Emergency Management Directorate oversees QFES' capability to provide strategic direction and leadership for the provision of Emergency Management policy, procedures and services for the state.

This is undertaken in a partnership approach to contribute to the resilience of local communities and agencies, across all emergency service phases - prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

The Emergency Management Directorate consists of the State Operational Coordination Branch, Systems Development and Support Branch and the Disaster Management Branch.

Emergency Management Assistant Commissioner Steve Grant (pictured) is responsible for the Directorate, which incorporates the operational preparedness of the State Disaster Coordination Centre and the State Operations Centre.



As Manager of Emergency Management Readiness, Amanda Moran's team works in the Emergency Management Preparedness team – part of the State Operational Coordination branch of EM.

The majority of the Readiness team's work is risk management in the disaster space.

"We are working on a Queensland emergency risk management framework which links in with the national and international standards, which are currently under review," Ms Moran said.

"The idea is to make risk planning more operationally valuable.

"We want to encourage risk-based planning at local and district levels to get some consistency across the state, so we can then also evaluate the risks from a state-wide perspective as well."

The team works in conjunction with QFES' Emergency Management Coordinators around the state, strengthening partnerships with police and other state agencies in support of District and Local Disaster Management Groups.



A small but important team within Emergency Management is the Disaster Management Branch (DMB).

Principal Program Officer Amanda Clark said the importance of disaster management was coming to the fore.

"The DMB is responsible for the management and review of Queensland disaster management guidelines, doctrine and handbooks, which supports local, district and state disaster management groups, to meet their legislative requirement," she said.

"The team is also responsible for the review and implementation of 32 QFES-specific recommendations which have been developed or associated with the 11 disaster management reviews that have happened in Queensland since 2014.

"The guidelines we write are for the work required to be carried out in local disasters so it's a consistent approach across the state. From Mt Isa, to Bundaberg, to Toowoomba - the guidelines are in place so any disaster is approached in the same manner and therefore the public knows what to expect."



Anyone working in the SDCC during a disaster would be thankful for the role Matthew Hayes plays in the Systems Development and Support Branch of Emergency Management.

His team is responsible for the Event Management System which is the system that collates all the information relating to a large-scale emergency or disaster and makes it readily available for decision makers.

Mr Hayes' role primarily is to analyse and improve business practices with IT solutions and he is currently working on integrating with systems used at local and district levels to ensure all information is synchronised and available in real time.

"We're trying to provide information at everyone's fingertips in real time, so there is more time to analyse that information and inform decisions rather than just trying to find out what is going on," he said.

South Eastern Region

In February the Governor of Queensland and his wife attended Beaudesert Fire and Rescue Station to visit crews and view the facility.

His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC and Mrs Kaye de Jersey were introduced to crews and given a brief overview of the station and the services delivered to the community.

Crews then demonstrated some of their skills carrying out demonstrations including road crash rescue, a breathing apparatus exercise and vertical rescue.

His Excellency and Mrs de Jersey were very interested in the work carried out and said they were very impressed with the facility and professionalism of the crews.

Thanks to Andy Rose



So how many SES chainsaw operators can you fit under one marquee in the pouring rain?

Participants and trainers alike were exposed to some very realistic conditions on Tamborine Mountain during a recent Level 1 Chainsaw Operator course.

Try as it might, the rain failed to dampen the spirits of the participants, with everyone mucking in as a team to get the job done.

Thanks to Miriam Smith



QFES crews responded to a difficult road crash and truck fire on the Pacific Motorway at Nerang in February.

A jack-knifed prime mover and a refrigerated trailer on fire presented difficulties in accessing the scene on a seven-lane bridge over the Nerang River and getting through stationary traffic.

Once on scene, crews confirmed there was no entrapment and began fire suppression with high pressure hose lines and foam action as further appliances arrived. Local council and rural water tankers provided additional water supplies.

As the incident was directly above the Nerang River, run-off from firefighting operations and the subsequent diesel spill became another issue to manage.

The initial use of ChemSorb contained the run-off from entering drains on the bridge however additional support from Environment and Heritage Protection was requested.

Despite the many difficulties encountered during this incident, it was a great example of teamwork and cooperation between all agencies.



South Western Region



One hundred Stanthorpe residents attended a community forum in February to assist them to start preparing for bushfires and severe weather events.

The sessions helped educate residents on the importance of working together, understanding the risks involved in living close to bushland or low lying areas and how to become resilient.

Local urban firefighters, RFSQ and SES volunteers, Police, Ambulance as well as officers from the Southern Downs Regional Council and National Parks and Wildlife Service attended.



Firefighters often gather at Anzac Avenue for demonstrations or exercises.

On this occasion it was TAP Training where crews arrived from Kitchener Street and Anzac Avenue stations and Senior Firefighter Darryl Williamson took to the skies.

iZone Officer Cameron Ashmore also demonstrated the new foam trailers to firefighters at Anzac Avenue.

The trailers contain bulk foam supplies and foam generating equipment and the group benefited from the knowledge obtained.



Tara auxiliary firefighters are now the proud sponsors of Tara's Emergency Services Cadets Group.

The program is offered to young people aged 12 to 17 and operates out of Tara Fire and Rescue Station, under the leadership and guidance of volunteer adult leaders and mentoring emergency service personnel.

Cadets signed on in February and will have the opportunity to develop their leadership potential and are encouraged to explore a career pathway or ongoing volunteering with emergency services.

For further information email local cadets coordinator Jesse McLennan on esctara@pcyc.org.au



Far Northern Region

To help promote awareness and raise funds for ovarian cancer, the QFES staff in Cairns including SES, RFSQ, Fire and Rescue and Ambulance colleagues held a morning tea.

The fundraising event raised just over \$1600 for Ovarian Cancer Australia for research, education and support.

Each year, more than 1480 Australian women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer; around 1040 will die from the disease.

Visit www.ovariancancer.net.au to learn more about Ovarian Cancer Australia.



Tinaroo Rural Fire Brigade participated in the Great Northern Clean Up at Lake Tinaroo in March for Clean Up Australia Day.

The team had great support from the local SES who assisted cleaning the waterway with a flood boat.

The event was well received and was a great interaction between RFSQ and SES volunteers working side-by-side for the good of the community.



Nine Horn Island SES members reviewed their skills and competency with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) as a requirement of their Air Search Observer (ASO) qualification.

The exercise involved two tasks requiring ASOs to search for vessels from the air, communicate with search and rescue and debrief following the flights.

The trained Torres Strait Islander SES ASO volunteers have put in many voluntary hours by assisting local authorities including Water Police and AMSA with aerial search and rescue operations in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area in the past.



Northern Region

SES Townsville Deputy Local Controller Bob Griffiths was recently awarded the Townsville City Council 2016 Citizen of the Year.

Bob has been a member of SES Townsville Group for the past 27 years and has held the positions of Group Leader for Townsville SES group and is currently the Deputy Local Controller of the Townsville SES Unit.

Bob has been a stalwart of the Townsville SES Units responses for many years, responding to requests for assistance for land searches, floods, storm damage, evacuations as well as training and exercises not only for his unit but in support of other units within the region.



An AIIMS course designed to give students who have completed the Introduction to AIIMS course the basics in Level 1 incident command and control took place in Townsville in March.

Trainers Paul Womersley, Jock Crome and Kevin White delivered the course to volunteers from Townsville and Thuringowa SES, auxiliary officers from across the Northern Region and two SES staff members.

The weekend course revolved around what a Level 1 incident is and how to utilise AIIMS to manage the incident. It also looked at the tools available to make the job easier and what to do when transitioning from a Level 1 to a Level 2 Incident.

Participants then got out into the field and ran a scenario based around a land search where everyone had the opportunity to write an Incident Action Plan and prepare an Incident Control Point ready for teams to come into.



SES Northern Region, Townsville Area, was the successful recipient of a Closing the Gap Day Award for 2016, in recognition of their project working with Campbell Page to improve resilience, disaster preparedness and response in the Palm Island community and foster a culture of volunteerism.

Working with unemployed residents, the SES are providing training and disaster resilience and mitigation activities for up to 24 Palm Island residents.

Training is delivered by SES staff and trainers, plus external providers and is supported by the current SES members on the island.



Central Region

The incredible work of Volunteer Community Educators in the Central Region during Tropical Cyclone Marcia last year has in turn encouraged community members to sign up as VCEs.

Seven new VCEs have joined the ranks and took part in an induction day in March as a result.

Twelve months on from TC Marcia, the community came together with an event to share information on preparedness and resilience.



The Duarunga, Gemfields and Rolleston SES have all received new vehicles in a handover ceremony in March.

The Central Highlands Regional Council SES Award presentation also recognised SES members earning National Medals and Meritorious Service Medals and associated clasps.

George Thomson Sr of Emerald SES group received his 4th clasp to Meritorious Service Medal after more than 30 years' service.

Deputy Commissioner Emergency Service Volunteers Mike Wassing and Acting SES Director of Operations Brian Cox attended the ceremony to award medals and handover the vehicle keys.



SES flood boats from Emu Park and Rockhampton were used to ferry approximately 60 people stranded at Waterpark Creek after torrential rains cut the road crossing.

SES transported 37 people and two dogs across floodwaters after more than 150mm of rain fell in 24 hours.

Two boats were used during the evacuation and people were returned to safe land in groups of two or three.

Among the first returned to safety was a heavily pregnant woman and her sick child.



North Coast Region

Fire and Rescue and SES have joined together in the North Coast Region to provide training and upgraded road crash rescue equipment to the SES Mt Perry team.

Located in the North Burnett, Mt Perry SES and local Fire and Rescue from Biggenden, Childers, Gin Gin and Bundaberg will work alongside each other should a road crash occur in their area.

SES members Alan Betts, Krystal and Alex Geddes and Roy Bassett completed the training provided by Fire and Rescue trainers Station Officer Ross Findlay, Captain Peter Ward, Captain Mark Clyne, Lieutenant Greg Albury and Lieutenant Paul Mardon.

Thanks to John Bolger

Hervey Bay firefighters have won the Emergency Service Challenge for the most blood donations in one calendar year and the Red25 Challenge.

In February the duty crew received a call from Australian Red Cross's Barry Lynch who asked to make a visit to the Torquay Station.

At the start of the visit he congratulated our local firefighters for their fantastic effort over the past 12 months — making 71 donations and winning the Emergency Services Challenge.

This challenge involved local services such as Ambulance, Police as well as QFES and also a number of other local service groups such as Fraser Coast Council and Ergon Energy.

The Hervey Bay firefighters have now issued a challenge for all emergency services to not only save lives in their daily duties, but to roll up their sleeves, give blood and try and beat them this coming year.

Thanks to Leonard Gleeson

The Murgon Fire and Rescue Station crew have been working hard in Cherbourg to develop and support a number of new recruits from the community.

The recruits will be a part of revitalising the crewing at the Fire and Rescue Station in Cherbourg.

This is a relatively new station and modern appliance that has been underutilised for some time.

The recruits are looking forward to completing all training requirements, learning new skills and taking on the new role.



Brisbane Region

Brisbane Region Community Safety Unit is continuing to conduct unannounced, multi-team, late-night compliance inspections of nightclubs, music venues and licensed premises.

These inspections enhance the safety of the community by ensuring that serious legislative breaches that would threaten the safety of venue patrons in the event of an emergency are identified and acted upon immediately.

The most recent inspection operation occurred on Friday 12 February when 32 individual venues in Fortitude Valley and City precincts were inspected between 8pm and 1am. Infringements were issued for breaches including the isolation of Fire Detection and Alarm Systems, blocked evacuation routes and locked prescribed exit doors.

QFES inspecting officers were supported by QPS District Liquor Unit personnel and their continued support is much appreciated.

These joint agency inspections will continue in the coming months, along with an education campaign to ensure that all stakeholders are aware of their legislative obligations.



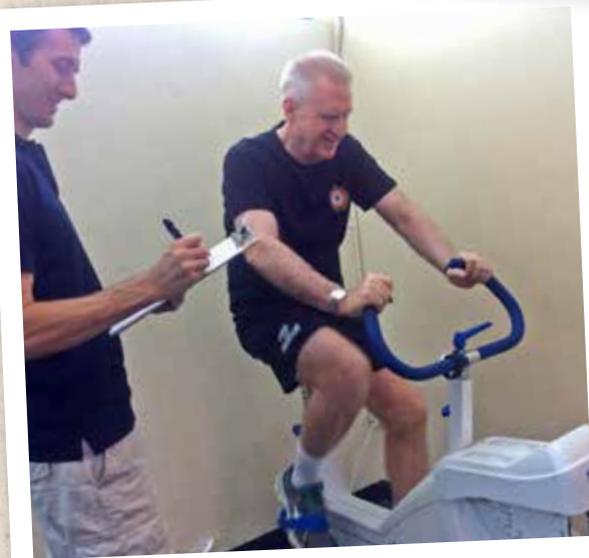
Brisbane Region Assistant Commissioner Neil Gallant kicked off a pilot of the PSBA Health Start program in Brisbane Region.

Health Start is a proactive voluntary program aimed at giving participants a broad snapshot of their health.

As a voluntary program, the participant decides their own level of participation but they do have the option to gain further help in gaining professional guidance in the development of a wellness program tailored to them by PSBA representative, Jarrod Prestland-Tack.

The initial roll out began with staff from the Brisbane Region headquarters with further phased rollouts through the area commands.

Participants from all streams at regional headquarters jumped on board with 31 participants over three days.



Twenty National Medals and Clasps and more than 40 Diligent and Ethical Service Medals and Clasps were received at an awards presentation in March.

Commissioner Katarina Carroll, Deputy Commissioner Mark Roche and Assistant Commissioner Neil Gallant presented the awards, including one for Station Officer Wayne Coombes who was recognised for 40 years' service at the presentation.

A Commissioner's Commendation for Notable Action was presented to Senior Firefighters Andrew Morrison-Evans and Ken Besgrove, while the B Shift crew at Mt Ommaney Fire and Rescue Station received an Assistant Commissioner's Unit Commendation.





“ Science isn’t purely white lab coats ”

Ray Bott has spent years applying science to emergency and disaster response using his chemistry skills to make incidents safer for emergency responders and the community alike.
By Stephanie Masters

As much as he enjoyed studying chemistry and the academic life, what Ray Bott enjoyed more was putting into practice what he’d learnt to support emergency services.

Now a Scientific Officer and Volunteer Manager with the Fire and Rescue Research and Scientific Branch (RSB), Ray’s role plays a large part in recruiting scientists around the state to make the same connection to fire through volunteering.

Currently there are around 50 volunteer scientific officers in Queensland who are typically chemists or chemical engineers who lend their expertise to QFES to ensure scene safety in any kind of hazardous materials incident during an emergency or disaster.

“Recruiting our volunteers is one of the toughest parts of my job. I make contact with people who may be interested via the industry and also through our current volunteers,” Ray said.

“When we do get them, though, we hold onto them for a while and recently we were able to recognise our volunteers who had served with us for more than 20 years.

“Overall our volunteers attend 15 per cent of the incidents where RSB are required, and they can greatly speed up the conclusion on scene through on-site analysis, mitigation strategies and management support for incidents such as chemical spills, unknown chemicals or determining a malicious threat to safety.”

When he isn’t recruiting or responding to incidents, Ray is supporting volunteer units, developing, presenting and reviewing scientific training for the volunteers as well as other Fire and Rescue staff and conducting research projects to guide QFES on topical issues. He is currently completing a study into potential risks of incidents involving photovoltaic solar power systems.



“We also work collaboratively with interstate and international agencies on research projects. We are focused more on the application of that knowledge to our roles as emergency and disaster managers so we can come up with a process to make it safer for everyone.”

Some of the more interesting jobs Ray has worked on include a large-scale ammonia spill in Oakey which took five days to complete, travelling on a ship from Tasmania to Fremantle with a leaking container and deploying to the Solomon Islands to make safe a disused gold mining site.

“When I was doing my Masters and PhD, you become quite specialised, but here the work is different every day,” he said.

“I use all aspects of chemistry and get to apply it in an environment outside of a laboratory and it challenges me to come up with new, innovative ideas to solve problems.”

As a Scientific Officer, Ray also works closely with specialist Police teams and has been to the United States to undertake a Hazardous Materials Technician training course and observe international standards for training scientific officers, bringing his knowledge back to Queensland.

But passing on his knowledge and expertise has a new meaning now that his son has started Prep.

“He comes home from school and shows me the little science experiments he’s learnt and we discuss it and play some games,” he said.

“We do science for show-and-tell too and it’s good for people to see science and fire tied together and that science isn’t purely white lab coats and blowing things up in a laboratory.

“That is fun, but understanding the science is also about knowing how to prevent those explosions from a fire perspective.”

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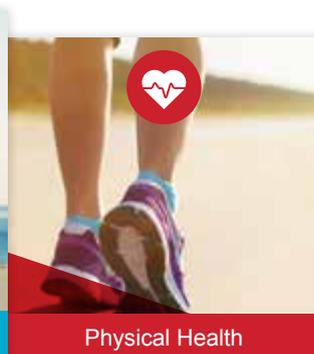
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Registration now open for biggest and best Australasian games

Registration has now officially opened for the 16th Australasian Police and Emergency Services Games.

The biennial event is being held in Queensland for the first time since 2001, and is shaping up to be bigger, better and more inclusive than previous events.

The games are being held on the Sunshine Coast from October 8 to 15.

Acting Games Manager, Acting Senior Sergeant Greg Croft said having the games at the Sunshine Coast added a unique flavour to this year's games.

"It will be the first time the games have been held this far north in Australia, and as a result, we have a few new water sports which have never been offered before," A/Snr Sgt Croft said.

"Dragon boat racing will be on offer, stand up paddle boarding will be held on both still and open water, and Surf Life Saving Queensland will hold a carnival on the Wednesday at the Alexandra Headland Surf Life Saving Club."

One of the premium events will be the triathlon, which will be the final event at the games.

In total, 54 different sports will be contested at a number of venues around the coast, with the hub based at the Sunshine Coast Stadium.

A/Snr Sgt Croft said organisers were expecting about 3500 participants and up to 8000 supporters and spectators.

"The games are for all the emergency services across the board, including volunteer organisations, such as the

State Emergency Service, volunteer fire services, lifesavers and the coast guard. Invitations have also been forwarded to the Australian Defence Force specialist units —such as the Military Police and Paramedics.

"We are expecting 50 per cent of the participants to come from around Queensland and the remainder from around the country, New Zealand and the south Pacific."

A/Snr Sgt Croft said the overriding aim of the games was to encourage active participation, healthy lifestyles along with social interaction and camaraderie.

The organising team have developed an integrated online registration system, phone app and Facebook page. To register visit www.apandesgames.com.au

Bunnings thanked for support



SES and RFSQ have formally thanked Bunnings for their support in hosting sausage sizzle fundraisers over the Australia Day weekend.

The total amount raised for the SES across the state was close to \$62,000 while RFS raised more than \$38,000 to be distributed to 30 SES units and 24 brigades local to Bunnings stores.

RFS Acting Assistant Commissioner Gary McCormack and SES Assistant Commissioner Peter Jeffrey presented Bunnings State Operations Manager Jason Banks and Marketing Service Manager Helen Tranent with framed certificates of appreciation for their ongoing support of QFES volunteers.



National Red Balloon Day is held annually on 28 February to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of firefighters. The “Thank You Fireys” campaign asks people to fly a red balloon on the day in recognition.



New recruits from Bonogin, Numinbah, Mudgeeraba, Tamborine, Tamborine Mountain, Tallebudgera Valley and Woodhill attended a new members course at Ormeau Rural Fire Brigade station. The course gave them the opportunity to train in wildfire response while operating brigade equipment and tools.



An extensive road crash rescue course was run over two weekends in Charleville with temperatures above 40 degrees during the course. Eight firefighters took part from Charleville, Cunnamulla and Quilpie stations. The course was held at the Charleville Airport.



Seeing eye dogs in training visited Roma St station to be familiarised with the sights and sounds of fire appliances and rescue tools. A few pats may have also taken place.



QFES officers Paul Beck, Jason Mannix, Andrew Sbrizzi and David D’Hage got the chance to mingle and share ideas and experience with Hong Kong and Shanghai police officers at a two-week Leadership in Action course hosted by the Queensland Police Service.



Around 500 public safety staff gathered for the biggest portfolio function of the year, the International Women's Day luncheon. The QFES Women in Fire and Emergency Services awards were presented for the first time at the event. Read more on Page 17.



QFES staff and volunteers joined Parks and Wildlife, Police and Ambulance officers for a joint exercise to test response capabilities and interoperability for an aircraft crash and bushfire on Moreton Island in Exercise Sandown.



Peer Support Week took place from 13 to 18 March to recognise the valuable contribution of Peer Support Officers working for FireCare and SESCare. PSOs were celebrated with a morning tea at the Kedron Park Emergency Services Complex.



Firefighters from six stations across the North Coast Region put their skills to the test in the Western Challenge



Recruits from Nambour, Noosa, Kenilworth, Coolum, Cooran and Cooroy took part in the Auxiliary Recruit Training and Education Program at Caloundra in March.

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TOOWOOMBA FIRE BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS

Fargo appliance returns to Toowoomba



The Toowoomba Fire Brigade Historical Society is one step closer to reuniting fire appliances that have served the district.

The Bulloo Shire Council recently returned to the society a Fargo fire truck which began service in 1952 for the Toowoomba Fire Brigade Board.

The original vehicle was modified to be suitable as a fire appliance, with all the work taking place at the brigade workshop behind what was then the Neil St Fire Station, just north of the Empire Theatre.

The vehicle, then known as Car 5, formed part of the front line at a newly-constructed Kitchener St Fire Station in the 1960s.

The Fargo appliance serviced many South Western towns under the Toowoomba Fire Brigade Board, including Goombungee, Oakey, Pittsworth and Cecil Plains.

The appliance was fitted with a Coventry 220 gallons-per-minute pump (about 830 litres-per-minute) in the back, which made it perfect for responding to vegetation fires.

In fact, the Thargomindah Town Bush Fire Brigade purchased the vehicle in 1973 from the Board for \$150.

There it remained in service until it was decommissioned in 1995 and replaced with a contemporary RFSQ appliance.

The historical society now has three of the five original appliances in their collection, located at the Highfields Pioneer Village.

The historical society would like to thank Bulloo Shire Council for the donation of the vehicle, as well as Mansell's Transport and AGO VIRIES Pty Ltd for helping to relocate it.





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