



# Tasmanian Retained Volunteer Firefighters Association

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## ***State General Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> August 2009***

*Held at Young Town Training Complex, 1220hrs*

### **Minutes**

✚ **Present:** Andrew Taylor (State President/George Town), Mathew Philpott (State Secretary), Craig Hughes (Sthn. Sec./Claremont), Richard Cosstick (NW Sec./Devonport), Bruce Corbett (SFC Rep/NW President/Wynyard), Chris Neilson (NW Delegate/Wynyard), Graeme Facy (Asst. State Sec./Risdon Vale/Snug), Matt Buck (Nthn. Delegate), Don Jones (Treasurer), Colin Triffitt (Sthn. President/New Norfolk), Matthew Fishwick (Proxy Sthn Delegate/Fern Tree), Andrew Dare (Sthn Delegate/Midway Point) D'Wayne Leonard & Nick Dahl (Prospect).

✚ **Apologies:** Todd Bennetto (Sthn Region Delegate/Claremont), Michael Armstrong (Nthn Region Delegate/Longford), Mark Lillico (Burnie), Scott Clarke (Burnie), Wade Stewart (Risdon Vale), Philip Wilkinson (Somerset), Geoff Mills (Devonport), Tony Beckett (Ravenswood), Faron Wall (Kingston), Errol Gleeson (Nthn. Sec./Deloraine), Rob Dawes (NW Delegate/Somerset), Shirley Triffitt (New Norfolk).

#### ✚ **Committee Reports – By '09-10 Reps;**

SVCC – State Volunteer Consultative Committee

AT/BC/CT/MB

Andrew gave a report outlining the work of the VSCC, saying at times things seemed drastically slow, but it was by far the most productive committee, Colin even went as far as calling it 'passionate' saying he looked forward to them. Andrew undertook to send the minutes to Mathew for further distribution.

VLaD – Volunteer Learning & Development Reference Group

DJ/EG/MP/MB

Mathew started the report by saying that he had recently had discussions with Andrew expressing his frustration with the current format or terms of reference of VLaD, but it just seems to be a way in which the TFS can share info and then say to the greater membership but your associations were part

of this, even though we may have disagreed or suggested a different model or amendment – the TVFBA members on this committee share our concerns. VTAC as this was formally known was the Volunteer Training Advisory Committee – it advised/made recommendations to the Chief Officer on training matters relating to volunteers, it had teeth compared to the current VLaD which then through the chair reports to OLDS a higher level training forum which then goes to the EMT(?)

SFC – State Fire Commission

BC

Bruce spoke of the new make-up of the new look commission, and some internal changes including where Dept. Heads who as part of their jobs report (written) to the SFC but where then not present to field questions on those reports – they now are present at the time of reporting.

ORSC – Operational Resources & Services Committee

CT/MA

Has not met – nothing to report.

CH&SC - Central Health & Safety Committee

AT

Andrew spoke of some changes in CH&SC, with a more risk based approach being undertaken, AT has even supplied some industry type models for consideration. TFS' OH&S Strategic plan has since been renamed to an 'action plan' after Andrew gave a scathing review of its inadequacies. Helmet torches for the bushfire helmets have been issued as a result of safety concerns raised at this meeting for night operations.

VRP - Volunteer Recruitment Project

MP/RD/HW/HW

No meetings – nothing to report.

Clothing Committee

DJ/ST

Don reported, there is a book being developed outlining what is uniform, how to wear it, including medals.

Volunteer Leadership Framework Reference Group

CH/AT/MP

Craig spoke of slow progress with this group, very minimal feedback from the other members apparently, which no doubt hampers the progress.

PPC subcommittee

MP

Mathew spoke of infrequent meetings the chair Hugh Jones has been on LSL and as a consequence not much has happened. The TFS has asked UTAS to provide some clarity re a report they have done on the structural PPC trial, results are inconclusive and therefore confusing the issue.

Volunteer Handbook Review Sub Committee

BC/AT

TVFFAF Management Committee

BC

Bruce spoke of Rob Atkins' report which included a new 'rondell' (?) with a number inside indicating year of service above 20 in ten year blocks i.e. 30,40,50 which was implemented from a suggestion by Matt Buck. Numbers from last year are up by a factor of 2x due to some increased 'advertising' to brigades who have never put forward a nomination. Bruce spoke of the Youth award, discussion took place outlining a reluctance for members to nominate for them.

A letter to Rob and Veronica Atkins thanking them for their efforts was agreed to.

Safe Driving

Matt Buck, Colin Triffitt, Rob Dawes or Richard Cosstick were our reps. Rob was our rep but couldn't make it Richard was asked to stand in but couldn't attend at that short notice. Mathew Philpott was an attendee as an invited Driving VTI. The day was deemed a very worthwhile experience covering all depts. And all forms of driving operational or not – the only disappointing factor was that not all depts. were represented. The focus of the forum was to look at driving holistically.

 **Meeting Closed 1320hrs**